

**INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL  
ASSOCIATION BOARD**

**1991**

**MINUTES  
of the  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

# THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

held at

THE CULLODEN HOTEL, CRAIGAVAD, NORTHERN IRELAND

on

SATURDAY, 8th JUNE, 1991 at 09.00 hours

20 WINDSOR AVENUE  
BELFAST BT9 6EE

*General Secretary*  
THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

# **INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD**

## **Present:**

### **FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

Messrs. Dr. J. Havelange, J. S. Blatter, D. Will and F. Bouzo.

### **THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

Messrs. F. A. Millichip, R. H. G. Kelly and K. W. Ridden.

### **THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

Messrs. P. Gardiner, W. H. Dickie, J. S. Steedman and J. Farry.

### **THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES**

Messrs. T. Forse, I. V. Jones and A. E. Evans.

### **THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

Messrs. H. H. Cavan, C.B.E. (In the Chair), S. Walker, E. N. Barry, C.B. and D. I. Bowen.

## **Also present:**

Messrs. M. Zen Ruffinen, P. Pullen (interpreter to Dr. J. Havelange), J. C. McGinn, G. D. Cumming and W. E. Campbell.

## **Apology:**

Mr. W. Fox (The Football Association).

## **I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Mr. Cavan extended a warm welcome to all the delegates, and prior to any business being transacted, invited the members to stand for a moment's silence as a tribute to Mr. Selwyn Jenkins, a former member of the Board, who had passed away since the last Meeting.

Mr. Cavan reminded the members that this was the 105th Annual Meeting of the International Football Association Board, and declared that he was very honoured to act as Chairman of the Board, which is the custodian of the Laws of the Game, having first acted as Chairman in 1962.

## **II. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held at The Hilton Cavalieri Hotel, Rome, Italy on 28th June, 1990, were adopted.

### **III LAWS OF THE GAME AND INTERNATIONAL BOARD DECISIONS**

Proposals and amendments submitted under Rule 3

- (1) Proposed by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association:

#### **Law III — Number of Players**

#### **Decisions of the International F.A. Board — (4)**

##### **Present Text**

##### **Proposed New Text**

- (4) The two substitutes authorised under the terms of Law III may, in FIFA competitions, be chosen from among the entire list of players authorised under the regulations to enter the competition.

The Fédération Internationale de  
Football Association

**Law III 2 (c)**

After re-examination of the text, FIFA is of the opinion that the change can only be made in the Law itself and not in a decision of the International F.A. Board. We therefore propose modification of the Law as follows (underlined):

“(c) that a team shall not be permitted to use more than two substitutes in any match who must be chosen from not more than eleven players whose names may (subject to the rules of the competition) be required to be given to the referee prior to the commencement of the match.”

**Reason:**

This modification permits the coaches of the teams taking part in a competition to be more aware of the team's requirements in connection with the substitutes of players during the match. Moreover, it precludes an embarrassing discrimination being made between active players, substitutes and players on the bench who are unlikely to be fielded.

If the International F.A. Board cannot accede to this change, would it grant approval for its use in FIFA final competitions only.

The proposal and the amendment of The Fédération Internationale de Football Association were withdrawn.

(2) Proposed by The Fédération Internationale de Football Association:

**Law IV — Players' Equipment**  
**Decisions of the International F.A. Board — (3)**

**Present Text**

**Proposed New Text**

(3) A player who loses a shoe or shinguard during a match shall put it back on again at the next available opportunity. If the player deliberately plays without shoes or shinguards, the referee shall stop the match and grant an indirect free kick to the opposing team at the point where the ball is at that moment, subject to the overriding conditions of Law XIII.

Current decision (3) becomes (4),  
current decision (4) becomes (5).

**Reason:**

The attitude that a referee should adopt when a player loses his shoe during a match is not mentioned anywhere in the Laws of the Game. This omission has to be redressed. At the same time it is intended to settle the parallel question of losing a shinguard which became compulsory equipment last year.

AMENDMENT SUBMITTED BY

DECISION

The proposal of The Fédération Internationale de Football Association was withdrawn, and the matter was referred to the Editorial Committee of the International F.A. Board for further consideration with a view to bringing forward a more complete proposal to the 1992 Meeting of the International F.A. Board.

