

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION BOARD

2000

MINUTES
of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



THE FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION

MINUTES
of the
2000 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD
held at
CLIVEDEN,
TAPLOW, BERKSHIRE, ENGLAND
on
SATURDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2000
at 10.00 am

16 Lancaster Gate
London
W2 3LW

Chief Executive
The Football Association

A G E N D A

I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

II. MINUTES

To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Miskin Manor Hotel, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales, on Saturday 20 February 1999.

III. LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

To consider the following proposals and amendments under the International Football Association Board's regulations

1. Law 1 – The Field of Play

(Submitted by The Football Association of Wales)

2. Law 1 – The Field of Play

(Submitted by FIFA)

3. Law 3 – The Number of Players

(Submitted by The Scottish Football Association)

4. Law 3 – The Number of Players

(Submitted by FIFA)

5. Law 5 – The Referee

(Submitted by FIFA)

6. Law 6 – The Assistant Referee

(Submitted by FIFA)

7. Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

(Submitted by FIFA)

8. Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

(Submitted by The Football Association)

9. Law 13 – Free Kicks

(Submitted by The Football Association)

10. Kicks from the Penalty Mark

(Submitted by The Irish Football Association)

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. **Two Referees Experiment**
(Submitted by FIFA)
2. **Goal-Line Technology and Other Experiments**
(Submitted by The Football Association)
3. **Holding and the illegal use of the arm**
(Submitted by The Scottish Football Association)
4. **Questions and Answers Booklet**
(Submitted by FIFA)
5. **Players Equipment**
(Submitted by FIFA)
6. **The Fourth Official**
(Submitted by FIFA)
7. **Miscellaneous**
(Submitted by FIFA)

V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

VI. 2001 MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

Venue and Date.

PRESENT

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION:

Mr G Thompson
Mr D G Richards
Mr A Crozier
Mr K W Ridden

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION:

Mr J S Blatter
Mr S Erzik
Mr R Teixeira
Mr M Zen-Ruffinen

THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION:

Mr J C McGinn
Mr J F McBeth
Mr G W Peat
Mr D Taylor

THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION:

Mr J Boyce
Mr I Marshall
Mr D J Martin
Mr D I Bowen

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES:

Mr J O Hughes
Mr D W Shanklin
Mr T Evans
Mr D G Collins

Also present:

Mr D Davies (The Football Association), Mr G D Cumming (The Scottish Football Association), Mr W E Campbell (The Irish Football Association), Miss J A Stearn (The Football Association, Minutes).

I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman of The Football Association, Mr G Thompson, welcomed members to England for the first Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board in the new millenium. He felt sure that they would enjoy the wonderful setting of Cliveden.

He welcomed, in particular, new members to the Board: Mr Ricardo Teixeira, President of the Brazilian Football Association; Mr David Taylor, Chief Executive, The Scottish Football Association; Mr Adam Crozier, Chief Executive, The Football Association and introduced himself on attending his first meeting of the Board.

The Chairman informed members that there had been three deaths of former members since the last Annual General Meeting: Mr Harry Cavan, former Vice President of FIFA and former President of the Irish Football Association; Mr Ivor Pursey, former President and Life Vice President of the Football Association of Wales and Mr A D (Mac) McMullen, former Vice Chairman and Life Vice President of The Football Association. He recorded the sadness of members at the passing of these gentlemen.

Mr Thompson also made reference to the impending retirement from The Football Association of Mr Ken Ridden and paid tribute to his work as a valuable member of The Football Association and thanked him for his service, in particular in connection with the International FA Board.

In closing his welcome and remarks, the Chairman looked forward to an interesting agenda and a constructive meeting for football throughout the world.

II. MINUTES

The Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the 1999 Annual Business Meeting, held at the Miskin Manor Hotel, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales, on Saturday 20 February 1999.

III. LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

1. Law 1 – The Field of Play

(Submitted by The Football Association of Wales)

Present text:

(unchanged)

Proposed text:

(additional paragraph to be inserted under the heading GOALS)

If nets are attached to the goalposts and crossbar the net fixings shall be designed in such a way that the players cannot be hurt. Steel cup hooks, metal hook type fastenings or nails shall not be used to fix the net to the posts and crossbar. If spring hooks are used as a means of fixation or for the end of a rope, they shall have screw caps.

Reason:

A number of accidents have occurred around the world over recent years resulting in serious injuries to players. The injuries have been caused by steel cup hooks used as a means of fixing goal nets on goal posts and crossbars.

Amendments

Decisions

The proposal of The Football Association of Wales was referred to the International FA Board Sub-Committee.

2. **Law 1 – The Field of Play**

(Submitted by FIFA)

Present text:

(unchanged)

Proposed text:

New IFAB Decision 4
(with present Decisions 4 and 5
becoming Decisions 5 and 6
respectively)

**There should be no advertising of
any kind within the Technical Area
or within one metre from the
touchline and outside the field of
play. Further, no advertising shall
be allowed in the area between
the goal line and the goal nets.**

Reason:

This decision will clarify the situation with respect to advertising on and around the field of play.

Amendments

Decisions

The proposal of the Federation Internationale de Football Association was approved subject to the insertion of three words at the end of the first sentence as follows:-

- 2. There should be no advertising of any kind within the Technical Area or within one metre from the touchline and outside the field of play on the ground.

3. Law 3 – The Number of Players

(Submitted by The Scottish Football Association)

Present text:

Other matches

In other matches, up to five substitutes may be used, provided that:

- * *the teams concerned reach an agreement on a maximum number*
- * *the referee is informed before the match*

If the referee is not informed, or if no agreement is reached before the start of the match, no more than three substitutes are allowed.

Proposed text:

Other matches

In other matches, substitutes may be used, provided that

- * *the teams concerned reach an agreement on a maximum number*
- * *the referee is informed before the match.*

If the referee is not informed, or if no agreement is reached before the start of the match, no more than three substitutes are allowed.

Reason:

In friendly matches problems can develop when teams wish to use more than the five substitutes permitted at present. This revised text would still give teams control over the number of substitutes permitted but would allow greater flexibility.

Amendments

Decisions

The proposal of The Scottish Football Association was adopted.

4. Law 3 – The Number of Players

(Submitted by FIFA)

IFAB Decision 2 to be amended:

Present text:

The coach may convey tactical instructions to the players during the match. He and the other officials must remain within the confines of the technical area, where such an area is provided, and they must behave in a responsible manner.

Proposed text:

The coach may convey tactical instructions to the players during the match **and he must return to his position immediately after giving these instructions.** He and the other officials must remain within the confines of the technical area, where such an area is provided, and they must behave in a responsible manner.

Reason:

This change would correspond to the language used on the same subject under the Technical Area on page 38 of the Laws.

Amendments

Decisions

The proposal of the Federation Internationale de Football Association was adopted.

5. **Law 5 – The Referee**

(Submitted by FIFA)

Present text:

(unchanged)

Proposed text:

New IFAB Decision 4

After a player has left the field of play for treatment, he cannot return until the ball is in play and only then with the permission of the referee.

Reason:

This decision will help prevent some time-wasting situations.

Amendments

(Submitted by The Football Association of Wales)

After the proposed text submitted by FIFA, insert an additional sentence:

A player who is injured by a foul, committed by an opponent, shall be given permission to return by the referee immediately he recovers from the injury.

Reason:

In the case of a player leaving the field of play because of an injury as a result of a foul committed by an opponent, the injured player's team is at a disadvantage while he is off the field of play, while the team that committed the foul remain at full strength. This is not in the spirit of fair play.

Decisions

The proposal of the Federation Internationale de Football Association was withdrawn.

