

Q&A on the IFAB Annual Business Meeting - Cardiff, 20 October 2010

What is the IFAB?

The International Football Association Board (IFAB) is the body in charge of acting as the guardian of the Laws of the Game and is responsible for studying, modifying and overseeing any changes to the Laws during their Annual General Meeting. The first IFAB meeting was held by the four British associations in 1886 and FIFA, founded in 1904, joined the IFAB in 1913 representing the national associations from the rest of the world. Currently, the four British associations have one vote each and FIFA, representing the other 204 national associations, has four votes. For any amendment to be made to the Laws of the Game, a three-quarter majority of those present and entitled to vote is required.

What is the IFAB Annual Business Meeting?

The IFAB Annual Business Meeting (ABM) is the preparatory meeting for the IFAB Annual General Meeting. Normally, the ABM is held in September or October and the AGM is held in February or March each year.

Can any changes be made to the Laws of the Game at the Annual Business Meeting?

No. Although the ABM can consider general business submitted to the Board by any of the continental confederations or any of FIFA's 208 Member Associations, it does not have the authority to alter the Laws of the Game. Any possible law amendments will be put forward (or not) to the agenda, for voting or further discussion at the Annual General Meeting.

What is the current status regarding Goal-line Technology?

A total of 13 companies approached FIFA in relation to their respective technology proposals and have had the opportunity to present their systems to FIFA over the course of two days on 7-8 October 2010. Following these initial meetings, the information gathered by the FIFA administration will be presented to the IFAB ABM in Cardiff on 20 October for further discussions on the topic. No presentations from companies will take place at the ABM in Cardiff.

How does the IFAB voting process at the Annual General Meetings actually work?

FIFA has four votes on behalf of all its affiliated member associations. The four British associations of the IFAB each have one vote. For a proposal to succeed, it must receive the support of at least three-quarters of those present and entitled to vote.

The decisions of the AGM of the IFAB regarding changes to the Laws of the Game shall be binding on confederations and member associations as from 1 July following each AGM. Confederations or member associations whose current season has not ended by 1 July may delay the introduction of the adopted until the beginning of their next season. No alteration to the Laws of the Game can be made by any confederation or member association unless it's been passed by the Board.

When and where is the 2011 IFAB Annual General Meeting?

The 125th Annual General Meeting will take place at Celtic Manor, Newport, Wales between 4-6 March 2011.

Links:

History of IFAB: <http://www.fifa.com/classicfootball/history/law/ifab.html>

IFAB: 124 not out: <http://www.fifa.com/classicfootball/news/newsid=1177293.html#the+ifab>