(3) Proposed by The Football Association

**Law V — Referees — (e)**

**Present Text**

**Second sentence:**

In such cases the referee shall send the name of the offender to the competent authority, within the stipulated time, and in accordance with the provisions set up by the National Association under whose jurisdiction the match was played.

(First and third sentence of (e) to remain unchanged).

**Proposed New Text**

**Second sentence:**

In such cases the referee shall send the *full* name of the offender to the competent authority, within the stipulated time, and in accordance with the provisions set up by the National Association under whose jurisdiction the match was played.

(First and third sentence of (e) to remain unchanged).

**Reason:**

The addition of the single word “full” will ensure that no confusion arises due to abbreviations or difficulties where players have similar names and initials.



AMENDMENT SUBMITTED BY

DECISION

The proposal of The Football Association was withdrawn.

(4) Proposed by The Football Association

**Law XI — Off-Side — (2)**

**Present Text**

- (2) A player shall only be declared off-side and penalised for being in an off-side position, if, at the moment the ball touches, or is played by, one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee
- (a) interfering with play or with an opponent,  
or
  - (b) seeking to gain an advantage by being in that position.

**Proposed New Text**

- (2) A player shall only be declared off-side and penalised for being in an off-side position, if, at the moment the ball touches, or is played by, one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee
- (a) *seeking to interfere with play or with an opponent, or*
  - (b) seeking to gain an advantage by being in that position.

**Reason:**

Sometimes play is halted when a player in an off-side position involuntarily interferes with play. The amendment will ensure that a player will only be declared off-side in respect of interfering with play, or with an opponent, in cases where he seeks to do so. A player who finds himself in an off-side position merely through the intentional movement forward of opposing players will not then be declared off-side automatically if the ball is played near to his position.

This proposal is formally re-submitted to the International F.A. Board, having been agreed in principle but delayed in adoption until the Editorial Committee had had the opportunity of giving more detailed consideration as to its implementation.

AMENDMENT SUBMITTED BY

DECISION

The proposal of The Football Association was withdrawn.

(5) Proposed by The Football Association of Wales

**Law XI — Off-Side — (3)**

**Present Text**

3. A player shall not be declared off-side by the referee
  - a. merely because of his being in an off-side position, or
  - b. if he receives the ball direct from a goal-kick, a corner-kick or a throw-in.

**Proposed New Text**

3. A player shall not be declared off-side by the referee
  - a. merely because of his being in an off-side position, or
  - b. if he receives the ball direct from a goal-kick, a corner-kick or a throw-in, or
  - c. if he receives the ball direct from a pass from his own half of the field of play.

**Reason:**

This proposal is in line with the experiment in the Law being undertaken in Wales this season.

AMENDMENT SUBMITTED BY

DECISION

The proposal of The Football Association of Wales was withdrawn.

(6) Proposed by The Fédération Internationale de Football Association

## Law XII — Fouls and Misconduct

### Present Text

### Proposed New Text

(New text to be introduced between the penultimate and final paragraph of Law XII.)

If, in the opinion of the referee, a player who is moving towards his opponents' goal with an obvious opportunity to score a goal is intentionally and physically impeded by unlawful means, i.e. an offence punishable by a free-kick (or a penalty-kick), thus denying the attacking player's team the aforesaid goal-scoring opportunity, the offending player shall be sent off the field of play for serious foul play in accordance with letter (n) above.

### Reason:

The Mandatory Instruction of the International F.A. Board was a provisional solution to universally enforce this very important directive, which was applied at the final competition of the World Cup. Since this rule has proved effective, it may now be included in the Law.

AMENDMENT SUBMITTED BY

DECISION

The proposal of The Fédération Internationale de Football Association was withdrawn.

(7) Proposed by The Football Association

**Law XII — Fouls and Misconduct**  
**Decisions of The International F.A. Board**

**Present Text**

Decisions (1) to (14)

**Mandatory Instruction of The International F.A. Board**

If, in the opinion of the referee, a player who is moving towards his opponents' goal with an obvious opportunity to score a goal is intentionally *and physically* impeded by unlawful means, i.e. an offence punishable by a free-kick (or a penalty-kick), thus denying the attacking player's team the aforesaid goal-scoring opportunity, the offending player shall be sent off the field of play for serious foul play in accordance with Law XII (n).

