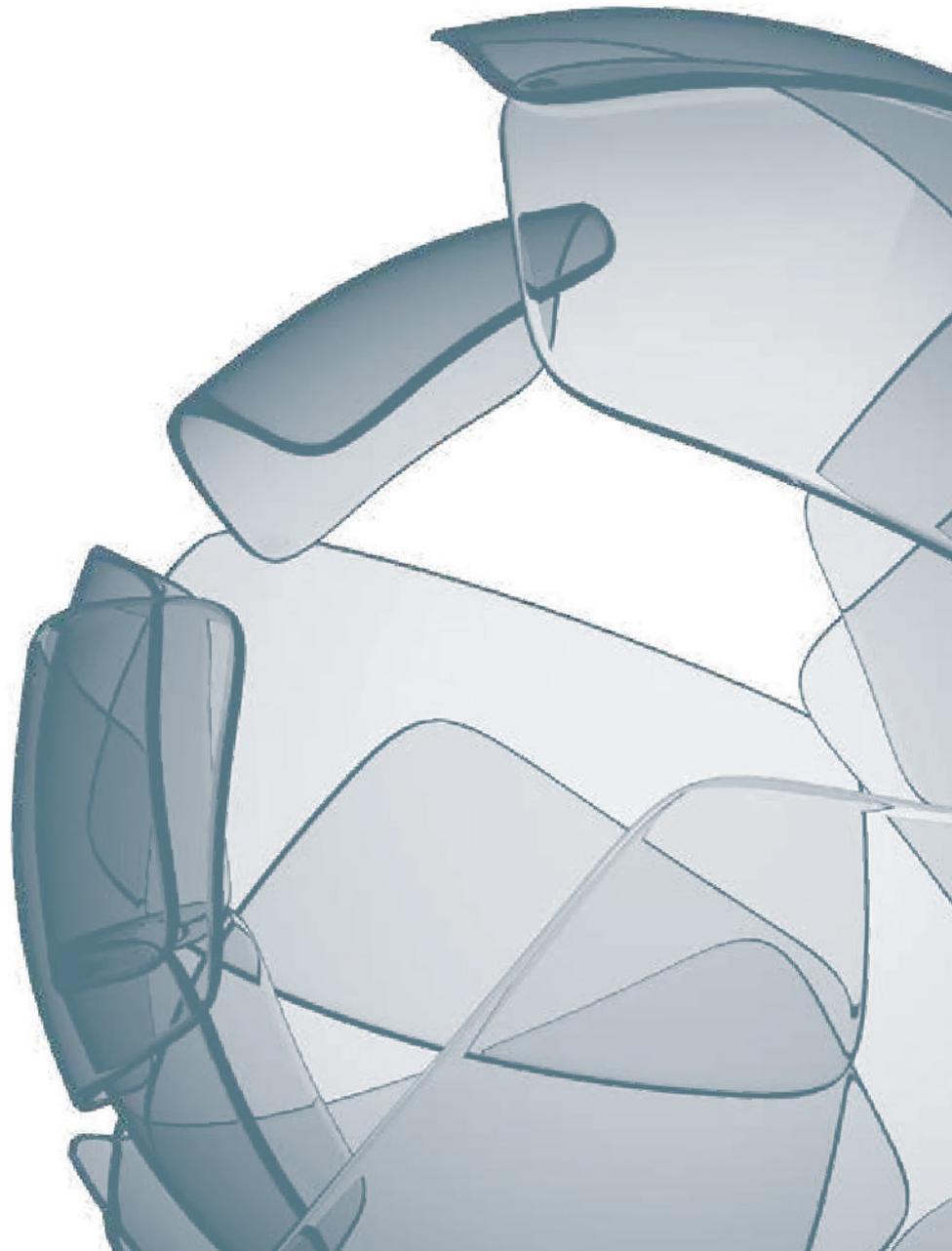


1924

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



# International Football Association Board.

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## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

Held at 42, Russell Square, London, W.C., on  
Saturday, 14th June, 1924.

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Present: Messrs. W. Pickford (in the Chair), J. McKenna (The Football Association), T. Steen, R. Campbell (The Scottish Football Association), T. E. Thomas, S. H. Nicholls (The Football Association of Wales), J. MacBride, J. M. Small (The Irish Football Association), H. Delaunay, Anton Johanson (La Fédération Internationale de Football Association).

