



THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

# MINUTES of the 121<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

## INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD



*For the Good of the Game*

LOWRY HOTEL, MANCHESTER, ENGLAND  
SATURDAY, 3 MARCH 2007



# THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES  
of the  
121<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
of the

# INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

held at the  
Lowry Hotel  
MANCHESTER, ENGLAND  
on  
SATURDAY, 3 MARCH 2007  
at 09.30 hours

25 Soho Square  
8030 Zürich  
W1D 4FA

The Chief Executive  
THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



March 2007

# AGENDA

## I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

## II. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Palace Hotel, Lucerne, Switzerland, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2006 at 09.30 hrs.

To confirm the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held at the Home of FIFA, Zurich, Switzerland on 13 October 2006 at 10.00 hrs.

## III. LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

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

### 1. Law 1 – The Field of Play

(Submitted by the Scottish Football Association)

### 2. Law 4 – The Player's Equipment

(Submitted by the Scottish Football Association)

### 3. Law 4 – The Player's Equipment

(Submitted by FIFA)

### 4. The Fifth Official

(Submitted by FIFA)

### 5. Additional Instructions for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials

(Celebration of a goal)

(Submitted by FIFA)

#### **IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

- 1. Protocol for dealing with injured players**  
(Submitted by the Scottish Football Association)
- 2. The Ball – Adidas/Cairos new goal-line ball technology**  
(To receive an update on progress)
- 3. Italian Football Federation new goal-line technology**  
(To receive an update on progress)
- 4. Premier League new goal-line technology**  
(To receive a presentation from the Premier League)
- 5. Pitch side TV monitors**  
(Submitted by FIFA)
- 6. Video Evidence**  
(Submitted by FIFA)
- 7. ‘Flying Elbows’**  
(Submitted by FIFA)
- 8. Colour of Artificial Pitches**  
(Submitted by FIFA)

#### **V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **VI. 2008 MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD** Venue and date

# PRESENT

## **The Football Association**

Geoffrey THOMPSON  
Brian BARWICK  
Sir David RICHARDS  
Ray LEWIS

## **FIFA**

Joseph S. BLATTER  
Angel María VILLAR LLONA  
David H. WILL  
Urs LINSI

## **Irish Football Association**

Jim BOYCE  
Raymond KENNEDY  
David J. MARTIN  
Howard J.C. WELLS

## **Scottish Football Association**

John MCBETH  
George PEAT  
David TAYLOR  
Campbell OGILVIE

## **Football Association of Wales**

Peter REES  
Philip PRITCHARD  
David G. COLLINS  
Idwal WILLIAMS

## **ALSO PRESENT**

## **The Football Association**

Neale BARRY

## **Irish Football Association**

Morton MCKNIGHT  
William CAMPBELL

## **Scottish Football Association**

Donald MCVICAR

## **Football Association of Wales**

Trefor LLOYD HUGHES

## **FIFA Administration**

Hans Ulrich SCHNEIDER  
José María GARCIA ARANDA  
Jean-Paul BRIGGER  
Pekka ODRIOSOLA

## **FA Administration**

Joseph OAKESHOTT – minutes

## **I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Football Association Chairman, Mr Geoffrey Thompson, welcomed the members to the 2007 Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board and to Manchester. He also made a special mention of Ray Lewis, attending as the Chairman of the FA Referees Committee, and Trefor Lloyd Hughes, Treasurer of the Football Association of Wales who were attending their first meeting.

The Fédération Internationale de Football Association President, Mr Joseph S Blatter thanked Mr Geoffrey Thompson and The Football Association for hosting the meeting and highlighted FIFA's appreciation of the British Associations for giving football to the world and for continuing to be the guardians of the Laws of the Game.

## **II. MINUTES**

The IFAB unanimously approved the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Palace Hotel, Lucerne, Switzerland, on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2006 at 0930hrs.

The IFAB unanimously approved the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held at the Home of FIFA, Zurich, Switzerland, on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2006 at 10.00 hours.

### III. LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

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

#### 1. Law 1 – The Field of Play

(Submitted by the Scottish Football Association)

##### *Decisions of the International FA Board*

<b>Present Text</b>	<b>Proposed Text</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There shall be no advertising of any kind within the technical area or within one metre from the touch line and outside the field of play on the ground. Further, no advertising shall be allowed in the area between the goal line and the goal nets.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>There should be no advertising of any kind on the ground within the technical area or within one metre from the touchline. Further, no advertising shall be allowed in the area between the goal line and the goal nets.</b></li></ul>

##### *Amendments*

##### *Decisions*

The proposal submitted by The Scottish Football Association was approved.

## 2. Law 4 – The Players Equipment

(Submitted by the Scottish Football Association)

### **Basic Equipment**

The basic compulsory equipment of a player comprises the following separate items:

<b>Present Text</b>	<b>Proposed Text</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a jersey or shirt</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a jersey or shirt – if thermal undergarments are worn, the colour of the sleeve should be the same main colour as the sleeve of the jersey or shirt.</li></ul>

### **Reason**

Thermal undergarments are often a different colour from the registered kit colours of teams, a situation which can change the appearance of a jersey, when the undergarment is long-sleeved and the jersey short-sleeved.

