

**INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION BOARD**

2001

**MINUTES
of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



MINUTES
of the
2001 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD
held at
The Balmoral Hotel, Princes Street, Edinburgh
on
Saturday 10th March 2001
at
09.30 hours

Hampden Park
Glasgow
G42 9AY

David Taylor
Chief Executive
The Scottish Football Association

AGENDA

I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

II. MINUTES

To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Cliveden, Taplow, England on Saturday 19th February 2000.

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. **Notes on the Laws of the Game**
(submitted by FIFA)
2. **Law 3 – The Number of Players**
(submitted by FIFA)
3. **Law 5 – The Referee**
(submitted by the Football Association of Wales)
4. **Law 5 – The Referee**
(submitted by the Football Association)
5. **Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct**
(submitted by FIFA)
6. **Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct**
(submitted by the Irish Football Association)
7. **Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct**
(submitted by FIFA)
8. **Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct**
(submitted by the Football Association of Wales)
9. **Law 13 – Free kicks**
(submitted by the Football Association)
10. **Procedures to determine the winner of a match**
(submitted by FIFA)

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. **Experiments to the Laws – Universality of the Game**
(submitted by the Football Association of Wales)
2. **Experiments to the Laws – 9.15m/10 yard advancement**
(submitted by the Scottish Football Association)
3. **Experiments to the Laws – Two referees**
(submitted by FIFA)
4. **Questions and Answers to the Laws of the Game 2000**
(submitted by FIFA)
(submitted by The Scottish Football Association)
5. **Trackside advertising**
(submitted by the Scottish Football Association)
6. **Advertising on Goal Nets**
(submitted by FIFA)
7. **Futsal Laws of the Game**
(submitted by FIFA)
8. **Beach Soccer**
(submitted by FIFA)

V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

VI. 2002 Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board.

Venue and date.

PRESENT

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION:

Mr J S Blatter
Mr S Erzik
Mr M Zen-Ruffinen
Mr S Aloulou

THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION:

Mr J McGinn
Mr J McBeth
Mr G Peat
Mr D Taylor

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION:

Mr G Thomspou
Mr D Richards
Mr A Crozier
Mr D Davies

THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION:

Mr J Boyce
Mr D Martin
Mr D Bowen

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES:

Mr D Shanklin
Mr T Evans
Mr P Rees
Mr D Collins

Also Present:

Mr G Cumming (FIFA), Mr D McVicar (The Scottish Football Association),
Mr J Baker (The Football Association), Mr I Williams (Football Association of Wales),
Mr W Campbell (The Irish Football Association), Mrs S Buchanan (The Scottish
Football Association, Minutes), Mrs Mathilde Peace (Interpreter).

I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman of The Scottish Football Association , Mr J.McGinn, welcomed members to Scotland for the 115th meeting of the International Football Association Board and expressed the wish that they would enjoy the venue and its setting.

An apology was noted from Mr I.Marshall of the Irish Football Association, who had recently suffered a fall. Members of the Board wished him a speedy recovery.

A particular welcome was extended to those attending their first meeting of the Board : Mr Slim Aloulou, member of the FIFA Executive Committee, a new member to the Board, and Mr John Baker, The Football Association, Mr Idwyl Williams, The Football Association of Wales and Mr Donald McVicar, The Scottish Football Association.

The Chairman also offered the congratulations of the Board to Mr Joseph Blatter, FIFA President, on the occasion of his 65th birthday. He hoped that Mr Blatter would enjoy this special day in Edinburgh.

In closing his welcome and remarks, the Chairman looked forward to a constructive meeting and to discussing issues of relevance to football throughout the world.

II. MINUTES

The Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the 2000 Annual General Meeting held at Cliveden, Berkshire, England on 19th February 2000.

III. LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

1. Notes on the Laws of the Game

(Submitted by FIFA)

Present text

Modifications

Subject to the agreement of the national association concerned and provided the principles of these Laws are maintained, the Laws may be modified in their application for matches for players of under 16 years of age, for women footballers and for veteran footballers (over 35 years)

Proposed text

Modifications

Subject to the agreement of the national association concerned and provided the principles of these Laws are maintained, the Laws may be modified in their application for matches for players of under 16 years of age, for women footballers and for veteran footballers (over 35 years) **and for players with disabilities.**

Amendments

Decisions

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

2. Law 3 – The Numbers of Players

(Submitted by FIFA)

Decisions of the International F.A. Board

Decision 2

Present 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.

Proposed text

A **team official** may convey tactical instructions to the players during the match and must return to his position after doing so. All **team 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:

The new text recognises that tactical instructions may be given by different team officials during the match provided the person returns to his or her position after giving these instructions and behaves in a responsible manner.

Amendments

Decisions

The proposal of the Fédération Internationale de Football was adopted.

3. Law 5 – The Referee

(Submitted by The Football Association of Wales)

Bullet point 8

Present text

Stops the match, if in his opinion, a player is seriously injured and ensures that he is removed from the field of play.

Proposed text

Stops the match, if in his opinion, a player is seriously injured and ensures that he is removed from the field of play. **The player must be allowed to return immediately on recovering from the injury and on receiving a signal from the referee.**

Reason:

If a player is injured as a result of foul play and leaves the field of play for the injury to be treated, on recovery referees are holding players on the sideline for a period of time. This is giving the side who committed the foul an unfair advantage in that they have an additional player on the field of play. This is against the spirit of fair play. The Law should also allow the injured player to return to the field of play immediately he is fit to do so.

Amendments

Decisions

The proposal of the Football Association of Wales was withdrawn.

It was agreed that a directive from FIFA would reiterate the responsibilities of referees when dealing with injuries to players.

4. Law 5 – The Referee

(Submitted by The Football Association)

Bullet point 10

Present text

ensures that any player bleeding from a head wound leaves the field of play. The player may only return on receiving a signal from the referee, who must be satisfied that the bleeding has stopped.

Proposed text

ensures that any player bleeding from a head wound leaves the field of play. The player may only return **when the ball is out of play and after** receiving a signal from the referee, who must be satisfied that the bleeding has stopped.

Amendments

Decisions

The proposal of The Football Association was withdrawn.

It was agreed that a directive from FIFA would reiterate the responsibilities of referees when dealing with injured players.

5. Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

(Submitted by FIFA)

Indirect Free Kick

Delete bullet point 5

- wastes time

International F.A. Board Decision 3

Delete the final paragraph

The goalkeeper is considered to be guilty of time-wasting if he holds the ball in his hands or arms for more than 5-6 seconds.

Reason:

Both texts are no longer necessary because of the alteration to Law 12 in 2000 which stated that a goalkeeper is permitted to control the ball with his hands or arms for up to six seconds.

Amendments

Decisions

The proposal of the Fédération Internationale de Football was adopted.

6. Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

(Submitted by The Irish Football Association)

Present text

(unchanged)

Proposed text

(to be inserted after the heading
Disciplinary Sanctions.)

**Only a player or substitute may
be shown the red or yellow
card.**

Reason:

This will specify who may be shown the red or yellow card and clarify confusion which was leading to team officials also being shown cards.

Amendments

Decisions

The proposal submitted by the Irish Football Association was adopted with the following modification:

“Only a player or substitute or **substituted player** may be shown the red or yellow card.”

Guidance would be given to referees in the Question and Answer booklet on the procedures to be adopted when players are sanctioned in the area of the tunnel and changing rooms at the half-time interval or at full-time.

7. Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

(Submitted by FIFA)

Disciplinary Sanctions

Present text

(unchanged)

Proposed text

(To be added after Sending Off Offence 7)

A player who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area.

Reason :

This clarifies the situation for players who have been sent off.

Amendments

Decisions

The proposal from the
Fédération Internationale de
Football was adopted.

8. Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

(Submitted by the Football Association of Wales)

Decisions of the International F.A. Board

Present text

(unchanged)

Proposed text

New IFAB Decision 7

A player who deliberately holds an opponent or pulls the shirt of an opponent, must be sanctioned for unsporting behaviour.

