



Minutes

128th Annual General Meeting

of The International Football Association Board

at the Home of FIFA, Zurich
on Saturday, 1 March 2014, 09.30-11.43

Attendees:

FIFA	Joseph S. Blatter Jim Boyce David Chung Jérôme Valcke	President (chair) Vice-president Vice-president Secretary General
Scottish FA	Campbell Ogilvie Alan McRae Rod Petrie Stewart Regan John Fleming	President 1 st vice-president 2 nd vice-president Chief Executive Head of Referee Operations
The Football Association	Greg Dyke David Gill Alex Horne David Elleray Neale Barry	Chairman Vice-chairman General Secretary Chairman of the Referees Committee Head of Senior Referee Development
Irish FA	Jim Shaw David Martin Jack Grundie Patrick Nelson William Campbell	President Deputy president Deputy president Chief Executive Head of CEO Office
FA of Wales	Trefor Lloyd Hughes David Griffiths Jonathan Ford John Deakin	President Vice-president Chief Executive Technical Expert
FIFA Administration	Jean-Paul Brigger Massimo Busacca	Technical Team Director Head of Refereeing
Secretary of The IFAB	Lukas Brud	



FIFA



I. WELCOME

FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter, chairman of this 128th Annual General Meeting, opened the meeting by welcoming the members of The International Football Association Board (IFAB), namely the delegations from the Scottish FA (SFA), The Football Association (The FA), the FA of Wales (FAW) and the Irish FA (IFA), as well as the representatives of FIFA.

He highlighted that this was the very first meeting following the historic foundation of The IFAB, which had taken place only six weeks before, on 13 January 2014. The chairman reminded the members of the reasoning behind the self-reform that had now been completed, as requested by the FIFA Congress.

II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The chairman highlighted that The IFAB and its members had been given trust and confidence by the FIFA Congress to continue to protect the Laws of the Game (LoG) by acting as their "guardians". He said that this very body was responsible for the changes to the LoG and that it should make changes only when appropriate and necessary.

III. ROLL CALL

The chairman introduced the representatives of FIFA and asked the four British members to introduce themselves (*all names listed above*), following which he confirmed that the meeting had been constituted according to the statutes of The IFAB.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The chairman asked the members to move agenda item VI. "Information on the IFAB Reform Process" to the very end of the meeting which was approved.

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

All members agreed to approve the minutes of the 127th Annual General Meeting, held in Scotland on 2 March 2013.

VI. AGENDA CONTAINING THE ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AND ENCLOSURES

1. Modifications (*submitted by The FA*)

Alex Horne (AHo), General Secretary of The FA, and Stewart Regan (SR), Chief Executive of the SFA, presented this subject following a one-year trial in the lower leagues of their respective associations, as the trial was purely focused on recreational football.

Both presented the advantages of this proposed amendment and supported these with reports gathered over the past 12 months. The below change of text was suggested, ensuring that any professional football, or football played in the highest leagues of an association, would remain untouched by this amendment.



Modifications, p.3

(alterations highlighted in red)

(...)

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:

- such matches are solely for amateurs
- such matches are not part of the most senior domestic competition of a member association

Further modifications are only allowed with the consent of The International Football Association Board.

Both the IFA and the FAW confirmed their support for the proposal submitted by The FA and the SFA.

The chairman summarised the advantages and disadvantages of this proposal and asked for a vote on the next steps, with the following outcome:

Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifications to LoG around substitutions in recreational football to be further deliberated by the two advisory panels including consideration as to a definition of “recreational” football which might be universally understood • The FA and SFA to carry on with the pilots and to provide a report to the panels and the AGM
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2. Law 4 – The Players’ Equipment (submitted by FIFA)

JVa summarised the two-year experiment, throughout which FIFA had only received support and positive feedback. He reminded the members of the request tabled by the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) in June 2013 to also grant permission to male players to wear head covers, which had been temporarily approved by the BoD. He presented the proposal below, highlighting that the first bullet point would be amended in order to also include “black” as a possible colour of the head cover (amended in the meantime).



Other equipment (Interpretations), p. 69

(alterations highlighted in red)

Modern protective equipment (...) permitted.

Where head covers are worn, they must

- be black or of the same main colour as the jersey (provided that the players of the same team wear the same colour)
- be in keeping with the professional appearance of the player's equipment
- not be attached to the jersey
- not pose any danger to the player wearing it or any other player (e.g. opening/closing mechanism around neck)
- not have any part(s) extending out from the surface (protruding elements)

(...)

