



Congratulations and many happy returns!

125 years ago, in 1886, representatives of the football associations of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland recognised the need to standardise the basic rules of football.

Today, at this meeting in Newport, the International Football Association Board (IFAB) celebrates its 125th anniversary, which marks another milestone in the history of international football. Ever since its establishment in the 19th century, the IFAB has played a vital role in the world of football. As the guardian of the Laws of the Game and the body responsible for any amendments to the laws, the IFAB makes a significant contribution to the universal nature of our game. We at FIFA are proud

to be part of the IFAB and to accept the responsibility that this role entails.

The universal nature and simplicity of the game means that we must ensure that football is played under the same rules all around the world.

I have no doubt whatsoever that we will continue to work with the same level of commitment and professionalism to further develop our game's values, and today I congratulate the IFAB on reaching this historic milestone.

FIFA is proud and delighted to be able to share this momentous occasion with the founding associations of the IFAB.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blatter'.

Joseph S. Blatter



The International Football Association Board, Beaumaris, Wales



1956 IFAB meeting in Llandudno, Wales

1. Former Welsh international John Charles
2. Phil Pritchard, President of the Football Association of Wales



The Football Association of Wales

The FAW was formed in Wrexham in February 1876 by a group of businessmen. Their aim was to see a team formed to play against Scotland, thus emulating the matches that had begun between the Scots and the English some four years earlier. One of the early pioneers, and the first secretary, was Llewelyn Kenrick, a solicitor and keen member of Shropshire Wanderers and later Druids, Wales' oldest club side. It was Kenrick who was charged with publicising the need for players to come forward to be considered for selection. The match with Scotland eventually took place in Glasgow in March 1876, with the Scots winning 4-0.

Association football remained very much a North Wales sport for the first ten years or so of the FAW's existence. In 1877-78, the Welsh Cup was introduced, initially as a means to look at players with an eye on forthcoming internationals.

Football finally began to take hold in South Wales in the 1890s. The south had always been a rugby stronghold but with the influx of workers to the coalfields

and ports at this time, the "gospel" of football was brought by those arriving from Yorkshire, Lancashire and Scotland.

Between 1895 and 1920, one Welshman did more to popularise the game of football than anyone else. His name was Billy Meredith. Perhaps the first "superstar" of his day, Meredith was a tall, slender winger who found fame with both Manchester clubs, winning a record number of Welsh caps at the time (48), as well as a hatful of club honours.

Wales reached the World Cup finals for the first and to date only time in Sweden in 1958 when the team reached the quarter-finals. The side of the late 1950s boasted John Charles, who was possibly the most gifted British player of his generation and went on to become a legend with Juventus in Italy.

Modern-day competitive international matches are played in Cardiff at the Millennium Stadium or the new Cardiff City Stadium. The headquarters of the FAW are also in Cardiff, having previously been in Wrexham from 1876 to 1986. The Chief Executive is Jonathan Ford.

The League of Wales (now Welsh Football Premier League) was launched in 1992-93. The League's aim is to build a strong, competitive environment in which clubs and players can flourish and help to safeguard the future of the "home-grown" game in Wales.

DEFINITION OF TERMS.

A Place Kick—Is a Kick at the Ball while it is on the ground, in any position which the Kicker may choose to place it.

A Free Kick—Is the privilege of Kicking the Ball, without obstruction, in such manner as the Kicker may think fit.

A Fair Catch—Is when the Ball is Caught, after it has touched the person of an Adversary or has been kicked, knocked on, or thrown by an Adversary, and before it has touched the ground or one of the Side catching it; but if the Ball is kicked from out of touch, or from behind goal line, a fair Catch cannot be made.

Hacking—Is kicking an Adversary on the front of the leg, below the knee.

Tripping—Is throwing an Adversary by the use of the legs without the hands, and without hacking or charging.

Charging—Is attacking an Adversary with the shoulder, chest, or body, without using the hands or legs.

Knocking on—Is when a Player strikes or propels the Ball with his hands, arms or body, without kicking or throwing it.

Holding—Includes the obstruction of a Player by the hand or any part of the arm below the elbow.

Touch—Is that part of the field, on either side of the ground, which is beyond the line of flags.

