



THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES
of the
122ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

held at the
Gleneagles Hotel
PERTHSHIRE, SCOTLAND

on

SATURDAY, 8th March 2008
at 09.30 hours

Hampden Park
Glasgow
G42 9AY

The Chief Executive
THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



For the Game. For the World.

March 2008

AGENDA

I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

II. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Lowry Hotel, Manchester, England on 3rd March 2007 at 09.30 hrs.

To confirm the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held at Hampden Park, Glasgow on 22nd October 2007 at 09.00 hrs.

III. LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

To consider the following proposals and amendments submitted under the regulations of the International Football Association Board.

1. Law 1 – The Field of Play

(Submitted by the Football Association of Wales)

2. Law 2 – The Ball

(Submitted by FIFA)

3. Revision of the Laws of the Game

(Submitted by FIFA)

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

- 1. Fair Play Convention for dealing with injured players while the game is in progress**
(Submitted by The FA)
- 2. Goal Line Technology**
 - o Progress report on adidas/Cairos technology**
(Submitted by FIFA)
 - o Progress report on Hawk-Eye technology**
(Submitted by The FA)
- 3. Additional Assistant Referees**
(Submitted by FIFA)
- 4. Dealing with simulation**
(Submitted by the Scottish FA)

V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- VI. 2009 MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD**
(Venue and date)

PRESENT

The Scottish Football Association

Mr George PEAT
Mr Campbell OGILVIE
Mr Alan McRAE
Mr Gordon SMITH

Fédération Internationale de Football Association

Mr Joseph S BLATTER
Mr Ángel María VILLAR LLONA
Mr Michel PLATINI
Mr Jérôme VALCKE

The Irish Football Association

Mr Raymond KENNEDY
Mr David MARTIN
Mr Neil JARDINE
Mr Howard WELLS

The Football Association of Wales

Mr Peter REES
Mr Idwal WILLIAMS
Mr Philip PRITCHARD
Mr David COLLINS

The Football Association

Mr Geoffrey THOMPSON
Sir David RICHARDS
Mr Ray LEWIS
Mr Brian BARWICK

ALSO PRESENT

The Scottish Football Association

Mr Donald McVICAR

Fédération Internationale de Football Association

Mr José-Maria GARCIA-ARANDA
Mr Hans Ulrich SCHNEIDER
Mr Jean-Paul BRIGGER
Mr Nicolas MAINGOT

The Irish Football Association

Mr William CAMPBELL

The Football Association of Wales

Mr Trefor LLOYD HUGHES

The Football Association

Mr Neale BARRY
Lord TRIESMAN

The Scottish Football Association Administration – Minutes

Mrs Joanne McARTHUR

I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Scottish FA President, Mr George Peat, welcomed the members to the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board and to Gleneagles, in Scotland. He also made a special mention to Alan McRae and Gordon Smith from Scotland, Michel Platini and Jérôme Valcke from FIFA, and Neil Jardine from the Irish FA, who were all attending their first meeting.

II. MINUTES

The IFAB unanimously approved the Minutes of the 121st Annual General Meeting held at the Lowry Hotel, Manchester, England on 3rd March 2007.

The IFAB unanimously approved the Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held at Hampden Park, Glasgow, Scotland on 22nd October 2007.

III. LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

1. Law 1 – The Field of Play

(Submitted by the Football Association of Wales)

Decisions of the International FA Board

International Matches			International Matches		
Present Text			Proposed Text		
Length:	minimum	100m (110 yds)	Length:	105m (115 yds)	
	maximum	110m (120 yds)			
Width:	minimum	64m (70 yds)	Width:	68m (75 yds)	
	maximum	75m (80 yds)			

Reason:

The present law allows a host country to vary the size of the pitch to suit the needs of the ‘home’ team to the disadvantage of their opponents. By standardising the size of the pitch for international matches this will make sure that the games are played in the spirit of Fair Play.

This proposal was amended as follows:

International Matches			"A" International Matches		
Present Text			Proposed Text		
Length:	minimum	100m (110 yds)	Length:	105m (115 yds)	
	maximum	110m (120 yds)			
Width:	minimum	64m (70 yds)	Width:	68m (75 yds)	
	maximum	75m (80 yds)			
			Other International Matches		
			Length:	minimum	100m (110 yds)
				maximum	110m (120 yds)
			Width:	minimum	64m (70 yds)
				maximum	75m (80 yds)

Decision

The amended proposal submitted by the Football Association of Wales was approved by the Board.

2. Law 2 – The Ball
(Submitted by FIFA)

Present Text	Proposed Text
<p>In competition matches, only footballs which meet the minimum technical requirements stipulated in Law 2 are permitted for use. In FIFA competition matches, and in competition matches organised under the auspices of the confederations, acceptance of a football for use is conditional upon the football bearing one of the following three designations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the official “FIFA APPROVED” logo, or • the official “FIFA INSPECTED” logo, or • the reference “International Matchball Standard”  <p>Such a designation on a football indicates that it has been tested officially and found to be in compliance with specific technical requirements, different for each category and additional to the minimum specifications stipulated in Law 2. The list of the additional requirements specific to each of the respective categories must be approved by the International F.A. Board. The institutes conducting the tests are subject to the approval of FIFA.</p> <p>Member association competitions may also require the use of balls bearing any one of these three designations.</p> <p>In all other matches, the ball used must satisfy the requirements of Law 2.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the requirements of Law 2, acceptance of a ball for use in matches played in an official competition organised under the auspices of FIFA or the confederations is conditional upon the ball bearing one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the official “FIFA APPROVED” logo • the official “FIFA INSPECTED” logo • the “International Matchball Standard” logo  <p>Such a logo on a ball indicates that it has been tested officially and found to be in compliance with specific technical requirements, different for each logo and additional to the minimum specifications stipulated in Law 2. The list of the additional requirements specific to each of the respective logos must be approved by the International F.A. Board. The institutes conducting the tests are subject to the approval of FIFA.</p> <p>Member association competitions may also require the use of balls bearing any one of these three logos</p>