The chairman reminded the room that firstly a decision must be taken on whether to permit the headscarf for women following the conclusion of the two-year experiment, which was granted unanimously.

Secondly, the members agreed to also allow male players to wear head covers.

Decisions

- The proposed amending Law 4 text was approved
- The law is equally applicable for both women and men

3. Law 4 – The Players' Equipment (submitted by The FA)

AHo explained that the amendment below had been suggested in order to establish equal regulations with regard to slogans, statements and images on both the basic compulsory equipment as well as undergarments. This would improve the image of the game by avoiding any potentially unsuitable messages on the players' equipment.

Slogans or advertising on undergarments (Decision 1), p. 23

(alterations highlighted in red)

Basic compulsory equipment

~~Players must not reveal undergarments showing slogans or advertising.~~ The basic compulsory equipment must not have any political, religious or personal **slogans**, statements **or images**.

~~A player removing his jersey or shirt to reveal slogans or advertising will be sanctioned by the competition organiser.~~ The team of a player whose basic compulsory equipment has political, religious or personal slogans ~~or~~, statements **or images** will be sanctioned by the competition organiser or by FIFA.

Undergarments

Players must not reveal undergarments that show political, religious, personal slogans,



statements or images, or advertising other than the manufacturer logo.

A player/team of a player that reveals an undergarment that shows political, religious, personal slogans, statements or images, or advertising other than the manufacturer logo will be sanctioned by the competition organiser or by FIFA.

The members unanimously agreed with the proposal of The FA.

Campbell Ogilvie (COg), President of the SFA, suggested that The IFAB should look into the display of messages in general (e.g. tattoos).

The chairman confirmed again that it was not up to the referee to take any disciplinary action against the player, but instead he must report any violations to the competition organiser.

Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed amending Law 4 text was approved • The display of messages of any kind should be further debated
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4. Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play: dropped ball *(submitted by FIFA)*

JVa pointed out that this item was not for discussion or decision. A clarification of the words “directly” and “indirectly” (which had led to misinterpretation in the past) would, however, be planned for the glossary that would be included in future editions of the LoG. He presented this as a good example that the LoG did not necessarily need to be changed when a simple clarification of a word was the appropriate solution.

No further comments were received.

5. Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct: handling the ball *(submitted by FAW)*

John Deakin (JDe), Technical Expert of the FAW, presented the matter around Law 12 and in particular handling the ball, stating that it was believed to be often misinterpreted and understood differently by players, coaches, referees and the media. He also raised concerns that additional guidelines were often given to match officials by their respective associations and were not always consistent with the LoG. On behalf of the FAW, JDe suggested that this matter be investigated further by the two advisory panels, which was agreed by all members unanimously.

Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two advisory panels to debate the matter of handling the ball
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6. Electronic performance and tracking systems (EPTS) *(submitted by FIFA)*

The chairman opened this item by reminding the members that this matter had been discussed at the previous AGM in 2013.

JVa summarised the situation by saying that many associations and clubs were already using such devices and that the BoD had approved a last-minute experiment for the Algarve Cup 2014, with a report to be presented thereafter.



He further suggested that – as previously agreed – this matter should be investigated further by the two advisory panels. Additionally, the chairman as well as the members raised their concerns and said that The IFAB was behind the reality of facts and that such devices were already in use. Nevertheless, they acknowledged the fact that The IFAB was not yet ready to make a ruling on this matter and that more data needed to be gathered before a decision could be reached.

Therefore, the members agreed that this topic should be further debated by the two advisory panels. However, the FAW raised concerns regarding the implementation of further technology such as this, and would therefore be opposed to the idea of permitting such devices.

Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More investigation on the technical abilities of EPTS devices • To be debated further by the two advisory panels
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7. Structure and formatting of the Laws of the Game *(submitted by the Technical Sub-Committee)*

JVa informed the members that the BoD had agreed on the new structure of the LoG, as presented at the last Annual Business Meeting (ABM) by the Technical Sub-Committee. He presented the plan to combine each Law with its interpretation, to add a glossary, and to remove inconsistencies, amongst other matters, and informed the members about the preliminary schedule for this work.

This was agreed by all of the members.

Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To start the revision of the LoG as presented
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VII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8. Modifications: “Sin bins” in recreational football

The chairman opened this topic by summarising the background and idea behind this matter. It was acknowledged that UEFA had conducted a trial during its U16 Development Tournament following approval by The IFAB, and it was agreed that the technical directors of the participating teams should be contacted in order to ascertain their experience of this trial.

In addition, it was suggested that further data should be gathered via more trials, the implementation of which had already been offered by UEFA. It was also suggested that the duration of a sin bin should also be varied, as ten minutes might potentially be too long and have a too severe influence on the outcome of the match.

Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue pilots (conducted by UEFA) under the control of The IFAB
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9. Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct: Sending-off offences: “triple punishment” – proposal by UEFA

The chairman opened the discussion by acknowledging the receipt of a proposal from UEFA, suggesting removing the requirement to issue a red card following the denial of an obvious goalscoring opportunity inside the penalty area. He also noted that this was a difficult subject and that Law 12 was misunderstood by many, even though the LoG were quite clear in this regard. Jim Boyce (JBo), chairman of the FIFA Referees Committee, added that this was more of a matter regarding how referees interpreted and applied the LoG.

Many views were discussed, and subsequently The IFAB agreed that the proposal from UEFA, in its current form, would not entirely solve the apparent problem with the Law, but would cause other complications instead. Therefore, the proposal was rejected. However, it was agreed that the debate would continue and more information, data and views would be compiled in order to potentially find a solution to reduce the number of seemingly incorrect decisions by match officials. Note was taken that this would include the involvement of the two advisory panels as well.

Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action to be taken on the amendment of the LoG regarding “Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity” as presented by UEFA • More evidence to be collected and presented • To be debated further by the two advisory panels • Development and implementation of an (additional) educational programme for referees
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10. Video replay for match officials

JVa informed the members about an offline trial with review technology that would provide instant replays to a match official who would be in contact with the main referee.

The other members presented their views on this matter and agreed that goal-line technology should remain the only technology on the field of play, and therefore a solution for video replays should not be investigated further for the time being.

Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KNVB to be advised that the IFAB do not support the continued pilot
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VIII. INFORMATION ON THE IFAB REFORM PROCESS

FIFA Secretary General Jérôme Valcke (JV) started by updating the members on the status of the registration process as well as the setting up of The IFAB’s bank account.

• **Advisory panel compositions**

He reminded the room of the proposed composition of both advisory panels (which had already been agreed by the 127th AGM) and said that proposals for actual members would be discussed by the Board of Directors (BoD) in the upcoming months in order to be able to initiate the first meetings soon after.



- **Budget and membership fees**

JVa presented the potential costs that would need to be covered by the annually approved budget, under the new structure of The IFAB. The budget for any additional pilots would have to be approved by The IFAB separately.

He furthermore informed the members that the membership fees would be due once the account had been set up.

- **Confirmation of auditors**

It was agreed that KPMG would become the auditors for The IFAB, conducting an ordinary audit every year, even though this would not be mandatory by law.

- **IFAB website and corporate identity**

JVa informed the members that the website was currently being developed and was planned to go live in the first quarter of 2015. He also listed the planned content of the first version of the website.

Regarding corporate identity, JVa informed the members that a tender had been conducted and that the selected company would present its final proposal in the following weeks.

- **IFAB organisation regulations**

JVa informed the members that a first draft of the organisation regulations was currently being written and would be presented in 2015.

- **Strategy**

JVa presented a top-level overview of the future strategy for The IFAB, as agreed by the BoD. This strategy suggested that any decisions taken by The IFAB would be supported by research results and additional deliberations by the various IFAB bodies. Furthermore, it would include a quality assurance programme, which would be developed by 2015.

He then presented the structure of The IFAB, highlighting the additional bodies, their responsibilities, and in particular the newly established executive support office.

The chairman completed this item by informing the members that an amendment to the FIFA Statutes would be put to a vote at the 64th FIFA Congress in 2014 in order to reflect the new structure and to highlight the responsibility and mandate of The IFAB.

IX. NEXT MEETINGS

The members were invited by Jim Shaw (JSh), President of the Irish FA, to the next Annual General Meeting of The IFAB, which will take place in Belfast, Northern Ireland between 27 February and 1 March 2015.

The chairman concluded the meeting at 11.43.

Lukas Brud
Secretary of The IFAB, Zurich, April 2014