The Secretary also called the attention of the Meeting to an account which had appeared in the newspapers of the preceding Saturday that rules for the game had been drawn up by

1. Brazil v. Yugoslavia, 1950 FIFA World Cup™, pictured centre: referee Benjamin Griffiths, Wales
2. Penalty shoot-out, 2006 FIFA World Cup™ quarter-finals, England v. Portugal, Gelsenkirchen
3. Sunderland v. Liverpool, 17 October 2009. Darren Bent scores past Pepe Reina when his shot goes in off of a beach ball.



A historic meeting

The International Football Association Board (IFAB) is due to meet from 4-6 March for a gathering that looks set to be both busy and historic.

The Annual General Meeting in Newport (Wales) will mark the 125th anniversary of the IFAB, which has guarded the 17 Laws of the Game since they were first established in 1886. Now comprising the same four founding associations (each of whom have one vote) and representatives of FIFA (who have four votes), the body continues to meet once a year to consider and vote upon any proposed rule changes.

While the IFAB's 125th anniversary will add to the sense of occasion at the meeting, there will also be a packed agenda awaiting the members, including the latest round of discussions on goal-line

technology and the proposal to add two additional assistant referees.

With regard to goal-line technology, 16 companies have approached FIFA with their systems, ten of which were tested under the supervision of an independent institution, EMPA, at the Home of FIFA in Zurich from 7 to 13 February 2011.

The idea of additional assistant referees is already being trialled in several competitions around the world, including games in Côte d'Ivoire, Mexico and Brazil, as well as in UEFA's prestigious Champions League and Europa League tournaments.

FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter is looking forward to the 125th anniversary meeting of the IFAB.

"In addition to goal-line technology, the use of additional assistant referees and other topics on



the agenda at the IFAB meeting, I'm already thinking of ways in which we could increase the attractiveness of the game. For instance, the current system of awarding three points for a victory and one for a draw will be examined and possible alternatives considered. And is extra time the best way of determining the winner in the event of a draw? If it is, how should the game ultimately be decided? Are penalty shoot-outs the best solution for team sports, or would the re-introduction of the golden goal be a feasible option?"

One topic which will definitely feature on the agenda is a proposal by The Football Association that member associations be authorised to modify the Laws of the Game in their application for matches for players under the age of 18, in order to reduce the number of young players in this age bracket who lose

interest in football and take up other leisure pursuits.

Other topics on the IFAB agenda include proposals to define the positioning of commercial advertising more clearly, particularly the advertising boards situated behind the goal line; how to restart play if the ball is damaged when a penalty is taken; and more precise directives about the decision to be taken by referees when an extra ball, another object or an animal enters the field of play.

As President Blatter points out, it is a packed agenda. "As you can see, we will be discussing a whole range of subjects and ideas with a view to future competitions. In the end, the IFAB will reach its decisions in the interests of the attractiveness, further development and unique nature of the game, as it has so many times before in the course of its 125-year history."

125th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
International Football Association Board

125 years and still going strong

The highly important but still little-known International Football Association Board (IFAB) celebrates its 125th anniversary this year in its role as the “guardians of the game”.

On 2 June 1886, a group of like-minded men met in offices at Holborn Viaduct in London, convinced of the need to establish a supreme authority to enshrine and protect football’s rules.

At that meeting of representatives of the four British associations, it was agreed that the International Football Association Board (IFAB) should be set up to be the custodians of the game.

When the IFAB convenes at The Celtic Manor Resort near Newport in Wales on 5 March 2011, the aim will be much the same: to keep a careful watch over football’s rules in order to ensure that it

remains the world’s most popular sport. The Board has always been regarded as being conservative in nature: any major change is debated in detail and usually sent away for a long period of experimentation before a decision is made.

Geoff Thompson, the FIFA and UEFA Vice-President who attended nine Board meetings during his time as chairman of The Football Association (FA), told *FIFA World* recently: “When you are talking about changes to the Laws of the Game, it is better to be conservative. The International Board is talked about as the custodians of the game and, time and again, it has provided the stability to prevent outlandish ideas which would have been to the detriment of football from passing into our laws.”



