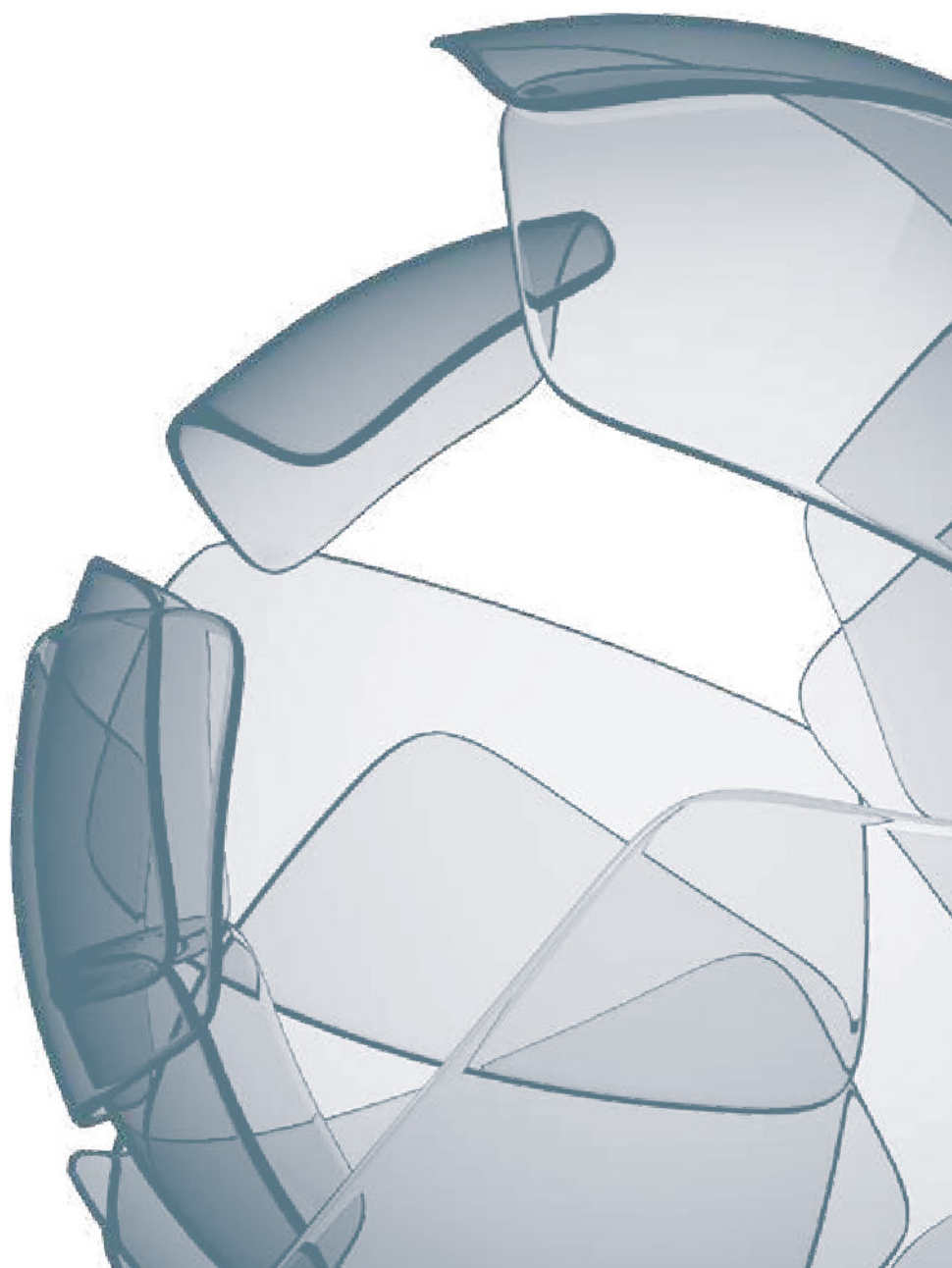


1977

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



# **THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**



**MINUTES**  
of the meeting of the  
**INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD**  
held in London on  
19th June 1977

**16 Lancaster Gate London W2 3LW**



THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING

held at the Royal Garden Hotel, London, W.8.  
on Sunday, 19th June, 1977

PRESENT:

Federation Internationale de Football Association: Doctor J. Havelange,  
Messrs. J. M. Codesal, J. A. Mowat and Doctor H. Kaser (Secretary).

