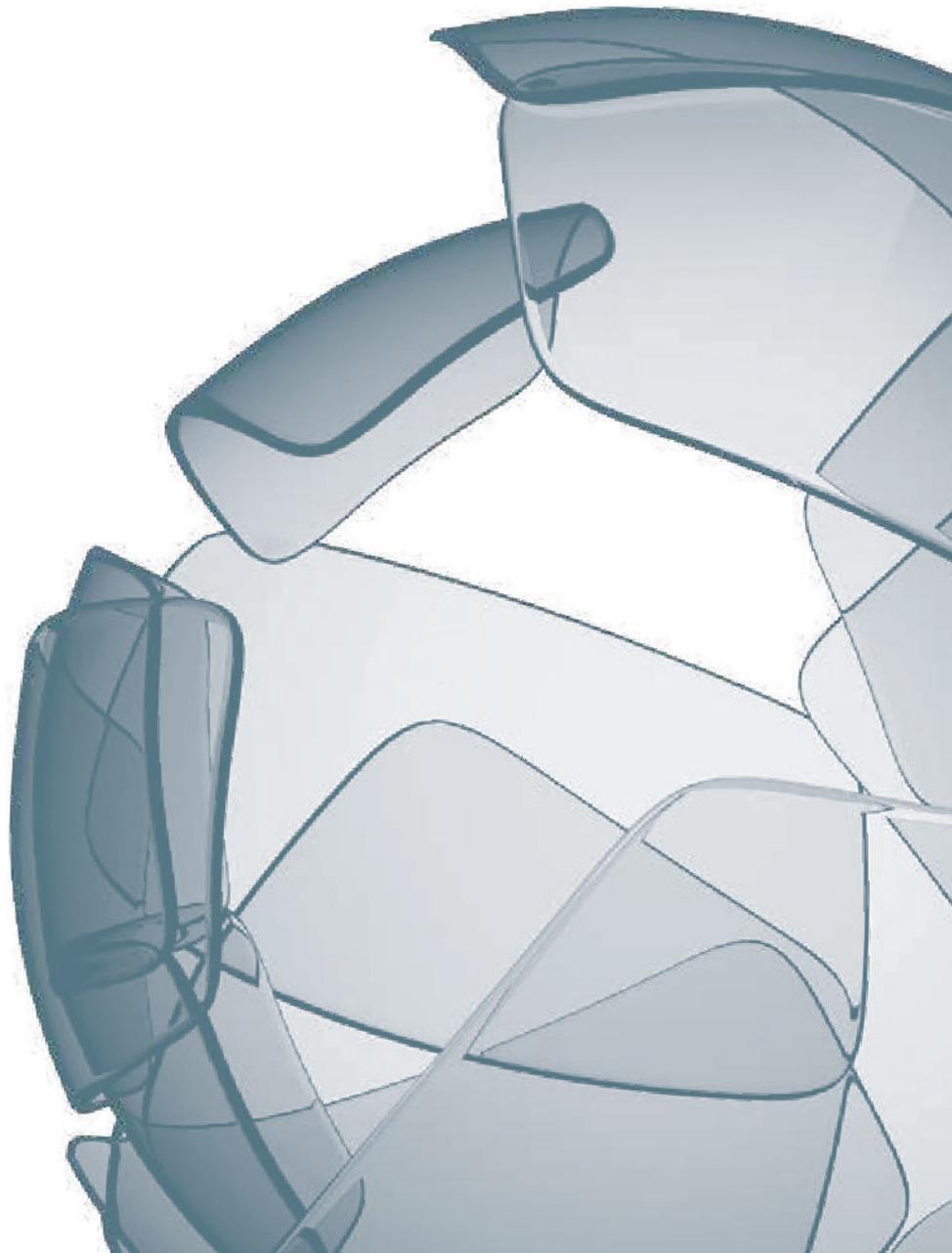


1938

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



# The International Football Association Board.

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## MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

held at the

NORTHERN COUNTIES HOTEL, PORTRUSH,

On Saturday, 11th June, 1938, at 10-30 a.m., and Monday, 13th June, at 10-30 a.m.

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The undernoted Representatives constituted the Board:—

**The Irish Football Association**—Messrs. J. MacBride (presiding) and J. M. Small, F.C.I.S., with Mr. C. Watson (Secretary) who acted as Secretary to the Meeting.

**The Football Association**—Messrs. W. Pickford and H. J. Huband, J.P., with Mr. S. F. Rous (Secretary).

**The Scottish Football Association**—Mr. D. Bowie and Provost D. Gray, with Mr. Geo. G. Graham (Secretary).

**The Football Association of Wales**—Lt.-Col. J. L. Williams, J.P., and Mr. B. Watts Jones, with Mr. T. Robbins (Secretary).