### **This proposal was amended as follows:**

<b>Present Text</b>	<b>Proposed Text</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a jersey or shirt</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a jersey or shirt – <b>if undergarments are worn, the colour of the sleeve should be the same main colour as the sleeve of the jersey or shirt.</b></li></ul>

### **Additional new item:**

<b>Present Text</b>	<b>Proposed Text</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• shorts – if thermal undershorts are worn, they are of the same main colour as the shorts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• shorts – <b>if undershorts are worn, they are of the same main colour as the shorts</b></li></ul>

### **Amendments**

### **Decisions**

The proposal submitted by The Scottish Football Association and amended by the Board was approved.



### 3. Law 4 - The Players Equipment

(Submitted by FIFA)

#### Decision 1

Present Text	Proposed Text
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Players must not reveal undershirts that contain slogans or advertising</li><li>• A player removing his jersey to reveal slogans or advertising will be sanctioned by the competition organiser.</li><li>• Jerseys must have sleeves</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Players must not reveal undershirts that contain slogans or advertising. <b>The basic compulsory equipment must not contain any political, religious or personal statements.</b></li><li>• A player removing his jersey to reveal slogans or advertising will be sanctioned by the competition organiser. <b>The team of a player whose basic compulsory equipment contains political, religious or personal slogans or statements will be sanctioned by the competition organiser or by FIFA.</b></li><li>• Jerseys must have sleeves</li></ul>

#### Reason:

For FIFA to be able to take action in such cases, it would be necessary to amend the FIFA Disciplinary Code, i.e. art. 2 dealing with the 'Scope of application'.

For Information: **FIFA Disciplinary Code**

Art. 2 Scope of application: material law

This code applies to every match and competition organised by FIFA. Beyond this scope, it also applies if a match official is harmed, if the basic compulsory equipment of a player contains political, religious or personal slogans, and, more generally, if the statutory objectives of FIFA are breached, especially with regard to forgery, corruption and doping.

The IFAB supported the submission to its 121<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of FIFA's proposed revision to Law 4, which had been drafted in the light of various incidents in official matches around the world and would enable disciplinary bodies to take action in the event of infringement.

#### Amendments

#### Decisions

The proposal submitted by FIFA was approved

**4. The Fifth Official**  
(Submitted by FIFA)

<p><b>Present Text</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed Text</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The fifth official may be appointed under the competition rules and officiates only if either of the two assistant referees is unable to continue.</li> <li>• The fifth official will be situated within the technical area in close proximity to the fourth official.</li> <li>• The fifth official would have no other duties.</li> </ul>
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This proposal was withdrawn in favour of the following proposal:

**The Fourth Official**  
(Submitted by FIFA)

***Amended first bullet point***

<p><b>Present Text</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The fourth official may be appointed under the competition rules and officiates if any of the three match officials is unable to continue. He assists the referee at all times.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Proposed Text</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The fourth official may be appointed under the competition rules and officiates if any of the three match officials is unable to continue, <b>unless a reserve assistant referee is appointed</b>. He assists the referee at all times.</li> </ul>
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***Additional extra bullet point***

<p><b>Present Text</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed Text</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A reserve assistant referee may also be appointed under competition rules. His only duty shall be to replace an assistant referee who is unable to continue or to replace the fourth official, as required.</b></li> </ul>
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***Amendments***

***Decisions***

The proposal submitted by FIFA and amended by the Board was approved.

## 5. Additional Instructions for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials

(Submitted by FIFA)

### *Celebration of a goal*

<b>Present Text</b>	<b>Proposed Text</b>
<p>A player must be cautioned when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• in the opinion of the referee, he makes gestures which are provocative, derisory or inflammatory</li><li>• he climbs on to a perimeter fence to celebrate a goal being scored</li><li>• he removes his shirt over his head or covers his head with his shirt</li></ul> <p>Leaving the field to celebrate a goal is not a cautionable offence in itself but it is essential that players return to the field as soon as possible.</p>	<p>A player must be cautioned when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• in the opinion of the referee, he makes gestures which are provocative, derisory or inflammatory</li><li>• he climbs on to a perimeter fence to celebrate a goal being scored</li><li>• he removes his shirt over his head or covers his head with his shirt</li><li>• he covers his face with a mask or other similar item to celebrate a goal</li></ul> <p>Leaving the field to celebrate a goal is not a cautionable offence in itself but it is essential that players return to the field as soon as possible.</p>

#### **Reason:**

This proposed amendment was motivated by the potentially increasingly common practice of players wearing masks during matches, which could tarnish the image of the game.