The founding members of the IFAB in 1886

1. Sir Francis Marindin, President of The Football Association

2. Richard Brown, President of The Scottish Football Association



3. C.W. Alcock, Secretary
of The Football Association

4. Alexander Kennedy, Vice-President
of The Scottish Football Association



125th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING International Football Association Board

Back at that inaugural meeting in 1886, Major Sir Francis Marindin, President of The FA, first came up against that reluctance to impose change when he attempted to ban studs on football boots.

The minutes of the meeting state that Marindin proposed “that no player shall wear any kind of projection on the soles or heels of his boots with the exception of leather bars of an approved pattern”. Wales backed him, but Scotland and Northern Ireland did not and he withdrew his proposal. It was not long, however, before bars on boots became a thing of the past and everybody played in studs.

The IFAB has usually remained in the background but whenever a major shake-up in a law is debated, the IFAB finds itself in the limelight. Perhaps the biggest change in recent years came in 1992 when goalkeepers were barred from handling back passes, a move instigated by Michel Platini, now of course the UEFA President and FIFA Vice-President. The ruling utterly changed the game and the majority would argue that it has been a change for the good.

FIFA joined the IFAB in 1913 and initially received two votes – as did each of the British associations. Then, in 1958, the

growth in international football led to a consensus that FIFA should have more of a say in determining the laws. As a result, the system was changed so that each association had a single vote and FIFA four, with any proposal needing six of the eight votes to be carried. That remains the system in force today.

Board meetings are hosted in turn by each association in their own country, except during World Cup years, when they are hosted by FIFA, usually in Switzerland but sometimes in the tournament’s host country. In 1996, the Board went to Rio de Janeiro in honour of the former FIFA President, Dr João Havelange.

Looking back over the last 125 years, it is remarkable how little has changed in the Laws of the Game rather than how much. Perhaps the biggest alteration came in 1925 when the offside law was changed so that only two players rather than three had to be in front of the attacker. That law has been tinkered with since of course – in 1990 it was decided the attacker need only be level with the last defender, not behind him – and a more recent alteration to the offside law came with the decision that a player needed to be “involved in active play” to be offside.

It is not just about big issues though. Much of the Board’s work is the minutiae. Any of FIFA’s member associations can put forward proposals for rule changes, and there have been plenty of more outlandish ideas that have even reached the stage of an experiment only to be consigned to the trivia books.



1958 IFAB meeting in Stockholm, Sweden

One such example was the 35-yard line used in the old North American Soccer League in the late 1970s in front of which no offside was given. The system was quickly shown to be flawed. In the 1990s, the Board gave the go-ahead to experiments for throw-ins to be replaced by kick-ins, another proposal that did not progress far.

The Football Association of Wales' Chief Executive Jonathan Ford says that he is proud to be hosting the Board on such an important occasion in its history.

"We are delighted to be hosting the 125th meeting. It is the debating chamber of football and it is an immense privilege to be involved. The strength of the International Board is that the members are all aware of the weighty responsibility they bear on behalf of the biggest game in the world."

125th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
International Football Association Board



1. 1986 The 100th anniversary of the IFAB in Mexico City
2. 124th IFAB meeting, Home of FIFA, Zurich, Switzerland

The development of the Laws of the Game

The development of football has always led to adaptation of the Laws of the Game. The Laws have evolved over decades and are still valid today, the fruit of the labour of generations who loved football and devoted themselves to the development of the game and who defended the Laws tirelessly and unyieldingly.

A steady development began towards the middle of the 19th century. The game that had been played – particularly in London and partially also in the Middle Ages under “fute ball” – was a mob festival. The only law was for the mob to follow the ball wherever it went.

Then, in the 19th century, a ball game was introduced in the sports curriculum

of various public schools that used hands and feet. Educators recognised that for the formation of character, nothing was better than sports in which individuals had to subordinate themselves to the team.

There were still no written rules, but the boundaries were flagged out, the goals fixed. Teachers influenced the course of the game and had to intervene in disputes when the captains could not reach an amicable agreement.