The Football Association: Sir Harold Thompson (in the Chair), Messrs.  
A. D. McMullen, E. A. Croker (Secretary) and D. Hawes.

The Scottish Football Association: Messrs. R. G. Grimshaw, T. L. Clark  
and W. P. Allan (Secretary).

The Football Association of Wales: Messrs. T. H. Squire, L. Withers,  
R. G. Jones, S. Jenkins and T. Morris (Secretary).

The Irish Football Association: Messrs. H. H. Cavan, S. Walker and W. J.  
Drennan (Secretary).

Apologies for absence were received from Dr. A. Franchi (F.I.F.A.), The  
Rt. Hon. Lord Westwood (The Football Association) and Mr. W. T. Kennedy  
(The Irish Football Association).

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Sir Harold Thompson welcomed the Delegates and said how pleased he was  
that Doctor Havelange was leading the F.I.F.A. contingent. He made special  
mention of those who were attending their first Meeting of the  
International Board and expressed the hope that all Members would continue  
to protect the Laws of the Game and the welfare of football.

Sir Harold Thompson then referred to the impending retirement of Mr.  
T. H. Squire of The Football Association of Wales and Mr. W. P. Allan,  
Secretary of The Scottish Football Association, and thanked them for their  
services to the Board.

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1. MINUTES The Minutes of the Meeting held at Porthcawl on the 18th June,  
1976 were confirmed and signed.



## 2. LAWS OF THE GAME

### Proposal by The Scottish Football Association

#### Law I - The Field of Play

##### PRESENT LAW

##### PROPOSED ALTERATION

- (5) The Corner Area From each corner-flag post a quarter circle having a radius of 1 yard, shall be drawn inside the field of play.

Delete and substitute:-

- (5) The Corner Areas From each corner-flag post, two quarter circles shall be drawn inside the field of play. The smaller shall have a radius of 1 yard, and the larger a radius of 11 yards.

The Proposal was not adopted.

### Proposal by The Scottish Football Association

#### Law XII - Fouls and Misconduct

##### PRESENT LAW

##### PROPOSED ALTERATION

3. When not playing the ball, intentionally obstructing an opponent, i.e. running between the opponent and the ball, or interposing the body so as to form an obstacle to an opponent;

Delete and substitute:-

3. When not playing the ball, intentionally obstructing an opponent by running between him and the ball, or by interposing the body so as to form an obstacle to him without there being, in either case, physical contact between the players.

The Proposal was not adopted.

### Proposal by The Football Association

#### Law XII - Fouls and Misconduct

##### PRESENT LAW

##### PROPOSED ALTERATION

A player who intentionally commits any of the following nine offences:-

- (a) Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent;



- (b) Trips an opponent, i.e. throwing or attempting to throw him by the use of the legs or by stooping in front of or behind him;
- (c) Jumps at an opponent;
- (d) Charges an opponent in a violent or dangerous manner;
- (e) Charges an opponent from behind unless the latter be obstructing;
- (f) Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent;
- (g) Holds an opponent;
- (h) Pushes an opponent;
- (i) Handles the ball, i.e. carries, strikes or propels the ball with his hand or arm (this does not apply to the goal-keeper within his own penalty area);

shall be penalised by the award of a direct free-kick to be taken by the opposing side from the place where the offence occurred.

Delete the final sentence and substitute the following:-

shall be penalised by the award of a direct free-kick to be taken by the opposing side from the place where the offence occurred, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal area, in which case, the free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal area nearest to where the offence occurred.

Should a player of the defending side intentionally commit one of the above nine offences within the penalty-area he shall be penalised by a penalty-kick.

A penalty-kick can be awarded irrespective of the position of the ball, if in play, at the time an offence within the penalty-area is committed.