**La Federation Internationale de Football Association**—Dr. P. J. Bauwens and Dr. I. Schricker.

Also in attendance—Mr. D. Martyn, O.B.E., J.P., Scottish F.A.; Captain Sir James M. Wilton, M.C., J.P., President of the Irish Football Association, who welcomed the Delegates to Ireland and then retired.

Minutes of Annual Meeting held at Llandudno on June 12th, 1937 were confirmed. The Board noted that the Representatives of La Federation Internationale de Football Association voted against the alteration made on Law 1 (weight of the ball).

The Board decided to record their deep sense of loss through the deaths of Sir John Charles Clegg, President of The Football Association, and Mr. Robert Campbell, ex-President of the Scottish Football Association, both of whom rendered valuable and distinguished service to the respective Associations and to the game for so many years.

A vote of sincere sympathy was passed to Mr. John Ferguson (The Irish Football Association) and Mr. C. E. Sutcliffe (The Football Association) on their illness which prevented their attendance at the Annual Meeting. The hope was expressed that they may have a speedy and effectual restoration to their normal health and vigour.

The Board passed a Resolution congratulating Captain Sir James M. Wilton, M.C., J.P., President of the Irish Football Association, upon the honour of Knighthood conferred upon him by His Gracious Majesty The King in July, 1937, and to Mr. W. Pickford on his election as President of The Football Association.

## LAWS OF THE GAME.

The following Proposals by The Football Association of Wales, on behalf of the Editorial Committee, were, by leave, withdrawn—

## PRESENT LAW.

**LAW 3.**

Ends shall only be changed at half-time. The interval at half-time shall not exceed five minutes, except by consent of the Referee. After a goal is scored the side losing the goal shall kick off, but after the change of ends at half-time the ball shall be kicked off by the opposite side from that which originally did so; and always as provided in Law 2.

**LAW 4. First Sentence—**

Except as otherwise provided by these Laws, a goal shall be scored when the ball has passed between the goal-posts under the bar, not being thrown, knocked on, nor carried by any player of the attacking side.

Proposals by The Football Association of Wales, on behalf of the Editorial Committee were, after amendment, unanimously adopted—

**LAW 1—The Ball.**

The circumference of the ball shall not be less than 27 ins. nor more than 28 ins. 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 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 14 to 16 ounces.

**LAW 12. Delete.**

The nails in a player's boots shall be driven in flush with the leather and the player shall not wear metal plates or protections or gutta-percha on his boots or on his shin guards. If bars or studs on the soles or heels of the boots are used, they shall not project more than half an inch, and shall have all their fastenings driven flush with the leather. Bars shall be transverse and flat, not less than half an inch in width, and shall extend from side to side of the boot. Studs shall be round in plan, not less than half an inch in diameter, and in no case conical or pointed. Combined studs and bars may be worn provided the bar is affixed transversely and extends the full width of the boot and the whole conforms to the general requirements of this rule. The bar in conjunction with the stud must be rounded at the corners and must be free of metal plates of any kind.

## PROPOSED ALTERATION.

**Add at end of Law:—**

If the ball is actually in play when normal time or half-time has expired the signal to terminate the game shall not be given until the ball has ceased to be in play.

**Add after first sentence:—**

A goal may be awarded by the Referee in the case where it is obvious that a goal would have been scored, i.e. a player other than the goalkeeper handling the ball to prevent it crossing the goal-line or improper interference by a spectator.

The ball shall be spherical; the outer casing shall be of leather, and no material shall be used in its construction which might prove dangerous to the players. The circumference of the ball shall not be more than 28 inches nor less than 27 inches. The weight of the ball at the start of the game shall not be more than 16 ounces nor less than 14 ounces.

**Substitute:—**

A player shall not wear anything which is dangerous to another player. Boots must conform to the following standard:—All bars and studs must be made of leather or soft rubber; nails shall be driven in flush with the the leather or rubber, bars shall be transverse and flat, not less than half-an-inch in width, and they shall extend for the total width of the boot; studs shall be round in plan, neither conical nor pointed, and not less than half-an-inch in diameter; combined studs and bars may be worn provided the whole conforms to the general requirements of this Law; bars and studs on the soles or heels shall not project more than half-an-inch and shall have all fastenings driven in flush with the leather or rubber. Metal plates, even though covered with leather or rubber, shall not be worn.

The usual equipment of a player consists of a jersey or shirt, short trousers, stockings and boots. A goal-keeper should wear colours which would distinguish him from the other players.

PRESENT LAW.

LAW 13.