Reason :

Since the International F.A. Board successfully changed the Laws of the Game so that players should be sanctioned for tackles from behind and simulation, the players have now resorted to holding an opponent or pulling the opponent's shirt. This causes frustration for the player being held which then inflames the situation, resulting in more serious misdemeanours following.

Amendments

Decisions

The proposal from the Football Association of Wales was withdrawn.

It was agreed that a directive from FIFA would highlight the increasing trend in this type of offence and instruct referees to take strong action to deal with it.

9. Law 13 – Free Kick

(Submitted by the Football Association)

Present text

(unchanged)

Proposed text

Infringements/Sanctions

(Additional bullet point to be inserted)

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

(a) fails to respect the required distance and retreat 9.15m (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 and show the yellow card, and then

- the referee will advance the free kick 9.15m (10 yards) towards the midpoint of the offending team's goal line. If this advancement results in entering the offending team's penalty area, the ball shall be placed on the line which defines the penalty area at the point where the advancement crosses the line.

Amendments

Decisions

The proposal submitted by the Football Association was withdrawn.

It was, however, decided that the Football Association would continue with the "9.15 m experiment". FIFA stated that they would use the experiment for educational purposes in a FIFA Youth Tournament.

A modification was agreed to cease the advancement of play at the penalty area line.

10. Kicks from the Penalty Mark

(Submitted by FIFA)

The existing text to be replaced by the following:

Procedures to determine the winner of a match

Taking kicks from the penalty mark **and the Golden Goal** are methods of determining the winning team where competition rules require there to be a winning team after a match has been drawn.

Kicks from the Penalty Mark

Procedure

- (Text remains unchanged)

The Golden Goal

Procedure

- During the period of extra time played at the end of normal playing time, the team which scores the first goal is declared the winner.

If no goals are scored the match is decided by kicks from the penalty mark.

Reason:

To include procedures for regulation of the Golden Goal.

Amendments

Decisions

The proposal by the Fédération Internationale de Football was adopted, with slight modification to the layout.

Procedures to determine the winner of a match

The Golden Goal and taking kicks from the penalty mark are methods of determining the winning team where competition rules require there to be a winning team after a match has been drawn.

The Golden Goal

Procedure

During the period of extra time played at the end of normal playing time the first goal is declared the winner.

If no goal is scored the match is decided by kicks from the penalty mark.

Kicks from the Penalty Mark

Procedure

(Text remains unchanged)

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Experiments to the Laws
(Submitted by the Football Association of Wales)

The Football Association of Wales is greatly concerned that there is a danger of a two-tier system of football developing. This could come about if present experiments being undertaken on behalf of the International F.A. Board become new Law. For example, goal line technology and the two referees experiment would fundamentally change the game of football.

The Football Association of Wales wishes to discuss the issue with the International Board. It wishes to maintain a uniform appearance to all levels of football.

The topic was discussed at length and it was generally agreed that the adoption of experiments would only be considered if they were for the benefit of the game. However, there was also agreement that the Board must be at least willing to give consideration to reasonable requests for experiments in the future.

2. Experiments to the Laws
(Submitted by the Scottish Football Association)

Feedback from the experiment on the 9.15m/10 yard Advancement.

Information on the experiment was provided during earlier discussions on Item 9 of the agenda.

3. Experiments to the Laws
(Submitted by FIFA)

Report by FIFA on the experiment with two referees.

The experiment has not produced sufficiently positive results and it was agreed to abandon this experiment.

4. Questions and Answers to the Laws of the Game 2000
(Submitted by FIFA)

Information on comments received.

The Board was informed of the positive reaction to this publication and gave approval for certain technical amendments to be made.

(Submitted by the Scottish Football Association)

Additional Instructions for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials.

There is inconsistency in the manner in which the treatment of injured players is handled and discussion is requested on a more consistent approach.

Members agreed that the topic should be referred to the International F.A. Board Sub-Committee who would prepare a relevant statement with a view to obtaining a universal approach.

