

# FOOSBALL GAME



## 1. What is Foosball?

Foosball (also known as **table soccer**) is a **tabletop game** based on the sport of **soccer (football)**. The game is played by **two** or **four players** who use rods to control figures that simulate soccer players. The goal is to score more points (goals) than the opponent by manipulating the figures to kick the ball into the opponent's goal.

## 2. Objective of the Game

The primary objective of **foosball** is to score **goals** by using rods to control player figures that move along the table to hit a ball. Each player or team tries to move the ball into the opponent's goal, and the team with the most goals at the end of a match wins.

## 3. Foosball Table Components

A foosball table consists of several key components:

### 3.1 Table Surface

- The playing surface is usually made of **smooth material** like wood or laminate, often with **green felt** or **artificial turf** to mimic a soccer field. It is marked with lines similar to a soccer field, including:
  - **Midline:** Divides the field into two halves.
  - **Center Circle:** In the middle, from which the ball is kicked off at the beginning of the game.
  - **Goals:** Located at both ends of the table, where the players aim to score.

### 3.2 Player Figures (Figures)

- **Players:** Each player is represented by a set of **small plastic or metal figures** mounted on rods. These figures simulate soccer players and are used to strike the ball. Typically, each player has a set of **four rods** with **four figures** on each rod.
- **Figure Setup:** Player rods are usually set up in formations such as:
  - **Defenders:** The rods with the most players, are positioned near the goal.
  - **Midfielders:** The rods that are positioned in the middle of the table.
  - **Forwards:** The rods with fewer figures, are positioned closer to the opponent's goal.
  - **Goalkeeper:** A rod with one figure, positioned near each team's goal.

### 3.3 Rods

- The rods are used by players to control the figures. These rods rotate and slide back and forth, allowing players to control their figures and hit the ball. There are usually **4 to 5 rods** for each player/team:
  - **1 rod for the goalkeeper**
  - **2 rods for the defenders**
  - **2 rods for the midfielders**
  - **1 rod for the forwards**

### 3.4 Ball

- The ball used in foosball is usually made of **plastic or cork**. It's small and lightweight, designed for quick movement on the table.

### 3.5 Goals

- A goal is a net located at each end of the table where players aim to score by hitting the ball into the opponent's goal area. Goals are usually about **3 to 4 inches** deep, designed to catch the ball when it crosses the goal line.

## 4. Basic Rules of Foosball

While there are various ways to play, the most common set of rules follows these general guidelines:

### 4.1 Number of Players

- Foosball can be played in either **singles** (1v1) or **doubles** (2v2). In **doubles**, each player controls a specific set of rods (defenders, midfielders, or forwards).

### 4.2 Starting the Game

- **Kickoff:** The game begins with a **ball placed in the center** of the table, and players or teams take turns attempting to score. In some formats, a coin toss is used to decide who gets the first serve.

### 4.3 Game Play

- Players use the rods to manipulate their figures, strike **the ball**, and move it toward the opponent's goal. Players can rotate their rods to spin the figures and strike the ball with the **foot of the figure**.

- **Legal Shots:** Players can take shots by **striking the ball** using controlled movements or spin it by rotating the figures. **Flick shots** (quick movements of the rod to generate speed) and **pull shots** (moving the rod back, then striking quickly) are common strategies.

#### 4.4 Scoring

- A **goal** is scored when the ball crosses the goal line and goes into the opponent's goal area. The game typically follows one of two scoring methods:
  - **Point System:** Games are often played to **5, 7, 10, or 11 points**, with one team needing to reach that number to win.
  - **Time Limit:** Some games may have a set time limit (e.g., **10 minutes**), with the player/team with the most goals at the end of the time limit winning.

#### 4.5 Goalkeeper

- The goalkeeper is the figure closest to the goal and has the job of **defending the goal**. Players use the goalkeeper rod to make **quick movements** to prevent the opponent from scoring. In some formats, the **goalkeeper can only move horizontally**.

#### 4.6 No Spinning

- **Spinning the rod** (rotating it multiple times in a continuous motion to strike the ball) is typically **illegal** in most competitive foosball play. Players are required to **control the rods** and **strike the ball without excessive spinning**.

#### 4.7 Serve

- After a goal, the **ball is served** from the center of the table. The team that concedes a goal **serves next**.

### 5. Common Foosball Games

There are various formats of foosball, and each game may have slight variations in rules and scoring:

#### 5.1 Table Soccer (Soccer)

- A simplified version where players aim to score by using the rods to control their figures and shoot the ball into the opponent's goal.

#### 5.2 Foosball Tournaments

- Many competitive foosball events follow more advanced rules, often with a professional ranking system. Some tournament formats include:
  - **Singles:** One player vs. another.
  - **Doubles:** Two players on each team, each controlling specific rods.
  - **Mixed Doubles:** Teams of two, with one male and one female player.

### 5.3 World Foosball Championships

- The **International Table Soccer Federation (ITSF)** organizes major **foosball championships**, such as the **World Cup**, which brings together professional players from all over the world.

## 6. Skills and Techniques

Several advanced techniques are used to improve gameplay:

### 6.1 Pull Shot

- A fast and powerful shot is performed by pulling the rod backward and then striking the ball with a quick, controlled motion. It's often used by forwards.

### 6.2 Snake Shot

- A shot in which a player uses the **rod's figures** to curl the ball in a specific direction. It's commonly used for quick strikes on the goal.

### 6.3 Push Shot

- Similar to the pull shot, the push shot is executed by pushing the rod away from the player and then quickly striking the ball.

### 6.4 Bank Shots

- A technique where the ball is hit against the walls or sides of the table to change its direction, making it harder for the opponent to predict or block.

## 7. Equipment

Foosball tables come in a variety of materials and designs, but they generally consist of:

### 7.1 Table Material

- High-quality foosball tables are often made from **wood**, **laminated**, or **metal**. Professional tables are often built with **solid wood** and **metal rods** for durability.

- For recreational tables, **molded plastic or composite** materials are sometimes used.

## 7.2 Rod and Figure Construction

- **Rods:** Usually made of **steel** or **aluminum**, they need to be sturdy and capable of withstanding forceful movements during play.
- **Player Figures:** Figures are often made from **plastic or resin** and are mounted on the rods. Some players use **customized figures** to suit their play style.

## 7.3 Ball

- Most foosball balls are **small plastic balls**, but they can be made from other materials such as **cork**. High-end tournament balls are generally **smooth** and durable.

## 8. Popular Foosball Brands

Several manufacturers specialize in making foosball tables. Some of the most well-known brands include:

- **Tornado:** Known for high-end, professional-grade tables used in tournaments.
- **Stiga:** Offers quality tables for both casual and competitive players.
- **Garlando:** A popular brand for both recreational and tournament-level foosball tables.
- **Joola:** Known for manufacturing high-quality recreational tables.

## 9. Foosball Tournaments and Competitions

Foosball is taken seriously in many countries, and there are numerous tournaments where skilled players compete for titles:

- **ITSF World Cup:** The premier event for world-class players.
- **National Foosball League (NFL):** Domestic leagues where top players compete.
- **World Foosball Championships:** International championships hosted by the **International Table Soccer Federation (ITSF)**.

## 10. Foosball Etiquette

- **Sportsmanship:** Players should respect their opponents, avoid taunting, and maintain a good attitude whether they win or lose.
- **Cleanliness:** Always keep the table clean and free of debris, and avoid excessive force or slamming the rods.

- **Spinning Rules:** In most tournaments, spinning the rods is considered **illegal**, and players are expected to use controlled movements.