

126th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

International Football Association Board



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AGENDA
of the 126th
IFAB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PENNYHILL PARK HOTEL, SURREY (ENGLAND)
SATURDAY 3RD MARCH 2012



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I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

II. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Celtic Manor Hotel, Wales on Saturday 5th March 2011.

To confirm the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of the International Football Association Board held in Ascot, England on 4th October 2011.

III. LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

To consider the following proposals and amendments submitted under the regulations of the International Football Association Board.

1. Law 1 – The Field of Play, Commercial Advertising
(submitted by FIFA)
2. Notes on the Laws of the Game – Modifications
(submitted by The Football Association)
3. Law 3 – The Numbers of Players
(submitted by FIFA, with amendments by the Scottish Football Association)
4. Law 3 – The Numbers of Players, Number of Substitutions
(submitted by FIFA)
5. Law 4 – The Players' Equipment
(submitted by The Football Association)
6. Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play
(submitted by The Football Association)
7. Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct, The use of the word "blatant"
(submitted by FIFA)
8. Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct, Sending-off Offences
(submitted by FIFA)

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

9. Additional Assistant Referees (AAR) experiment
10. Goal-Line Technology (GLT)
11. FIFA Task Force Football 2014

V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

VI. MISCELLANEOUS



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I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

II. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Celtic Manor Hotel, Wales on Saturday 5th March 2011.

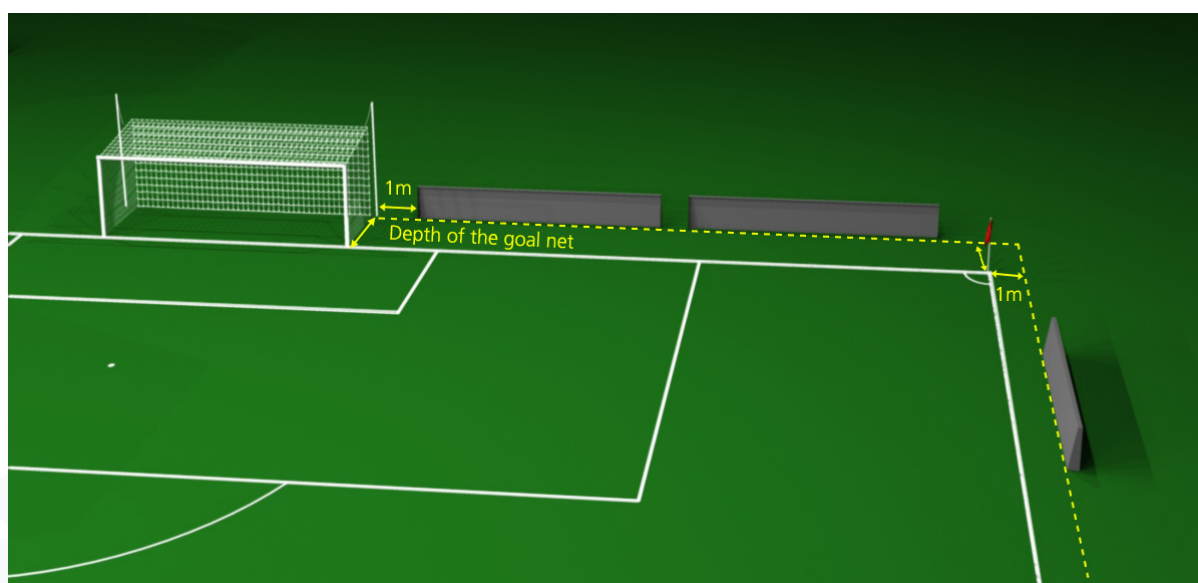
To confirm the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of the International Football Association Board held in Ascot, England on 4th October 2011.

III. LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

1. Law 1 – The Field of Play, Commercial Advertising

To discuss the amended version of the text proposal which was presented to the IFAB during its 125th AGM (submitted by FIFA)

PRESENT TEXT	PROPOSED TEXT
<p>Commercial advertising shall be at least 1m (1yd) from the boundary lines of the field of play.</p>	<p>Advertising on the ground shall be at least 1m (1 yd) from the boundary lines of the field of play.</p> <p>Upright advertising shall be at least 1m (1yd) from the touch lines of the field of play.</p> <p>Upright advertising shall be at least the same distance from the goal line as the depth of the goal net and at least 1m (1yd) either side of the goal.</p> <p>All upright advertising within 5 metres of the boundary lines must be parallel to them.</p>



REASON

Due to the increasing use of new advertising boards in an upright position very close to the boundaries of the field of play, according to the present text of the Laws it is necessary to define the location of these upright advertising boards, particularly behind the goal line because they may hide part of the net from a lateral view and can also be unsafe for players.