Also present: Messrs. F. J. Wall (Secretary, The Football Association), J. K. McDowall (Secretary, The Scottish Football Association), T. Robbins (Secretary, The Football Association of Wales), and C. Watson (Secretary, The Irish Football Association).

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The Chairman, on behalf of the Board, welcomed Mr. R. Campbell (Scotland), who attended the Board for the first time.

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Minutes of Meeting held at Giants Causeway, Ireland, on 9th June, 1923, were confirmed.

It was reported to the Board that the Associations of the United Kingdom, and the International Federation, had adopted the following recommendations of the Conference between the Representatives of the Associations of the United Kingdom and the Representatives of the International Federation, held in London on 21st December, 1923:—

1. That the Associations of the United Kingdom rejoin the International Federation provided the following conditions are accepted by the Federation:—
2. The Articles of the International Federation shall not affect the inter-relationships of the Football Associations of the United Kingdom.
3. The Articles providing for a percentage of the receipts from International Matches being paid to the International Federation shall not apply to matches played between the Football Associations of the United Kingdom.
4. The International Football Association Board to re-insert in its Rules the Rule giving representation to the International Federation, and providing that there shall not be any alteration in the Laws of the Game without the consent of at least four-fifths of the Representatives present at the International Football Association Board.
5. The International Federation will not interfere with the Rules of an Association relating to its internal management.

## RULES OF THE BOARD.

Rules 1, 4 and 7 were amended as follow:—

### PRESENT RULE.

1.—This Board shall be called the International Football Association Board. The Football Association, the Scottish Football Association, the Football Association of Wales, and the Irish Football Association shall each be entitled to send two representatives, who shall constitute the Board.

IV.—The Board shall meet annually on the second Saturday in June. The meetings shall be held in rotation in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, at the invitation of each Association in order of seniority. One of the representatives of the Association convening the meeting shall preside, and the other shall act as Secretary.

VII.—No alteration shall be made in the Laws of the Game except at the Annual Meeting in June, and then only on the unanimous vote of the members present. Other resolutions shall not be adopted unless agreed to by three-fourths of those present.

### AMENDED RULE.

This Board shall be called the International Football Association Board. The Football Association, the Scottish Football Association, the Football Association of Wales, the Irish Football Association, and *La Fédération Internationale de Football Association*, shall each be entitled to send two representatives, who shall constitute the Board.

The Board shall meet annually on the second Saturday in June. The meetings shall be held in rotation in England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and *Paris*, at the invitation of each Association in order of seniority. *The invitation for the year 1925 shall be given by La Fédération Internationale de Football Association, and for 1926 by Scotland.* One of the representatives of the Association convening the meeting shall preside, and the other shall act as Secretary.

No alteration shall be made in the Laws of the Game except at the Annual Meeting in June, and then only *agreed to by at least four-fifths of the representatives present.* Other resolutions shall not be adopted unless agreed to by *four-fifths* of those present.

The Representatives of the International Federation having taken their seats on the Board, the Chairman gave them a very hearty welcome, and expressed the gratification of the Association of the United Kingdom upon the re-admission of the International Federation to the Board.

## LAWS OF THE GAME.

### Proposals by the Scottish Football Association.

The following Proposals were by leave withdrawn:—

#### PRESENT LAW.

Law 1.—The game shall be played by not more than eleven players on each side. By arrangement made before the commencement of a match (but not in a match played under the Rules of a Competition) substitutes may be allowed in place of injured players. The field of play shall be as shown in the plan at the end of these Laws, subject to the following provisions: The dimensions of the field of play shall be—maximum length, 130 yards; minimum length, 100 yards; maximum breadth, 100 yards; minimum breadth, 50 yards. The field of play shall be marked by boundary lines. The lines at each end are the goal-lines, and the lines at the sides are the touch-lines. The touch-lines shall be drawn at right angles with the goal-lines. A flag with a staff not less than 5 feet high shall be placed at each corner. A half-way line shall be marked out across the field of play. The centre of the field of play shall be indicated by a suitable mark, and a circle with a 10 yards radius shall be made round it. The goals shall be upright posts fixed on the goal-lines, equi-distant from the corner flagstaffs, 8 yards apart, with a bar across them 8 feet from the ground. The maximum width of the goal-posts and the maximum

#### PROPOSED ALTERATION.

Delete the sentence "A half-way line shall be marked out across the field of play" and substitute "Lines shall be marked 40 yards from each goal-line across the field of play, opposite which flags with staffs not less than 5 feet high shall be placed 1 yard outside field of play."

