

**INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION BOARD**

1998

**MINUTES
of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES
of the
1998 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

held
at the Hôtel Plaza Athénée
in
PARIS, FRANCE
on
March 6th, 1998

General Secretary

HITZIGWEG 11
P.O. BOX 85
8030 ZURICH

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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P R E S E N T

FIFA :

Dr. J. Havelange

Mr. J. S. Blatter

Mr. D. H. Will

Mr. J.A. Warner

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION :

Mr. K. St. J. Wiseman

Mr. D.G. Richards

Mr. R.H.G. Kelly

Mr. K.W. Ridden

THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION :

Mr. J.C. McGinn

Mr. J.F. McBeth

Mr. D.B. Smith

Mr. J. Farry

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES :

Mr. J. O. Hughes

Mr. T. Evans

Mr. J.E. Lloyd

Mr. D.G. Collins

THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION :

Mr. J. Boyce

Mr. I. Marshall

Mr. D. J. Martin

Mr. D. Bowen

ALSO PRESENT :

Mr. M. Zen-Ruffinen (FIFA), Mr. G.W. Peat and Mr. G.D. Cumming (The Scottish Football Association), Mr. W.E. Campbell (The Irish Football Association), Miss R. C. Collins (FIFA, Minutes), Mr. P. Pullen (Special tasks).

I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The FIFA President welcomed the members to Paris in the World Cup France '98 year.

The President welcomed new members to the International Football Association Board : Mr. Jack Warner, FIFA Vice President, CONCACAF; Mr. Douglas Smith and Mr. George Peat, the Scottish Football Association and Mr. John Lloyd, the Football Association of Wales.

II. MINUTES OF THE 1997 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the 1997 Annual General Meeting.

It was declared that as the present Minutes Book is now full, a new book will be provided for the minutes of the 112th Annual General Meeting. The FIFA General Secretary suggested that, to maintain the legacy of the Board, the minutes should be recorded by using new technology, such as microfiche and CD ROM, for the benefit of future generations. The members agreed.

III. LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

1. **Revised version of the Laws of the Game.**

The Sub-Committee submitted a paper, Appendix I, recommending minor modifications to the Laws of the Game. This was accepted by the Board.

Mr. David Will, on behalf of FIFA, raised a matter discussed in the last Annual Business Meeting regarding the alteration of a result after a match in Germany when the result was cancelled and a replay ordered. The Board decided that the result at the end of a match is final and agreed that this should now be stated as Law 5 International F. A. Board Decision No. 3 as shown below.

“Facts connected with play shall include whether a goal is scored or not and the result of the match”.

2. **Law 5 – The Referee**

The Board discussed the method of injured players leaving the field of play and decided that if a player is able to walk, it is not necessary for him to be carried off the field of play on a stretcher. Players should walk off especially if close to the boundary lines. It was agreed that such instructions be given to the 32 finalist teams and to the referees of the World Cup France '98.

In connection with instructions to be given to referees in World Cup France '98, Mr. David Will raised for discussion the position from which an injured player could return to the field of play after treatment. The Board agreed that if the ball was out of play, the player could enter the field from any point on the boundary lines. If the ball is in play, the player may only re-enter the field of play from a touch line. In each case he must await a signal from the referee.

3. **Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct**

FIFA proposed the following text for a new International F. A. Board Decision No. 5: “A tackle from behind which endangers the safety of an opponent must be sanctioned as serious foul play.” The Board unanimously accepted this proposal.

4. **Kicks from the Penalty Mark – procedure**

Present text : “The goalkeeper who is the team mate of the kicker must remain on the field of play, outside the penalty area in which the kicks are being taken,

behind the line which runs parallel with the goal line and at least 9.15 m (10 yards) from the penalty mark ”.

Proposed new text submitted by The Football Association : “ The goalkeeper who is the team mate of the kicker must remain on the field of play, outside the penalty area in which the kicks are being taken, **on the goal line where it meets the penalty area boundary line** ”.

The proposal was accepted by the Board.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. **Experiments to the Laws**

Following discussions on the “kick-in experiment” being undertaken by the Belgian Football Association, members agreed to make a final assessment of the project at the next Annual Business Meeting.

The Football Association sought approval for an experiment to be conducted by the Jersey Football Association, involving the advancement of the position of a free kick by 9.15 metres toward the mid-point of the offending team’s goal, following a caution administered for dissent, failure to respect 9.15 metres, delaying the taking of a free kick or any other act of unsporting behaviour. Permission was granted.

2. **The Field of Play**

The Board agreed to the principle of initiating research involving goal line technology as an aid to the referee to determine if a goal is scored.

3. **Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play**

Law 15 – The Throw-In

The Irish Football Association presented a video illustrating aspects of Fair Play and suggested that the matter should be considered by the Sub-Committee. The Board agreed.

4. **FIFA Laws of the Game booklet**

The Board supported the reintroduction of updated diagrams on Law 11 and Law 12 in the 1998 edition of the Laws of the Game.

V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. David Will referred to the memorandum "Additional Instructions for Referees" which the FIFA Referees' Committee intends to update and publish at a later date. It was agreed that before publication it would be referred to the Sub-Committee for comment.

Dr. Havelange addressed the Board expressing his appreciation of its work over the 24 years of his presidency. He recognised the important role the Board has played for the development of the Laws of the Game for the benefit of the world football.

Mr. John McGinn, President of the Scottish Football Association, on behalf of the four British associations, paid tribute to Dr. Havelange on the completion of his final International F. A. Board and presented him with a gift. He congratulated him on his constant dedication to football which had resulted in the tremendous growth of interest in the game throughout the world under his presidency.

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING 1998 IN PARIS

LIST OF DELEGATIONS

Football Association Mr. K. Wiseman

K. Wiseman

Mr. D. Richards

D. Richards

Mr. R.H.G. Kelly

R.H.G. Kelly

Mr. K. Ridden

K. Ridden

Scottish F.A. Mr. J.C. Mc Ginn

J.C. McGinn

Mr. J.F. McBeth

J.F. McBeth

Mr. D.B. Smith

D.B. Smith

Mr. J. Farry

J. Farry

F.A. of Wales Mr. J.O. M. Hughes

J.O.M. Hughes

Mr. M.T. Evans

M.T. Evans

Mr. J.E. Lloyd

J.E. Lloyd

Mr. D.G. Collins

D.G. Collins

Irish F.A.

Mr. J. Boyce

J. Boyce

Mr. I. Marshall

I. Marshall

Mr. D.J. Martin

D.J. Martin

Mr. D. Bowen

D. Bowen

FIFA

Dr. J. Havelange

J. Havelange

Mr. D.H. Will

D.H. Will

Mr. J.A. Warner

J.A. Warner

Mr. J.S. Blatter

J.S. Blatter

ALSO PRESENT

Scotland

Mr. G.W. Peat

G.W. Peat

Scotland

Mr. G. Cumming

G. Cumming

Northern Ireland

Mr. W.E. Campbell

W.E. Campbell

FIFA

Mr. M. Zen-Ruffinen

M. Zen-Ruffinen

FIFA

Mr. P. Pullen

P. Pullen