5. Trackside advertising
(Submitted by the Scottish Football Association)

To discuss aspects of advertising around the perimeter of the field of play.

Concern was expressed about certain types of trackside advertising and the topic was referred to the International F.A. Board Sub-Committee.

6. Advertising on goal nets
(Submitted by FIFA)

The Board noted with concern the appearance of advertising and club logos on goal nets and corner flags, not permissible in the Laws of the Game, and requested FIFA to take action against clubs which did not respect these instructions.

7. Futsal
(Submitted by FIFA)

Discussion on the Laws of the Game.

Copies of the Futsal Laws of the Game were made available and FIFA informed the Board of the growth of this form of football.

8. Beach Soccer
(Submitted by FIFA)

Discussions on this form of football.

The Board was informed that the Laws of the Game on Beach Soccer were now being drawn up.

V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i. FIFA raised the subject of the celebration of a goal, highlighting concerns that referees were being too strict in cautioning players and that the scoring of a goal should be recognised as a genuine celebration unless it was provocative or time-wasting. The Board decided that these views should be expressed in the FIFA Circular issued following this meeting.
- ii. FIFA drew the attention of the Board to the improvement in the quality of artificial surfaces and confirmed that it was permissible to play matches in the qualifying rounds of the 2002 FIFA World Cup on such surfaces. The Board noted that the Laws of the Game did not specify the type of surface on which the game should be played and endorsed the introduction of the FIFA Quality Concept for Artificial Turf.
- iii. The Scottish Football Association expressed concern that young players were being denied the opportunity to play football if they wore spectacles. It was agreed that there were suitable safety spectacles on the market and referees should be encouraged to show discretion in their use. FIFA would comment on this subject in the Circular issued following this meeting.

VI. 2002 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD.

VENUE AND DATE TO BE DECIDED

Mr J.S. Blatter, on behalf of FIFA, stated that they would be delighted to host the next Annual General Meeting of the Board in Switzerland on 16th March 2002.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr J.S. Blatter advised the Board of the importance given by FIFA to refereeing matters and in particular the professionalisation of refereeing. He explained in detail the need for such an initiative.

He informed the Board that FIFA would host the 2004 meeting of the Board in a special way to celebrate FIFA's centenary year.

He expressed his gratitude to The Scottish Football Association for the organisation of the meeting and also to the Sub-Committee and the Board for their work in safeguarding the Laws of the Game.

Mr Geoff Thomson proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman of the Scottish Football Association for the manner in which he had conducted the meeting.

Mr McGinn replied in an appropriate manner and complimented the Board members for their co-operation during the meeting.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 11.40 a.m.

The International Football Association Board

Founded 1886



Annual Meeting – 10th March, 2001
The Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh

List of Delegations

FIFA:

Mr JS Blatter

Mr S Erzik

Mr M Zen-Ruffinen

Mr S Aloulou

Blatter
.....
Erzik
.....
Zen-Ruffinen
.....
Aloulou
.....

Scottish FA:

Mr J McGinn

Mr J McBeth

Mr G Peat

Mr D Taylor

John McBeth
.....
John McBeth
.....
George Peat
.....
Dave Taylor
.....

Football Association:

Mr G Thompson

Mr D Richards

Mr A Crozier

Mr D Davies

G Thompson
.....
D Richards
.....
A Crozier
.....
D Davies
.....

The International Football Association Board

Founded 1886



Irish FA:

Mr J Boyce

Mr D Martin

Mr D Bowen

J Boyce
D Martin
D Bowen

FA of Wales:

Mr D Shanklin

Mr T Evans

Mr P Rees

Mr D Collins

D Shanklin
T Evans
P Rees
D Collins

Also Attending:

Mr G Cumming

Mr D McVicar

Mr J Baker

Mr I Williams

Mr W Campbell

Mrs S Buchanan

George Cumming
D McVicar
John P. Baker
David J. Williams F.A.W.
William Campbell
Sandra Buchanan