## PRESENT LAW.

depth of the cross-bar shall be 5 inches. Lines shall be marked 6 yards from each goal-post at right angles to the goal-lines for a distance of 6 yards, and these shall be connected with each other by a line parallel to the goal-lines; the space within these lines shall be the goal area. Lines shall be marked 18 yards from each goal-post at right angles to the goal-lines for a distance of 18 yards, and these shall be connected with each other by a line parallel to the goal-lines; the space within these lines shall be the penalty area. A suitable mark shall be made opposite the centre of each goal, 12 yards from the goal-line; this shall be the penalty kick mark. The circumference of the ball shall not be less than 27 inches nor more than 28 inches. The outer casing of the ball must be of leather, and no material shall be used in the construction of the ball which would constitute a danger to the players. In International matches, the dimensions of the field of play shall be—maximum length, 120 yards; minimum length, 110 yards; maximum breadth, 80 yards; minimum breadth, 70 yards; and at the commencement of the game the weight of the ball shall be from 13 to 15 ounces.

Law 6.—When a player plays the ball, any player of the same side who at such moment of playing is nearer to his opponents' goal-line is out of play, and may not touch the ball himself, nor in any way whatever interfere with an opponent, or with the play, until the ball has been again played, unless there are at such moment of playing at least three of his opponents nearer their own goal-line. A player is not out of play when the ball is kicked off from goal, when a corner kick or a throw in is taken, when the ball has been last played by an opponent, or when he himself is within his own half of the field of play at the moment the ball is played by any player of the same side.

Law 6.—(a) Decision of the International Board:—A flag may be placed opposite the half-way line on each side of the field of play, but it must be at least 1 yard from the touch line, and on a staff not less than 5 feet high.

The following Proposal was adopted:—

That the Board recommend the Associations of the United Kingdom, and La Fédération Internationale de Football Association, to consider the desirability of giving a trial in Season 1925-26 to the Proposals of the Scottish F.A. to alter Laws 1 and 6.

The following Proposals were adopted:—

## PRESENT LAW.

Law 10.—When a free kick has been awarded, the kicker's opponents shall not approach within 10 yards of the ball until the kick is taken, unless they are standing on their own goal-line. The ball must at least be rolled over before it shall be considered played—*i.e.*, it must make a complete circuit or travel the distance of its circumference. The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been played by another player. The kick-off (except as provided by Law 2), corner-kick, and goal-kick shall be free kicks within the meaning of this Law.

Law 11.—A goal may be scored from a free kick which is awarded because of any infringement of Law 9, but not from any other free kick.

## PROPOSED ALTERATION.

From the second sentence delete the following words: "within his own half of the field of play" and substitute "not within his opponents' 40 yards' area."

Delete Footnote (a).

Alternate Proposal:—

From the first sentence of Law 6 delete the word "three" and substitute the word "two."

## PROPOSED ALTERATION.

Delete from fourth sentence the words "corner-kick."

After the word "scored" insert "from a corner-kick, or."

The following Proposal was considered:—

PRESENT LAW.

Law 13.—(d) Decision of the International Board:—  
A player who is injured during a match shall be at once removed outside the nearest goal or touch-line, and the game resumed.

PROPOSED ALTERATION.

Delete Footnote (d) and substitute:—

“ Law 13 (d) Decision of the International Board:—  
The game shall not be stopped for injury to a player until the ball has ceased to be in play, when the injured player shall be at once removed from field of play, and game resumed.”

The Board agreed to delete the Footnote, and substitute the following:—

Law 13 (d). If in the opinion of the Referee a player has been seriously injured, the game shall be stopped, the player at once removed from the field of play, and the game resumed. If a player is slightly injured, the game shall not be stopped until the ball has ceased to be in play.

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**Proposals by The Football Association.**

The following Proposals were adopted:—

PRESENT LAW.

