Sliding & Slide Tackling – Futsal Rule Explanation

1. Sliding is allowed in futsal — but only when it is safe.
A player may slide on the floor to play the ball as long as the action does not create danger and does not make contact with the opponent.

2. A legal slide must meet all of these conditions:
• The slide is directed toward the ball, not the opponent.
• The player does not touch the opponent with the feet, legs, or body.
• The slide does not endanger the opponent (no excessive force, no risk of collision).
• The slide is done in a way that the opponent still has a chance to play safely.

This type of slide is commonly used to block a pass, intercept a ball, or prevent a shot — and it is allowed.

3. Illegal slide tackling (foul) happens when:
• The sliding player makes physical contact with the opponent.
• The slide is careless, reckless, or dangerous.
• The player slides from behind or in a way that the opponent cannot protect themselves.
• The primary intention is to take the opponent down instead of playing the ball.

Any of these situations results in a direct free kick (or a penalty kick if inside the penalty area).

4. Important note for youth players:
For younger age groups, referees may stop play more often to protect the children.

Referees are encouraged to:
• Explain why the slide was legal or illegal.
• Guide beginners on how to safely approach the ball.

The goal is always to teach safety while maintaining the true rules of futsal.