**This proposal was amended as follows:**

<b>Present Text</b>	<b>Proposed Text</b>
<p>A player must be cautioned when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• in the opinion of the referee, he makes gestures which are provocative, derisory or inflammatory</li><li>• he climbs on to a perimeter fence to celebrate a goal being scored</li><li>• he removes his shirt over his head or covers his head with his shirt</li></ul> <p>• Leaving the field to celebrate a goal is not a cautionable offence in itself but it is essential that players return to the field as soon as possible.</p>	<p>A player must be cautioned when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• in the opinion of the referee, he makes gestures which are provocative, derisory or inflammatory</li><li>• he climbs on to a perimeter fence to celebrate a goal being scored</li><li>• he removes his shirt over his head or covers his head with his shirt</li><li>• <b>he covers his head or face with a mask or other similar item to celebrate a goal</b></li></ul> <p>• Leaving the field to celebrate a goal is not a cautionable offence in itself but it is essential that players return to the field as soon as possible.</p>

***Amendments***

***Decisions***

The proposal submitted by FIFA and amended by the Board was approved.

## **IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

### **1. Protocol for dealing with injured players**

(Submitted by the Scottish Football Association)

The IFAB agreed after discussion that this issue would be referred to the IFAB Sub-Committee to produce a protocol with a view to testing it at a FIFA tournament in 2007.

### **2. The Ball – Adidas/Cairos new goal-line ball technology**

A presentation by Adidas on goal-line technology was received by the IFAB. Adidas were invited to demonstrate the technology to the IFAB Sub-Committee on 23 to 24 April 2007 in Zurich.

### **3. Italian Football Federation new goal-line technology**

The IFAB gave the Italian Football Federation permission to continue developing their goal-line technology for another year and to report to a future AGM of the IFAB. The development of goal-line technology should be not in official matches.

### **4. Premier League new goal-line technology**

A presentation by the Premier League on goal-line technology was received by the IFAB. They were given permission by the IFAB to continue developing the system and to report to a future AGM of the IFAB. Frédéric Thiriez of the French Ligue de Football Professionnel supported the Premier League presentation. The development of goal-line technology should be not in official matches.

#### **Goal-line Technology**

It was agreed by the IFAB that the development of goal-line technology should be judged on four key principles:

1. The technology would apply to the goal-line only and not to any other decision.
2. The system must be 100% accurate.
3. The indication of whether a goal has been scored or not must be immediate.
4. The indication is only for the match officials.

### **5. Pitch side TV monitors**

(Submitted by FIFA)

The IFAB agreed that the occupants of the technical area should not have access to pitch side TV monitors.

## **6. Video Evidence**

(Submitted by FIFA)

FIFA withdrew the item.

## **7. 'Flying Elbows'**

(Submitted by FIFA)

It was noted that due to an increasing number of serious injuries caused by elbows, referees would be asked to pay special attention to this issue.

## **8. Colour of Artificial Pitches**

(Submitted by FIFA)

The IFAB agreed that the colour of artificial pitches should be green and that this should be included in the FIFA Quality Concept and Questions and Answers 2007.

# **V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Referees' Communication Systems**

The IFAB approved FIFA's proposal of three key criteria for referees' communication systems:

1. It only links up the refereeing team (namely the referee, assistant referees, fourth OFFICIAL).
2. It is not broadcast.
3. It is not recorded.

It was decided that it would be included in the FIFA Quality Concept and communicated to member associations in a circular letter from FIFA.

### **Laws of the Game. Questions & Answers, Additional Instructions to Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials.**

The IFAB agreed to instruct the IFAB Sub-Committee to revise and update the Questions & Answers and the Additional Instructions to Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials for 2007.

Furthermore, the IFAB approved FIFA's proposal to instruct the IFAB Sub-Committee to carry out a revision of the Laws of the Game and the various related publications commencing immediately with a view to submitting the results to the IFAB at its 2007 Annual Business Meeting and its 122nd Annual General Meeting in 2008.

### **Sin Bins**

The Chairman Mr Thompson noted the offer from the English Football League that if at any time IFAB were to consider the possibility of "sin bins" in football they would be happy to conduct the experiment.

### **Additional Assistant Referees**

FIFA proposed the concept of 2 Additional Assistant Referees. The IFAB agreed to ask the IFAB Sub-Committee to consider the proposal.

### **Interpretation of the Laws of the Game**

It was agreed that FIFA send a letter to UEFA reminding the UEFA Referees' Committee to be consistent with IFAB instructions.

It was underlined that while the Laws of the Game and their interpretation are IFAB matters, the dissemination of the laws is FIFA's responsibility.

### **Hijab (Canada)**

IFAB noted the use of the hijab is covered under the Laws of the Game, Law 4.

Mr Geoffrey Thompson thanked outgoing FIFA Vice President David H. Will on behalf of the IFAB for representing the Home Associations with distinction and for his great service to football within the Scottish Football Association, IFAB and FIFA.

The FIFA President thanked The Football Association for their efficiency and organisation in Manchester and for expressing the English spirit of football in the conduct of the meeting.

## **VI. 2008 MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD**

The 2008 Annual General Meeting would be organised by The Scottish Football Association at The Gleneagles Hotel, Scotland on 7 to 9 March 2008.

Mr Geoffrey Thompson closed the meeting at 11.55.