6. Law 6 – The Assistant Referee

(Submitted by FIFA)

Present text:

Duties

Two assistant referees are appointed whose duties, subject to the decision of the referee, are to indicate:

- * *when the whole of the ball has passed out of the field of play*
- * *which side is entitled to a corner kick, goal kick or throw-in*
- * *when a player may be penalised for being in an offside position*
- * *when a substitution is requested*
- * *when misconduct or any other incident has occurred out of the view of the referee*

Assistance

The assistant referees also assist the referee to control the match in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

In the event of undue interference or improper conduct, the referee will relieve an assistant referee of his duties and make a report to the appropriate authorities.

Proposed text:

Duties

Two assistant referees are appointed whose duties, subject to the decision of the referee, are to indicate:

- * *when the whole of the ball has passed out of the field of play*
- * *which side is entitled to a corner kick, goal kick or throw-in*
- * *when a player may be penalised for being in an offside position*
- * *when a substitution is requested*
- * *when misconduct or any other incident has occurred out of the view of the referee*
- * ***when offences have been committed whenever the assistants are closer to the action than the referee (this includes in particular circumstances, offences committed in the penalty area)***
- * ***whether, at penalty kicks, the goalkeeper has moved forward before the ball is kicked and if the ball has crossed the goal line***

Assistance

The assistant referees also assist the referee to control the match in accordance with the Laws of the Game. ***In particular, they may enter the field of play to help control the 9.15 m distance.***

(Rest of the text unchanged).

Reason:

It is felt necessary to better define the duties of the Assistant Referees since they effectively already perform the tasks newly described above.

Amendments

Decisions

The proposal of the Federation Internationale de Football Association was adopted, with the suggestion of an additional directive from FIFA to referees to correctly monitor and punish any non-respecting of the appropriate distance at the taking of a penalty kick.

7. Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

(Submitted by FIFA)

Present text:

Indirect Free Kick

An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper, inside his own penalty area, commits any of the following five offences:

- * *takes more than four steps while controlling the ball with his hands, before releasing it from his possession*
- * *touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his possession and has not touched any other player*
- * *touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate*
- * *touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate*
- * *wastes time.*

Proposed text:

Indirect Free Kick

An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper, inside his own penalty area, commits any of the following five offences:

- * *takes more than **five to six seconds** while controlling the ball with his hands before releasing it from his possession*
- * *touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his possession and has not touched any other player*
- * *touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate*
- * *touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate*
- * *wastes time*

(Rest of the text unchanged)

Reason:

This proposed amendment corresponds to the logic which is behind Decision 3 of the Board under this Law and therefore brings uniformity in the matter.

Amendments

Decisions

The proposal of the Federation Internationale de Football Association was adopted subject to the deletion of the words "five to", as follows:-

- * **takes more than six seconds while controlling the ball with his hands before releasing it from his possession.**

8. Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

(Submitted by The Football Association)

Present text:

Sending-Off Offences No 6

Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language

Proposed text:

Sending-Off Offences No 6

Uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures.

(Rest of the text unchanged)

Reason:

The new text better defines the range of offences in this category.

Amendments

Decisions

The proposal of The Football Association was adopted.

It was suggested that a directive from FIFA should indicate that the referee retains the discretion to judge the severity of an offence and punish appropriately.

9. Law 13 – Free Kicks

(Submitted by The Football Association)

Present text:

(unchanged)

Proposed text:

New IFAB Decision 1

If, when a free kick is awarded, a player from the offending team

(a) fails to respect the required distance and retreat 9.15 m (10 yards) from the position of the free kick, or

(b) delays the restart of play by carrying, throwing or kicking the ball away, or

(c) shows dissent by word or action, or

(d) indulges in any other form of unsporting behaviour

- the referee will first caution the offending player appropriately, show the yellow card and then advance the position of the free kick 9.15 m (10 yards) toward the midpoint of the offending team's goal line. (Unless covered by the Special Circumstances listed in Law 8 - The Start and Restart of Play).*

Reason:

Where the text of this proposed new International FA Board Decision has been applied in experiments in amateur, semi-professional and professional football matches, it has significantly improved the quality of sportsmanship and assisted referees controlling games.

