

## **Age category rationale: *International Super Masters 5-a-side/Futsal World Cup Tournament***

This grass-roots international masters 5-a-side world cup football tournament began in 2006 for teams in the 040+ age category. In 2008, it progressed to the 045s team age category, and then on to the 050s team age category in 2011. Following five years of 050s masters tournaments, it became evident that a significant attrition rate occurred with pre-and post-60s players and teams (e.g., at the 2016 050s tournament in Portugal, only one participant, 57 years of age, was present who had played in the 2006 inaugural tournament and only three participants were present who had played in the 2008 tournament). A strategic plan was thus developed to launch, in addition to continuing 050s tournaments, a series of research-informed and customized international pre-and-post 60's world cup tournaments which included two 055s tournaments (2017-18), two 058s tournaments (2019-2020), and two 060s tournaments (2021-22), as well as integrating 065s competitive walking football games throughout the pre-and post-60's super masters tournament initiative. The evidence of full and thriving initial international tournaments held in Wales (2017) and England (2018), as well as a fully subscribed next tournament in France (2019) has been testimony to the enthusiastic interest, support and demand for these customized pre-and post-60's world cup football tournaments (2006-2022). The research-informed pre-and post-60's international super masters world cup initiative has had a significant impact in terms of re-engagement and responsiveness for former participants/teams, evidence-based innovation, sustained participation and quality.

### **References**

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