A Referee shall be appointed, whose duties shall be to enforce the Laws and decide all disputed points; and his decision on points of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as the result of the game is concerned. He shall also keep a record of the game, and act as timekeeper. In the event of any ungentlemanly behaviour on the part of any of the players, the offender or offenders shall be cautioned. If the play has been stopped in consequence of ungentlemanly behaviour by a player it must be resumed by a free-kick in favour of the opposite side. If any further offence is committed, or in case of violent conduct without any previous caution, the Referee shall order the offending player or players off the field of play and shall transmit the name or names of such player or players to his or their National Association, who shall deal with the matter. The Referee shall allow for time wasted, lost through accident or other cause, suspend or terminate the game, whenever, by reason of darkness, interference by spectators, or other cause, he may deem necessary; but in all cases in which a game is so terminated he shall report the same to the Association under whose jurisdiction the game was played, who shall deal with the matter. The Referee shall award a free-kick in any case in which he thinks the conduct of a player dangerous, or likely to prove dangerous, but not sufficiently so as to justify him putting in force the greater powers vested in him. The power of the Referee extends to offences committed when the play has been temporarily suspended, and when the ball is out of play.

LAW 14.

Two linesmen shall be appointed, whose duty (subject to the decision of the Referee) shall be to decide when the ball is out of play, and which side is entitled to the corner-kick, goal-kick, or throw-in; and to assist the Referee in carrying out the game in accordance with the Laws. In the event of any undue interference or improper conduct by a linesman, the Referee shall have power to order him off the field of play and appoint a substitute, and report the circumstances to the National Association having jurisdiction over him, who shall deal with the matter.

LAW 17. Delete sixth sentence:—

If necessary, time of play shall be extended to admit of the penalty kick being taken.

The following Proposals by La Federation Internationale de Football Association were, by leave, withdrawn—

LAW 1.

The maximum width of the goal-posts and the maximum depth of the cross-bar shall be 5 inches.

PROPOSED ALTERATION.

Include the following in the Law:—

- (a) Without the permission of the Referee no person shall be allowed on the field of play during the game other than the Linesmen and players.
- (b) If in the opinion of the Referee a player has been seriously injured, the game shall be stopped, the player removed as soon as possible from the field 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. A player who is able to go to the touch or goal-line for attention of any kind, shall not be treated on the field of play.
- (c) If a player is guilty of violent conduct the Referee may suspend him from further participation in the game without previous caution.
- (d) A Referee shall signal for recommencement of the game after all stoppages.

Add at end of Law:—

The Linesmen should be equipped with flags by the Club on whose ground the match is played.

Substitute:—

If necessary time of play shall be extended at half-time or full-time to allow a penalty kick to be taken.

Delete and substitute:—

The goal-posts and the cross-bars shall have right angles and their sides (width and depth) shall not exceed 5 inches.

## PRESENT LAW.

**LAW 1—The Ball.**

The circumference of the ball shall not be less than 27 inches nor more than 28 inches.

And at the commencement of the game the weight of the ball shall be from 14 to 16 ounces.

## PROPOSED ALTERATION.

**Add after this sentence—**

And the weight of the ball at the start of the game shall not be more than 16 ounces nor less than 14 ounces.

**Delete.**

## AGREEMENTS OF THE BOARD.

The following proposal by The Football Association of Wales was, by leave, withdrawn:—

## AGREEMENTS.

**Proposed by the FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES.**

Add to Agreement of 14th June, 1930:—

Before the words "National Association" insert the word "Neutral."

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE.

The Board received the report of the Committee appointed at the last meeting to re-write and co-ordinate the Laws of the Game, and having considered the draft submitted with that report, agreed:—

That the draft as shewn hereinafter be the revised version for the Laws of the Game, and be issued as contained therein.

The Board agreed that the F.I.F.A. and the Associations of the British Empire affiliated to The Football Association may delay their issue pending translations.

The Board unanimously agreed to place on record their appreciation of the work of the Editorial Committee (Messrs. Robbins (Chairman), Rous, Graham, Watson, and Bauwens) for their work in re-writing the Laws.

The Representatives of La Federation Internationale de Football Association intimated that the Annual Meeting next year would be held at Nice.

The Chairman was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

*The Editorial Committee to remain in being, to bring to the notice of the Board, any further revision which may be deemed desirable as the result of the practical application of the Laws during Season 1938-1939.*

*At Lawton  
Home Secy  
1938*

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

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"NORTHERN COUNTIES HOTEL" PORTRUSH.

Saturday 11th. June. 1938

A T T E N D A N C E

The Football Association -

W. Dickford  
Henry J. Hubbard  
S. J. Rous. Secretary.

The Scottish F.A. -

Douglas Bower  
David Gray  
David Murray  
C. G. Graham Secretary

The Football Association of Wales -

John Jones  
B. H. Jones  
J. Williams

The F.I.F.A. -

H. H. Williams  
D. S. Schuster

The Irish F.A. -

J. MacRae  
J. P. Sullivan  
G. A. O'Connell Secretary

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