125th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

International Football Association Board

The school honorary code was the forerunner of the first rules. Rev. J.C. Thring, Master at Uppingham School, established before the middle of the 19th century how a goal could be scored. Hands could only be used to stop the ball and place it on the ground before the feet. The ball could only be kicked when it was not in the air and an offside rule already existed: a player was considered to be out of play when he was standing in front of the ball facing the opponent's goal. He was then no longer allowed to participate in the game.

In Harrow they went a step further. The width of the goal was 12 feet (3.60m) and other ideas included the return leg of a match having to be held the very next day with the goals twice as wide. At Eton, the game at first only

lasted one hour and the goals were 11 feet wide and seven feet high. A goal was scored when the ball was kicked between the goal posts. The height did not matter.

Consequently, the public schools alone had at least a dozen different kinds of football rules and matches were impossible as they could not even agree on the number of players or size and shape of the ball. Interested parties met at Trinity College in Cambridge in October 1848, with the outcome of the meeting formulating the Cambridge Rules; in essence, the Laws of the Game.

Representatives and captains of various clubs in and around London then later got together, and thus on 26 October 1863, The Football Association was founded. The FA issued its rules after five lengthy meetings on 8 December 1863.

The advocates of the tough line then went off on their own. A few years later, the Rugby Football Union was founded.

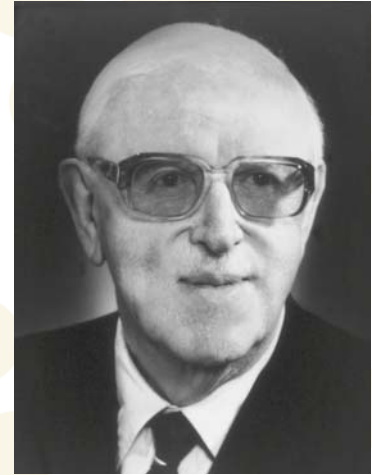


FOOTBALL PLAYERS—1881.

J. F. PENNEY W. W. WILSON W. LINDSEY J. SANDS T. BRIDGEMAN W. MORGENTHAU
W. G. BARKLEY C. G. BARRINGTON P. J. SPENCE W. W. WILSON



1. Football, the favourite game in the public schools' sports curriculum
2. Famous English football players in 1881
3. The first important trial of the "two referees plan" in football was conducted in 1935.
Referees: Dr A. W. Barton and E. Wood



Sir Stanley Rous
FIFA President from
1961-1974 († 1986)

Key dates in the history of the Laws of the Game

- 1863: The first Laws are drawn up in London.
- 1886: The International FA Board is founded by the British associations.
- 1891: Referees are introduced and given the power to send players off, and to award free kicks and penalties.
- 1902: The penalty area and goal area are created.
- 1912: Goalkeepers are banned from handling the ball outside the penalty area.
- 1913: FIFA joins the International FA Board.
- 1920: Offside from a throw-in is removed.
- 1925: The offside rule is changed so that only two players need to be ahead of the attacker instead of three.
- 1938: Revision of the Laws of the Game. The 17 Laws are redrafted and updated by Sir Stanley Rous, who was to become FIFA President in 1961.
- 1958: New voting rights are determined – they are still the same today – with each British association having one vote, FIFA having four, and any proposal needing at least six votes in favour.
- 1970: FIFA allows two substitutes at World Cup tournaments.
- 1986: The 100th anniversary of the IFAB in Mexico City
- 1990: Offside rule is altered so an attacker is onside if he is level with the last defender.
- 1992: Goalkeepers are banned from handling back passes. The “golden goal” rule is introduced to settle matches in extra time.
- 1995: Three substitutes are allowed in matches instead of two.
- 1997: The Laws of the Game are revised for the first time since the 1930s.
- 1998: Lunging tackles that endanger the safety of opponents are made a red-card offence.
- 2004: The “golden goal” rule is scrapped.
- 2008: The IFAB authorises UEFA to experiment with two extra assistant referees, one behind each goal line.