Reason:

New FIFA logos for the FIFA Quality Concept for footballs were launched in May 2007. It is therefore essential that this change is reflected in the Laws of the Game so that it can be communicated officially to the associations and confederations as well as football manufacturers.

Decision

The proposal submitted by FIFA was approved.

3. REVISION OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME

(Submitted by FIFA)

Proposed new wording and revision of the Laws of the Game 2008/2009 and the various related publications.

Reason:

The last major revision of the Laws of the Game in 1996, which came just six years after the previous re-write following the 1990 World Cup in Italy, is now eleven years behind us. Since then, many additions and amendments have been made to the Laws themselves and various accompanying publications including the Questions and Answers on the Laws of the Game, the Additional Instructions for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials and a wide range of teaching materials have been produced and distributed worldwide.

As a result, a further revision is now overdue in order to simplify and disambiguate the current wording of the Laws, making them more concise and easier to understand, and, where possible, to merge them with material contained in the supplementary publications in order to reduce any potential confusion. No major changes in content are planned, the ultimate objective is to ensure greater uniformity in the interpretation and implementation of the Laws of the Game worldwide.

Decision

The proposal submitted by FIFA was approved.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

1. Fair Play Convention for dealing with injured players while the game is in progress

(Submitted by The FA)

The FA described the success of the protocol which was introduced in the English Premier League in 2006. In acknowledging the success of this initiative, the IFAB decided, after discussion, not to agree a protocol but instead to issue a reminder to all FIFA member associations that the referee has adequate powers under Law 5 to stop play if necessary in the event of an injury to a player.

2. Goal Line Technology

Prior to presentations being made, the FIFA President, Mr Blatter, asked the members to be aware of the four key principles upon which goal line technology should be judged, as agreed at last year's Annual General Meeting.

Presentations were then received from adidas/Cairos and Hawk-Eye on the development of their technology.

Discussion followed with input from Michel Platini and Ángel María Villar Llona on behalf of FIFA. They expressed concern that the introduction of such technology would be contrary to the universality of the game and that if technology was used for the goal line now there would be future demands for use in other areas of the pitch, such as the penalty area. It would be preferable to assist the referee in other ways and allow the referee, not a machine, to make decisions to keep the human face to the game.

Following a proposal from the FIFA President it was agreed that for the time being all experiments involving goal line technology would be put on ice.

3. Additional Assistant Referees

(Submitted by FIFA)

A presentation was given by José-Maria García-Aranda on the concept of introducing two additional assistant referees. The IFAB agreed that FIFA should conduct an experiment in a forthcoming tournament and advise the IFAB accordingly.

4. Simulation

(Submitted by the Scottish FA)

Gordon Smith of the Scottish FA expressed concern that simulation, or deceiving the referee into making a wrong decision, was still prevalent and tarnished the image of the game. He outlined plans in Scotland to introduce a disciplinary code to deal with players who committed such an offence but only when it was of a blatant nature and not seen by the referee. He made reference to a similar case dealt with by UEFA earlier this season.

Whilst having sympathy with the view expressed, it was agreed by the other members of the IFAB that because the sanction involved was a caution it was not correct to deal with it in this way. It was also agreed that a message be sent from the meeting that the problem of simulation must be tackled and attempts made to eradicate it from the game.

V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

FIFA highlighted the various colours and patterns being used in the design of balls and displayed a multi-coloured ball which was used in a recent major tournament. The IFAB Sub-Committee was asked to give consideration to the look and design of balls and report back to the next IFAB Annual Business Meeting.

David Collins of the Football Association of Wales brought to the attention of the meeting that the IFAB had agreed two years ago to consider recognising those members who had given 10 or more years' service to the Board. He proposed that each of the Associations should supply suitable names to the Secretary of the Association to next host the IFAB meeting and that appropriate recognition be discussed at the Annual Business Meeting later in 2008. The IFAB agreed with this proposal.

The Board re-iterated that occupants of the technical area should not have access to or be in a position to view pitch-side monitors. FIFA agreed to provide adequate instructions to member associations.

The Chairman brought to the attention of the Board that this would be the last meeting which Mr Geoffrey Thompson of the Football Association would attend. He was thanked for the service he had given to the International Football Association Board over many years and wished success for the future.

The FIFA President commended the IFAB in the way it upheld the universality of the Laws of the Game and promised to assist match officials as much as possible. He also made a strong appeal against violent tackles on the field of play and suggested increased punishments for offenders.

Mr Blatter thanked the Scottish Football Association for their hospitality and organisation and complimented the Chairman on his handling of the meeting.

VI. 2009 MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

The 2009 Annual General Meeting would be organised by the Irish Football Association on 27th February to 1st March.

Mr George Peat closed the meeting at 12.15 p.m.