A player committing any of the five following offences:-

- (1) Playing in a manner considered by the Referee to be dangerous, e.g. attempting to kick the ball while held by the goalkeeper;
- (2) Charging fairly, i.e. with the shoulder, when the ball is not within playing distance of the players concerned and they are definitely not trying to play it;



#### PRESENT LAW

- (3) When not playing the ball, intentionally obstructing an opponent, i.e. running between the opponent and the ball, or interposing the body so as to form an obstacle to an opponent;
- (4) Charging the goalkeeper except when he -
  - (a) is holding the ball;
  - (b) is obstructing an opponent;
  - (c) has passed outside his goal-area.
- (5) When playing as goalkeeper.
  - (a) takes more than 4 steps whilst holding, bouncing or throwing the ball in the air and catching it again without releasing it so that it is played by another player, or
  - (b) indulges in tactics which, in the opinion of the Referee, are designed merely to hold up the game and thus waste time and so give an unfair advantage to his own team

shall be penalised by the award of an indirect free-kick to be taken by the opposing side from the place where the infringement occurred.

A player shall be cautioned if:

- (j) he enters or re-enters the field of play to join or re-join his team after the game has commenced, or leaves the field of play during the progress of the game (except through accident) without, in either case, first having received a signal from the referee showing him that he may do so. If the referee stops the game to administer the caution the game shall be re-started by an indirect free-kick taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the ball was when the referee stopped the game. If,

#### PROPOSED ALTERATION

Delete the final sentence and substitute the following:-

shall be penalised by the award of an indirect free-kick to be taken by the opposing side from the place where the infringement occurred, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal area, in which case, the free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal area nearest to where the offence occurred.



## PRESENT LAW

## PROPOSED ALTERATION

however, the offending player has committed a more serious offence he shall be penalised according to that section of the law he infringed.

- (k) he persistently infringes the Laws of the game;
- (l) he shows by word or action, dissent from any decision given by the Referee;
- (m) he is guilty of ungentlemanly conduct.

For any of these three last offences, in addition to the caution, an indirect free-kick shall also be awarded to the opposing side from the place where the offence occurred unless a more serious infringement of the Laws of the Game was committed.

A player shall be sent off the field of play, if:-

- (n) in the opinion of the opinion of the Referee he is guilty of violent conduct or serious foul play;
- (o) he uses foul or abusive language;
- (p) he persists in misconduct after having received a caution.

If play be stopped by reason of a player being ordered from the field for an offence without a separate breach of the Law having been committed, the game shall be resumed by an indirect free-kick awarded to the opposing side from the place where the infringement occurred.

Add the following new sentence after the word "committed" :-

If the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal area, the free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal area nearest to where the offence occurred.

Delete the final sentence and substitute the following:-

If play be stopped by reason of a player being ordered from the field for an offence without a separate breach of the Law having been committed, the game shall be resumed by an indirect free-kick awarded to the opposing side from the place where the infringement occurred, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal area, in which case, the free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal area nearest to where the offence occurred.

The Proposal was withdrawn.



Proposal by The Scottish Football Association

Law XVII - Corner-Kick

PRESENT LAW

When the whole of the ball passes over the goal-line, excluding that portion between the goal-posts, either in the air or on the ground, having last been played by one of the defending team, a member of the attacking team shall take a corner-kick, i.e. the whole of the ball shall be placed within the quarter circle at the nearest corner-flag post, which must not be moved and it shall be kicked from that position. A goal may be scored direct from such a kick. Players of the team opposing that of the player taking the corner-kick shall not approach within 10 yards of the ball until it is in play, i.e., it has travelled the distance of its own circumference, nor shall the kicker play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player.

Punishment:

- (a) If the player who takes the kick plays the ball a second time before it has been touched or played by another player, the referee shall award an indirect free-kick to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.
- (b) For any other infringement the kick shall be retaken.

PROPOSED ALTERATION

Delete and substitute:-

1. When the whole of the ball passes over a goal-line, excluding that part between the goal posts, either in the air or on the ground, having last touched, or been played by, one of the defending team, a corner-kick shall be awarded to the attacking team.
2. A corner-kick is properly taken when:-
  - (a) the whole of the ball is placed within the smaller of the quarter circles at the corner-flag post nearest to where the ball passed over the goal-line and is kicked from that position, and
  - (b) the corner-flag is not moved.
3. When the kick is being taken:-
  - (a) all of the players of the attacking team, with the exception of the player taking the kick, shall be within the field of play, and
  - (b) all of the players of the defending team shall be within the field of play, and outside the larger quarter circle.
4. The ball shall be in play when it has travelled the distance of its own circumference.
5. The player who takes the corner-kick shall not play the ball a second time, until it has touched or been played by, another player.
6. A goal may be scored direct from a corner-kick.