2. Notes on the Laws of the Game – Modifications

To discuss a new text proposal in order to clarify the text presented to the IFAB during its 125th AGM (submitted by The Football Association)

PRESENT TEXT	PROPOSED TEXT
<p>Subject to the agreement of the member 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, for veteran footballers (over 35 years of age) and for players with disabilities.</p> <p>Any or all of the following modifications are permissible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • size of the field of play • size, weight and material of the ball • width between the goalposts and height of the crossbar from the ground • duration of the periods of play • substitution 	<p>Subject to the agreement of the member 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, for veteran footballers (over 35 years of age) and for players with disabilities.</p> <p>Any or all of the following modifications are permissible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • size of the field of play • size, weight and material of the ball • width between the goalposts and height of the crossbar from the ground • duration of the periods of play • substitution
<p>Further modifications are only allowed with the consent of the International Football Association Board</p>	<p>In addition to the above modifications, subject to the agreement of the member association concerned and provided the principles of these laws are maintained, the laws regarding substitutions may be modified in their application for matches for amateur players in any age group provided that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) such matches are solely for amateurs ii) such matches are not part of the most senior domestic competition of a member association <p>Further modifications are only allowed with the consent of the International Football Association Board</p>



REASON

We understand that the concern and reason why a previous proposal was not approved was because it was unclear that the proposal related to ‘recreational’ football only.

We are therefore submitting the above proposal which we hope makes it clear that the dispensation applies to ‘recreational’ football only.

The appropriate way of defining ‘recreational football’ is to use the word ‘amateur’ which is consistent with the definition of ‘amateur’ in the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players (and its commentary).

The definition in the FIFA Regulations is outlined in Article 2.2 (Page 10) which states ‘a Professional is a player who has a written contract with a club and is paid more than the expenses he effectively incurs in return for his footballing activity. All other players are considered as ‘Amateurs’.

The commentary in Para 2.1 of Article 2 (Page 12) states ‘an Amateur is a player who pursues sport just for fun or as a hobby, without any material gain, and who has never received any remuneration other than for the actual expenses incurred. Furthermore, he basically has no written contract with the club with which he is registered. The social aspect of participating in the group life of the club as well as his own health and fitness play a predominant role for an amateur player.’

Permitting modifications to the Laws regarding substitutions in amateur/‘recreational’ football will help with the growth and retention of players within amateur/‘recreational’ football. The change will allow member associations more flexibility to encourage people to take up the sport or to continue their participation in ‘recreational’ football without affecting the professional game in any way. We also suggest that such a modification not be permitted for a member association’s most senior domestic competitions (where such a competition is solely amateur) and the proposed amendment makes that clear.

3. Law 3 – The Numbers of Players

To discuss a new text proposal, following the decision of the IFAB to present it at the 126th AGM (submitted by FIFA, with amendments by the Scottish Football Association)

PRESENT TEXT	PROPOSED TEXT
	<p>If a named substitute enters the field of play instead of a named player at the start of the match and the referee is not informed of this change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the referee allows the named substitute to continue the match no disciplinary sanction is taken against the named substitute the number of permitted substitutes allowed by the offending team is not reduced the referee reports the incident to the appropriate authorities.

REASON

It is not rare that a substitution is made prior to the start of the match and after the referee has been informed of the names of the players and substitutes. This is normally due to an injury of a player during the warm-up. If the referee is informed of the substitution, this is permitted but it is necessary to clarify how to proceed if the referee is not informed of the change.

4. Law 3 – The Numbers of Players

Number of substitutions

To discuss a new text proposal, following the recommendation by the FIFA Task Force Football 2014 (submitted by FIFA)

PRESENT TEXT	PROPOSED TEXT
<p>Official Competitions Up to a maximum of three substitutes may be used in any match played in an official competition organised under the auspices of FIFA, the confederations or the member associations.</p>	<p>Official Competitions Up to a maximum of three substitutes may be used in any match played in an official competition organised under the auspices of FIFA, the confederations or the member associations. An additional fourth substitution may be used during extra time.</p>

REASON

The FIFA Task Force Football 2014, the Medical Committee and the Football Committee support the proposal in order to maintain the technical level until the 120th minute and to protect the health of the players (as a means of preventing injuries).

5. Law 4 – The Players’ Equipment

To discuss a new text proposal for the use of tape on socks (submitted by The Football Association)

PRESENT TEXT	PROPOSED TEXT
	<p>stockings - if tape or similar material is applied externally it must be the same colour as that part of the stocking it is applied to.</p>

REASON

An increasing number of players are using excessive amounts of tape externally on their socks. This can be a multitude of colours and, as can be seen from the following slide, it completely changes the look of the sock. This can cause confusion particularly for assistant referees who may need to look at the sock to determine who last played the ball before it has gone out of play.



6. Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

To discuss a new text proposal regarding the restart of play with a dropped ball (submitted by The Football Association)

PRESENT TEXT	PROPOSED TEXT
<p>Infringements and sanctions The ball is dropped again: ...</p>	<p>Infringements and sanctions The ball is dropped again: ... If the ball enters the goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if a dropped ball is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal kick is awarded • if a dropped ball is kicked directly into the teams' own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team

REASON

There have been a number of occasions where goals have been scored from 'uncontested' dropped balls. This has put a great deal of pressure on the referee as he has to allow the goal to stand. We then have the unseemly situation where the opposition allow the team to score from the kick off without any players trying to stop them in order to rebalance the game.

7. Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

The use of the word "blatant"
(submitted by FIFA)

PRESENT TEXT	PROPOSED TEXT
<p>Disciplinary sanctions There are circumstances when a caution for unsporting behaviour is required when a player deliberately handles the ball, e.g. when a player:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deliberately and blatantly handles the ball to prevent an opponent gaining possession 	<p>Disciplinary sanctions There are circumstances when a caution for unsporting behaviour is required when a player deliberately handles the ball, e.g. when a player:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deliberately and blatantly handles the ball to prevent an opponent gaining possession

REASON

It is more important to punish the consequence that the hand ball created rather than the fact that it was blatant. In fact, a hand ball could be inconspicuous but certainly very important. Furthermore, it is difficult to define what is meant by "blatantly" (p.113) and therefore to have a uniform interpretation, especially by referees from different countries or continents, with very different experiences. Deleting the word "blatantly", and providing that if the hand ball prevented the opponent from gaining possession the player must be cautioned, makes the interpretation easier (p.117).

8. Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Sending-off Offences

To discuss a new text proposal, following the recommendation by the FIFA Task Force Football 2014 and discussion at the IFAB ABM on 4th October 2011 (submitted by FIFA)

PRESENT TEXT	PROPOSED TEXT
<p>A player, substitute or substituted player is sent off if he commits any of the following seven offences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (...) • denying the opposing team a goal or a goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area). • denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player’s goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick. • (...) 	<p>A player, substitute or substituted player is sent off if he commits any of the following seven offences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (...) • denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player’s goal by an offence punishable by a free kick outside the penalty area. • denying the opposing team a goal or a goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area). • denying an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by holding or an offence committed from behind inside his own penalty area when he has no opportunity to play the ball. • (...)

REASON

The triple punishment (penalty kick + red card + player suspension) for a player who denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards his goal by an offence punishable by a penalty is widely considered to be too severe.

A player would still receive a red card for denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity outside of the penalty area as well as for denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball, by holding or an offence committed from behind inside his own penalty area when he has no opportunity to play the ball.

A penalty kick and a yellow card would be enough sanction for other offences that deny an obvious goal-scoring opportunity committed by a defending player inside his own penalty area.

If the previous amendment is approved, the following proposal will be submitted by FIFA:

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Cautions for unsporting behaviour (page 117)

PRESENT TEXT	PROPOSED TEXT
<p>There are different circumstances when a player must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour, e.g. if a player:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits in a reckless manner one of the seven offences that incur a direct free kick • Commits a foul for the tactical purpose of interfering with or breaking up a promising attack • (...) 	<p>There are different circumstances when a player must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour, e.g. if a player:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits in a reckless manner one of the seven offences that incur a direct free kick • Commits a foul for the tactical purpose of interfering with or breaking up a promising attack • Denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a holding or an offence committed inside his own penalty area when he has the opportunity to play the ball. • (...)



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IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

- 9. Additional Assistant Referees (AAR) experiment**
 - a. Update on the current experiment status

- 10. Goal-Line Technology (GLT)**
 - a. Information on the first test phase
 - b. Second test phase and consequent procedures

- 11. FIFA Task Force Football 2014**

Update on the topic discussed at the second meeting on 25th October 2011

 - a. Other equipment: usage of radio communication
 - b. Further items

V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 12. Vanishing Spray**

To receive update on the experiment of the vanishing spray during CONMEBOL's 2011 Copa América

- 13. Law 4 – The Players' Equipment**

To receive an update on the discussions regarding the "Hijab" during a football seminar in Amman on 24th October 2011

- 14. 2014 FIFA World Cup™ Regulations – Preliminary Competition**

Section 17 – Approval of additional substitutes

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

- 15. IFAB Contact**

To discuss the proposal of a generic contact address and internet platform for the IFAB

- 16. Next meetings**
 - a. To confirm the date of the Special Meeting of the IFAB to be held in Kyiv on 2nd July 2012
 - b. To confirm the proposal from the Scottish FA that the AGM 2013 is to be held between 1st-3rd March 2013

NOTES



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