The risk of instant punishment of the offending team, as a result of an individual player's misconduct, has proved to be a helpful deterrent to unfair tactics and fair play has become much more prevalent.

Amendments

(Submitted by The Football Association of Wales)

Insert additional sentence into the final paragraph, following the wording "offending team's goal-line, so that the sentence becomes:

If, following the awarding of a direct free kick the advancement of the position of the kick would take it into the penalty area, the free kick shall be taken from the edge of the penalty area.

Reason:

It is most advantageous to the team taking the free kick to take a direct free kick than have an indirect free kick within the penalty area.

Decisions

The proposal of The Football Association was withdrawn.

It was, however, decided that The Football Association should continue with the "9.15 m Experiment" in its present form. FIFA and The Scottish Football Association also declared an interest in the experiment in chosen competitions.

In connection with the Proposed Text conditions (printed opposite) the section (* Unless covered by the Special Circumstances listed in Law 8 – The Start of Play) be deleted and replaced with the following:

If the free kick position then enters the offending team's penalty area, **the free kick will remain as a free kick** (direct or indirect, as awarded by the Referee) and the free kick can be defended against by the opposing team as usual, ie, all opponents shall remain at least 9.15 m (10 yards) from the ball until it is in play, unless they are on their own goal line between the goal posts.

In the specific case of an indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team in its opponents' goal area and as a result of a 9.15 m (10 yards) advancement, the kick will be taken from the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred, in accordance with Law 8.

10. Kicks from the Penalty Mark

(Submitted by The Irish Football Association)

Present text:

(unchanged)

Reason:

The current regulations do not cover the situation when one team finishes the game and enters a kicks from the penalty mark competition with fewer players than their opponents.

Proposed text:

(Additional bullet point)

Before the start of the kicks the referee shall ensure that only an equal number of players from each team remain within the centre circle and they shall take the kicks (where a team finishes the match with a greater number of players than their opponents they shall reduce their numbers to equate with that of their opponents and inform the referee the name and number of each player excluded).

Amendments

Decisions

The proposal of The Irish Football Association was adopted.

It was agreed that the team captain had the responsibility to inform the referee of the name and number of each player excluded.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. **Two Referees Experiment**

(Submitted by FIFA)

Information on the experiments currently undertaken in several professional leagues with two referees controlling the game.

Messrs S Erzik and R Teixeira gave comprehensive reports on the two referee experiments conducted in Italy and Brazil respectively. After listening to Board members views it was agreed to receive reports, at the next Board meeting, from the further three associations undertaking this experiment.

2. **Goal-Line Technology and Other Experiments**

(Submitted by The Football Association)

To receive information and discuss progress to date.

Mr K W Ridden gave a detailed report on the experiments to date involving goal-line technology and radio communication systems. It was reiterated that goal-line technology systems must only confirm the ball wholly over the goal-line and must feed back directly to the referee. Under no circumstances may cameras be used. Members agreed that a further report on goal-line technology should be made at the next Board meeting and experimentation involving radio communication systems may continue.

3. **Holding and the illegal use of the arm**

(Submitted by The Scottish Football Association)

Holding is becoming more common in football today as is the illegal use of the arm to prevent players challenging for the ball especially when it is being retained around the corner flag with the aim of wasting time.

The Scottish Football Association wishes these topics to be included in the Additional Instructions Regarding the Laws of the Game which are being prepared for publication along with the new version of the Questions and Answers book.

Members agreed to The Scottish Football Association proposal that these topics be included in the Additional Instructions Regarding the Laws of the Game and in any further appropriate documents circulated by FIFA.

4. **Questions and Answers Booklet**

(Submitted by FIFA)

Following the approval given by the Annual Business Meeting of the International FA Board as to the revised and updated version of the Questions and Answers to the Laws of the Game, the Board is asked to formally approve the edition of this publication by FIFA.

Information as to the contents and possible decisions with respect to possible remaining open issues.

The Board formally approved the updated version of the FIFA publication, Questions and Answers to the Laws of the Game.