## PRESENT LAW

## PROPOSED ALTERATION

## 7. Punishment:

- (a) For an infringement of paragraph (5) the referee shall award an indirect free-kick to the opposing team, or a direct free-kick, if the kicker played the ball with any part of his hand or arm, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.
- (b) For any other infringement the kick shall be retaken.

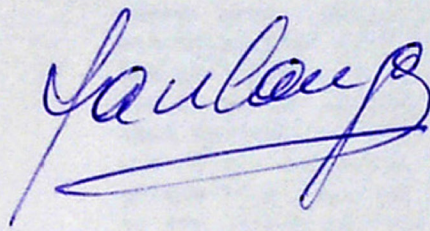
The Proposal was not adopted.

3. EXPERIMENTS IN THE LAWS OF THE GAME The Board no longer thought it reasonable, or sensible, to deal with applications, only at its annual Meeting. Accordingly, and notwithstanding its decision of the 18th June, 1976, it was agreed that, henceforth, in the interval between Meetings, F.I.F.A. be empowered to authorise further experiments in the "mini-corner", temporary expulsion, and "kick-in" and, subject to prior consultation with the British Associations, to approve other experiments for which permission may be sought.
4. MARKINGS OUTSIDE THE FIELD OF PLAY The Board considered a proposal made to them by the Netherlands Football Association that marks be made outside the goal-lines and touch-lines 10 yards from each corner flag to assist the Referee in assuring that players are 10 yards from the ball when corner-kicks are being taken.  
Whilst the Board generally felt there was some merit in the idea they were of the opinion that extraneous markings which could be deemed to be connected with the field of play should be discouraged. Nevertheless, it was decided to permit the markings proposed by the Netherlands Football Association and to consider the matter further at a later date.
5. LAWS OF THE GAME - AMENDED TEXT The Board referred to the proposed Amended Text of the Laws of the Game, as submitted by the Editorial Board, and decided that in the meantime the document be allowed to "lie on the table".  
The Editorial Board and Mr. Allan in particular were congratulated on the tremendous amount of work that had been done and it was felt that the Editorial Board should be kept in existence and that it was hoped that it might be possible to call on the services of Mr. Allan at some future time if it was decided to proceed further with the proposed text.
6. NEXT MEETING The fixing of the date and venue of the next Meeting of The International Football Association Board, which would be organised by F.I.F.A., was deferred until the Secretaries of The Four British Associations and the President and Secretary of the F.I.F.A. knew all the commitments in connection with the World Cup.



Sir Harold thanked the Members for their co-operation and assistance.

Doctor Havelange thanked Sir Harold and congratulated him on the way he had handled the Meeting in the interests of football. He hoped that some way could be found which would enable the services of Mr. Allan to be retained so that the Board could continue to have the benefit of his vast experience with the Laws of the Game. He expressed his pleasure at meeting the representatives of the Four British Associations and hoped that the next International Board, under the auspices of F.I.F.A. and under his Chairmanship, would be as successful as this Meeting.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Havelange', with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.



THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

at The Royal Garden Hotel, London on Sunday, 19th June, 1977

DELEGATES

SIGNATURES

FEDERAL INTERNATIONAL DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Dr. J. Havelange

Dr. A. Franchi - No

Mr. J.M. Codesal

Mr. J. Mowat

Dr. H. Kaser

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Sir Harold Thompson

Mr. A.D. McMullen

Mr. E.A. Croker

Mr. D. Hawes

THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr. R.G. Grimshaw

Mr. T.L. Clark

Mr. W.P. Allan

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES

Mr. T.H. Squire

Mr. L. Withers

Mr. R.G. Jones

Mr. S. Jenkins

Mr. T. Morris

THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr. H.H. Cavan

Mr. S. Walker

Mr. W.J. Drennan

Jaulaux  
absent for illness  
John G. Mowat  
H. Kaser

H.W. Thompson  
A.D. McMullen  
E.A. Croker  
D. Hawes

R.G. Grimshaw  
T.L. Clark  
W.P. Allan

T.H. Squire  
L. Withers  
R.G. Jones  
S. Jenkins  
T. Morris

H.H. Cavan  
S. Walker  
W.J. Drennan