**Proposed New Text**

Decisions (1) to (14) unchanged.

(15) If, in the opinion of the referee, a player who is moving toward his opponents' goal with an obvious opportunity to score a goal is intentionally impeded by an opponent, through unlawful means, i.e. an offence punishable by a free kick (or a penalty kick), thus denying the attacking player's team the aforesaid goal-scoring opportunity, the offending player shall be sent off the field of play for serious foul play in accordance with Law XII (n).

(16) If, in the opinion of the referee, a player, other than the goalkeeper within his own penalty area, denies his opponents a goal, or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, by intentionally handling the ball, he shall be sent off the field of play for serious foul play in accordance with Law XII (n).

**Reason:**

The proposed additional Decision (15) is, in principle, confirmation within the Laws of the Game and the International F.A. Board Decisions, of the Mandatory Instruction of the International F.A. Board agreed in 1990 and printed in the FIFA Universal Guide for Referees (1990).

The proposed additional Decision (16) is designed to encourage the elimination of those particular intentional handling of the ball situations which have precisely the same effect on the game as the negative unfair characteristics it was sought to eliminate through the 1990 Mandatory Instruction. The particular handling of the ball offences are those excesses contrary to FIFA's "Fair Play, please" campaign and which constitute an obvious affront to the spirit of the Laws of the Game.



AMENDMENT SUBMITTED BY

DECISION

The proposal of The Football Association was adopted.

(8) Proposed by The Fédération Internationale de Football Association

**Law XII — Fouls and Misconduct — 5 (a)**

**Present Text**

- a. from the moment he takes control of the ball with his hands, he takes more than 4 steps in any direction whilst holding, bouncing or throwing the ball in the air and catching it again, without releasing it into play, or, having released the ball into play before, during or after the 4 steps, he touches it again with his hands, before it has been touched or played by another player of the same team outside the penalty area, or by a player of the opposing team either inside or outside the penalty area, or

**Proposed New Text**

- a. from the moment he takes control of the ball with his hands and has the possibility to bring the ball back into play, takes more than 4 seconds to do so, or

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Football Association

**Law XII 5 (a)**

“from the moment he takes control of the ball he takes more than 6 seconds to release it to be played by another player, or, having released the ball during the 6 seconds, he touches it again before it has been touched or played by another player of the same team outside of the penalty area, or by a player of the opposing team either inside or outside of the penalty area, or”

**Reason:**

The statistics show that timewasting during matches is increasing more and more. One of the reasons is that the present law concerning the movements of the goalkeeper within his goal area is not effective enough. In order to combat this phenomenon, it is proposed that the criteria of “four steps” should be substituted with a criteria of time (6 seconds).

As a result, the current decision 12 of the International F.A. Board should be deleted and replaced by the new decision 12 as follows:

“The International F.A. Board is of the opinion that a goalkeeper, in the circumstances described in Law XII 5 (a), will be considered to be in control of the ball when he takes possession of the ball by touching it with any part of his hands or arms. Possession of the ball would include the goalkeeper intentionally parrying the ball, but would not include the circumstances where, in the opinion of the referee, the ball rebounds accidentally from the goalkeeper, for example after he has made a save.”

**Reason:**

The proposed modification concerning point 5 (a) of Law XII implies that the expression “takes control of the ball” should be more clearly defined; the former text of decision 12 becomes superfluous.

The proposal and the amendment of The Fédération Internationale de Football Association in relation to Law XII were withdrawn.

However, the Board agreed to introduce the following as a new Decision of the International F.A. Board No. 17.

“The International F.A. Board is of the opinion that a goalkeeper, in the circumstances described in Law XII 5 (a), will be considered to be in control of the ball when he takes possession of the ball by touching it with any part of his hands or arms. Possession of the ball would include the goalkeeper intentionally parrying the ball, but would not include the circumstances where, in the opinion of the referee, the ball rebounds accidentally from the goalkeeper, for example after he has made a save.”