5. **Players Equipment**

(Submitted by FIFA)

Discussion as to the necessity of the uniformity of the football boots' colour in the same team.

Mr M Zen-Ruffinen informed members that FIFA is considering the possibility of introducing into its Competition Rules a clause requiring all players boots in the same team to be of one colour.

6. **The Fourth Official**

(Submitted by FIFA)

To consider extending the authority of a duly qualified neutral referee or assistant referee acting as a Fourth Official in a competition, allowing him to inform the referee during the match (either directly or via the assistant referee) of particular situations where the Laws of the Game have not been correctly applied, eg

* wrong player cautioned

* player not sent off for a second caution.

Additionally, to notify the referee during the match if a player is guilty of violent conduct out of the view of the referee and assistant referees. The referee would retain full authority for facts connected with play.

Members agreed that this proposal should be referred to the International FA Board Sub-Committee for further examination and suggested that consideration also be given to further extending the role of the fourth official.

7. **Miscellaneous**

(Submitted by FIFA)

Matters arisen between the date of submission of proposals to the International FA Board and the date of the meeting.

i) **Mr J S Blatter informed members that following various improvements in the quality of artificial pitches, consideration was being given to allowing national associations to use such surfaces more widely.**

ii) **Mr J S Blatter asked that the "golden goal" concept be referred to the International FA Board Sub-Committee for further discussion. FIFA will also have further data available from national associations for the next meeting of the Board.**

V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i) The Irish Football Association sought clarification following recent reports of instructions being sent to referees by a competition. The Chairman advised that he felt that this was not a matter for the International FA Board, but rather for FIFA. It was, however, confirmed that only a National Association, on behalf of FIFA, should give such instructions.
- ii) Mr J S Blatter advised members, with considerable pleasure, how proud FIFA was to be a part of the International FA Board which existed to protect the Laws of the Game and to this end will propose to the FIFA Executive Committee and FIFA Congress that the independence of the International FA Board should be protected and remain uninfluenced by other bodies.
- iii) Mr J O Hughes advised members that this was his last meeting of the Board representing The Football Association of Wales and wished to thank everyone associated with the Board for their friendship and cooperation during the years he has served.

VI. 2001 MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

Venue and date to be decided.

Mr J C McGinn, on behalf of The Scottish Football Association, invited members of the Board to the 2001 International Football Association Board meeting which would be held at the Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh, Scotland, on 10 March 2001.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr J S Blatter proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman of The Football Association for the manner in which he had conducted the meeting.

Mr G Thompson replied appropriately, thanking members for their cooperation and good humour throughout the meeting.

On behalf of FIFA and the British Associations respectively, Mr Blatter and Mr McGinn made well deserved presentations to Mr K W Ridden, thanking him for his service to the International FA Board over many years and wishing him well in his retirement from The Football Association.

Mr Ridden thanked members for their kindness and emphasised how he had thoroughly enjoyed making a contribution to the work of the International FA Board over the last 17 years and of his willingness to continue to serve football elsewhere in the years ahead.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 11.35 am.

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

19 FEBRUARY 2000

CLIVEDEN

FIFA

Sepp Blatter

Senes Erzik

Ricardo Teixeira

Michel Zen-Ruffinen

Sepp Blatter

Senes Erzik

Ricardo Teixeira

England

Geoff Thompson

David Richards

Adam Crozier

Ken Ridden

Geoff Thompson

David Richards

Adam Crozier

Ken Ridden

Scotland

John McGinn

John McBeth

George Peat

David Taylor

John McGinn

John McBeth

George Peat

David Taylor

Ireland

James Boyce

Ivan Marshall

David Martin

David Bowen

James Boyce

Ivan Marshall

David Martin

David Bowen

Wales

John O. Hughes

Des Shanklin

Tegwyn Evans

David Collins

John O. Hughes

Des Shanklin

Tegwyn Evans

David Collins

Also Present

David Davies

George Cumming

William Campbell

Julie Stearn

David Davies

George Cumming

William Campbell

Julie Stearn