The world in 1886

- On 3 July 1886, Karl Benz takes his "patented motorcar" for a drive, thus becoming the inventor of the automobile. For the first time, a street vehicle powered by a four-stroke engine is able to run on its own energy.
- Hermann Hollerith invents an electric punch card machine for fast data processing.
- The Statue of Liberty is erected in the port of New York.
- Franz Liszt, piano virtuoso and composer, dies in Bayreuth.
- The original recipe of Coca-Cola is created.
- French chemist and bacteriologist Louis Pasteur develops a vaccine against rabies.
- A year before, in 1885, the first successful appendix operation by Dr Willie West Grant saved the life of 22-year old patient Mary Gartside in Davenport, USA.
- Blackburn Rovers and West Bromwich Albion meet in the English FA Cup final on Boat Race Day. Rovers win (2-0) to claim the FA Cup for the third time in a row, but not until the replay in Derby in front of 12,000 spectators.

The first meeting of the International Board was held in the Football Assn. Rooms London on Wed. 2nd June 1886. There were present Major Marindin (who occupied the chair) & C. W. Alcock (who acted as Secy) representing England Messrs R. Brown (President) & Asst. Kennedy (Vice President) of the Scottish Assn. Messrs. Asst. Hunter & Mills-Roberts of the Welsh Assn. and Messrs J. Sinclair (Vice President) & J. McAlery (Secy) of the Irish Assn.

Major Marindin having intimated the agenda the meeting proceeded with the framing of rules for the International Board the following being adopted (See card)

Major Marindin wished the conference to homologate the following resolution viz: "That no player shall wear any kind of projection on the soles or heels of his boots with the exception of flat leather bars of an approved pattern". Wales supported the proposal but Scotland & Ireland supported the previous question, & eventually the proposal was withdrawn. Votes of Thanks to the chairman & Secretary terminated the proceedings.

Minutes of the first IFAB meeting in 1886

RULES

Passed at International Conference held in London,
June, 1886.

1.—That this Board shall be called "THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD," and shall be composed of two representatives from each of the four national associations.

2.—That the Board shall meet each year in the month of June at the invitation of each of the national associations in the order of seniority.

3.—That at such meeting one of the representatives of the association convening the same shall preside, and the other shall act as secretary.

4.—That the minute-book of the meetings shall be fully entered up by the secretary, and shall be forwarded to the association next in turn before the 1st of January ensuing.

5.—That business shall not be proceeded with unless a majority of the associations be represented.

6.—That resolutions shall not be adopted unless agreed to by three-fourths of those present; but in the case of alterations of laws of the game, a unanimous vote shall be necessary.

7.—That the Board shall discuss and decide proposed alterations in the laws of the game and generally any matters affecting Association football in its international relations

8.—That the committees of the various national associations shall forward in writing, on or before 1st February each year, to the secretary of the association entitled to convene the next meeting, any suggestions or alterations deemed desirable, which shall be printed and distributed on or before 1st March, for consideration at the annual general meetings of the association.

9.—That decisions of this Board shall be at once binding on all the associations, and no alterations in the laws of the game made by any association shall be valid until accepted by this Board.

*The next International Conference will be held at Glasgow in
June, 1887.*



The history of The Celtic Manor Resort

With the purchase of a derelict manor house in 1980, few people could have imagined that it would become part of such a prestigious, internationally recognised development. The vision for The Celtic Manor Resort came from Sir Terry Matthews, a highly successful entrepreneur.

The Celtic Manor opened on schedule in April 1982 and was an instant success, winning the Egon Ronay award for the best hotel in Wales from 1983 to 1987. By December 1988, The Celtic Manor was ready to open its first major extension, including the 350-seater Manor Suite, an indoor swimming pool and a sauna, solarium and gymnasium.

In 1991, plans were unveiled for further expansion, this time on an even bigger scale. The major elements were a new hotel and convention centre and two golf courses with a clubhouse and leisure centre.

Work began on the Roman Road golf course in September 1992, with painstaking attention paid to the protection of trees, wildlife and a wealth of archaeological features. Several Roman roads, including the main route connecting the fortress of Caerleon with the town of Caerwent, cross the land and the course was shaped to avoid disrupting the remains.

In 1994, contractors started building the luxurious GBP 10m golf clubhouse, incorporating new leisure facilities and a golf school. Construction also began on a 4,000-yard, executive-style course, Coldra Woods, which was built around the site of a hilltop Roman military camp.