## IV — ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

### Submitted by The Fédération Internationale de Football Association

#### 1. Experiments to The Laws of the Game

- A. It was agreed that permission be granted to The Fédération Internationale de Football Association to conduct the following experiments in The Laws of the Game at its 1st Under 17 World Championship to be held in Italy in August 1991.

1. **Law XI:**

To limit the off-side rule to an area prescribed by a line to be drawn from that penalty area line which is parallel to the goal-line in the opponents' half of the field to extend as far as the touch line on either side. A player who is not in this area cannot be declared off-side.

2. **Law XII:**

To prohibit the goalkeeper from retrieving the ball with his hands after it has been passed back from a team-mate. If this rule is breached, the referee shall award an indirect free kick to the opposing team at the point where the goalkeeper touched the ball with his hands, subject to the overriding conditions of Law XIII.

The Fédération Internationale de Football Association further extended an invitation to a delegation from the Board to attend these Championships to monitor the progress of these experiments.

B. **Law III:**

At the request of The Fédération Internationale de Football Association it was agreed to conduct another experiment according to which 2 substitutes may be used from not more than 11 players in FIFA Final Competitions up to and including the 1994 World Cup Finals.

### Submitted by The Football Association and The Football Association of Wales

C. **Law XI:**

At the behest of The Football Association and The Football Association of Wales it was agreed that two experiments with their proposals on Law XI should be carried out by The Fédération Internationale de Football Association at a suitable time in appropriate FIFA Competitions.

D. **Law XI:**

Permission was also granted to The Football Association of Wales to continue with their experiment with Law XI for a further season.

### Submitted by The Football Association

#### (2) Timewasting by goalkeepers, other players individually, and teams causing delays.

Following a discussion on the above it was decided to refer this item to the Editorial Committee to consider a recommendation to be included in the FIFA circular letter to Confederations and National Associations instructing referees to enforce the present Laws of the Game in this respect.

- (3) **Goalkeeper movement at Penalty Kicks and Kicks from the Penalty Mark to decide the winner in knock-out competitions.**

The FIFA paper on the taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark was adopted. It was decided to refer to the Editorial Committee for consideration the matter of goalkeeper movement at Penalty Kicks, and whether it was now an opportune moment to allow goalkeepers to move in any direction except forward during the taking of Penalty Kicks.

- (4) **Signals by the Referee and Linesmen.**

The paper produced by The Football Association and previously circulated was adopted for inclusion in the Universal Guide for Referees.

#### Submitted by the Scottish Football Association

- (5) **The Fourth Official.**

The paper which had been produced by The Scottish Football Association on the Role of the Fourth Official was accepted by the Board for inclusion in the Universal Guide for Referees with the exception of Item 7.

- (6) **Laws of the Game and Universal Guide for Referees.**

The diagrams submitted by The Scottish Football Association were accepted. It was agreed that they provided a worthwhile addition to the Universal Guide for Referees.

- (7) **Publicity / Promotion of Refereeing.**

The proposal of The Scottish Football Association that the provision of video information would be a worthwhile enterprise was agreed, and it was decided to refer this to the Editorial Committee for immediate progress.

#### Submitted by The Football Association of Wales

- (8) **Gamesmanship at Free-Kicks.**

The Football Association of Wales withdrew this Item in view of the instruction to be given to referees in the FIFA circular letter to vigorously apply the present Laws to curtail timewasting and gamesmanship.

## V 1992 MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

It was agreed that the next Meeting should take place in Wales on May 30th 1992.

## VI OTHER BUSINESS

### Players' equipment:

It was proposed by The FIFA that where visible undergarments are worn by players they must be the same colour as the relevant overgarments. The proposal was adopted.

Dr. Havelange thanked the Irish Football Association for their hospitality. He paid tribute to the Board members for their continued unanimity in respect of their attitude to the discussions of the Meeting, and in particular in permitting The FIFA to conduct various experiments in the Laws of the Game. Dr. Havelange concluded his remarks by declaring his pleasure at meeting once again with so many esteemed colleagues and congratulated the Chairman for the efficient and courteous manner in which he had conducted the Meeting.

Mr. Cavan closed the Meeting by thanking both Dr. Havelange for his kind remarks and the members for their co-operation throughout the Meeting.