Law 6.

PROPOSED ALTERATION.

Add as a Footnote to the Law:—

“ It is not a breach of the Law for a player to be in an off-side position, but only when in that position he interferes with an opponent, or with the play. If a player who is in an off-side position advances towards an opponent, or the ball, and in so doing causes the play to be affected, he should be penalised.”

Law 13.

Insert as Footnote (b):—

“ A player may enquire from a Referee as to his decision, but is not entitled by word or action to show dissent from any such decision. A Referee is required to treat the breach of this instruction as ungentlemanly behaviour.”

The present Footnotes (b) (c) (d) to be (c) (d) (e).

Law 16.—In the event of any temporary suspension of play from any cause, the ball not having gone into touch or behind the goal-line, the Referee shall drop the ball where it was when play was suspended, and it shall be in play when it has touched the ground. If the ball goes into touch or behind the goal-line before it is played by a player, the Referee shall again drop it. The players on either side shall not play the ball until it has touched the ground.

Add as the last sentence: “ A free kick shall be given for an infringement of this Law.”

Law 17.—In the event of any infringement of Laws 5, 6, 8, 10, or 16, or of a player being sent off the field under Law 13, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposite side, from the place where the infringement occurred. In the event of any intentional infringement of Law 9 outside the penalty area, or by the attacking side within the penalty area, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposite side from the place where the infringement occurred. In the event of any intentional infringement of Law 9 by the defending side within the penalty area, the Referee shall award the opponents a penalty kick (a) which shall be taken from the penalty kick mark under the following conditions:—All players, with the exception of the player

Lines 1 and 2. For “ Laws 5, 6, 8, 10 or 16,” substitute “ Laws 5, 6, 8 or 10.”

## PRESENT LAW.

taking the penalty kick and the opponents' goalkeeper shall be outside the penalty area, and at least 10 yards from where the kick is being taken. The opponents' goalkeeper shall not advance beyond his goal-line. The ball must be kicked forward. The ball shall be in play when the kick is taken, and a goal may be scored from a penalty kick; but the ball shall not be again played by the kicker until it has been played by another player. If necessary, time of play shall be extended to admit of the penalty kick being taken. A free kick shall also be awarded to the opposite side if the ball is not kicked forward, or is played a second time by the player who takes the penalty kick until it has been played by another player. The Referee may refrain from putting the provisions of this Law into effect in cases where he is satisfied that by enforcing them he would be giving an advantage to the offending side. If when a penalty kick is taken the ball passes between the goal-posts, under the bar, the goal shall not be nullified by reason of any infringement by the defending side.

Law 17.—(a) Decision of the International Board:— A penalty kick can be awarded irrespective of the position of the ball at the time the offence is committed. In the event of the ball touching the goalkeeper before passing between the posts, when a penalty kick is being taken at the expiry of time, a goal is scored.

## PROPOSED ALTERATION.

First sentence. After the word "ball" insert "if in the field of play."

The following Proposal was withdrawn:—

## PRESENT LAW.

Law 17.

## PROPOSED ALTERATION.

Add as the third sentence: "The free kick shall be taken under the following conditions:—All players, with the exception of the opponents' goalkeeper, shall stand outside the penalty area and inside the field of play, and no player, except the player taking the free kick, shall approach within 10 yards of the ball until the kick is taken."

The Board considered as a principle the practice involved in the proposed third sentence of Law 17, and agreed that the Associations of the United Kingdom, and the International Federation, be asked to consider the following proposed alteration of the Law, with a view to its adoption by the Board at its next Meeting:—

"In the event of any intentional infringement of Law 9 outside the penalty area but inside the area between the existing penalty area lines and a line drawn across the field at a distance of thirty yards from the goal-line, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposite side, and shall be taken under the following conditions:— The free kick shall be taken from the place at which the infringement occurred and all players shall stand outside the defending side's thirty yards' area except the player taking the free kick and the opponents' goalkeeper, and the defending players shall stand at least ten yards away from where the kick is taken."

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REFEREES FOR INTERNATIONAL MATCHES.—The Board considered the practice of appointing Referees of the nationality of one of the competing Countries, and expressed its opinion that if efficient neutral Referees were available it would be preferable that they be selected.

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