HRH The Prince of Wales visited the resort in July 1996 for a charity dinner, and shortly after the Royal visit, work began on the centrepiece of the expansion programme – the new hotel with a further 325 rooms, a 1,500-delegate convention venue and a second health club and spa.

Meanwhile, a third golf course – Wentwood Hills – opened in May 1999. During work on the second green, an ancient pottery kiln was uncovered. Wentwood Hills and Coldra Woods were replaced by another new course, The Montgomerie, in 2007.

Between 1 and 4 October 2010, the Celtic Manor Resort was at the centre of the golfing world as it hosted the 38th Ryder Cup. It was the first time the competition had been staged in Wales and the event was played on the newly constructed and specifically designed Twenty Ten course. Team Europe won the competition by a score of 14½ to 13½, with Irishman Graeme McDowell beating the USA's Hunter Mahan in the very final game.

THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

HELD AT THE STATION HOTEL, TURNBERRY, ON SATURDAY, 10th JUNE, 1911.

Present:—Messrs. A. M. Robertson (Chairman) and D. Campbell (Scottish Football Association); C. Crump (The Football Association); T. H. Bushby and A. Thomas (Football Association of Wales); and A. H. Thompson and G. Tomlinson (Irish Football Association).

Also present:—J. K. McDowall (Secretary, Scottish Football Association), who acted as Secretary of the Meeting; and J. Ferguson (Secretary, Irish Football Association).

Minutes of Meeting held at the Royal York Hotel, Brighton, on Saturday, 11th June, 1910, were held as read, and confirmed.

The Chairman welcomed the Representatives.

It was agreed to record an unanimous expression of regret at the retirement of Mr. R. P. Gregson, after his long and appreciated connection with the Board.

LAWS OF THE GAME.

The following proposal by The Football Association was carried:—

LAW 1.—Foot-note (*b*) to read:—“Clubs may, during the season of 1911-12, mutually agree to use a ball other than one with an outer casing of leather, provided this Law is otherwise complied with.”

The following proposal by The Football Association was by leave withdrawn:—

LAWS 5 and 17.—The Laws to be altered to provide that in the event of any infringement of Law 5 a throw-in shall be awarded to the opposite side.

INTERNATIONAL BOARD AGREEMENTS.

The following proposal by The Football Association was not carried:—

The following sentence of the Agreement of 17th June, 1895, to be deleted:—

“This circular to provide that the Local Association must report the circumstances of the case, and the penalty imposed, to the parent Association, without loss of time.”

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL:—

The Agreement to be altered to provide that each Association shall make provision in its own Rules to deal with cases under its own jurisdiction.”

The third paragraph of the Agreement of 18th June, 1894, and the Agreements of 11th June, 1904, and 20th June, 1908, were deleted, and the following was unanimously adopted as a Rule of the Associations:—

“A professional player shall not enter into any negotiation or engagement with another Club of this Association, or any other National Association whose playing season ends on the 30th April, until his existing engagement has terminated; and during the period of an existing engagement he shall not be approached by any other Club, or an official of any other Club, or any other person, with a view to induce him to leave the Club for which he is registered when his engagement has terminated.”

The proposal by the Scottish Football Association that the dates of the International Matches be arranged at the Meetings of the International Board was not carried.

The following resolution was carried:—

“This Meeting, having regard to the difficulties now experienced, expresses the hope that the Scottish Football Association and the Irish Football Association will earnestly consider the desirability of arranging that the playing season in Scotland and Ireland shall commence on 1st September and close on 30th April, as is the case in England and Wales.”

The Football Association gave notice of its intention to submit the following supplementary agreement at the next Meeting:—

“A player who takes part in an International Match without proper qualification shall not be allowed to again play in any International Match unless a satisfactory explanation is given.”

Mr. Crump reported he had received a letter from Mr. Wall (Secretary of The Football Association), that “The International Federation of Association Football had unanimously agreed, at their Annual Congress held at Dresden on 5th June, 1911, to ask for power to send a representative to The International Board.”

A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Mr. A. M. Robertson for presiding.

Confirmed
A. J. Lough

June 8th - 1912.
Queens Hotel - Aberystwyth.



England v. Scotland, 1872, the first official football international.