

# **THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

## **MINUTES of the 123<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

of the

## **INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD**

SLIEVE DONARD HOTEL, NEWCASTLE, NORTHERN IRELAND  
SATURDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2009

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**MINUTES**  
of the  
**123<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
of the

## **INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD**

held at the  
Slieve Donard Hotel  
NEWCASTLE, NORTHERN IRELAND

on

SATURDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2009  
at 09.30 hours

20 Windsor Avenue  
Belfast  
BT9 6EG

President  
THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

## **AGENDA**

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

### **II. MINUTES**

To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Gleneagles Hotel, Perthshire, Scotland on Saturday, 8 March 2008.

To confirm the minutes of the Special Meeting held by telephone conference on Thursday, 8 May 2008.

To confirm the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held at the Home of FIFA, Zurich on Thursday, 25 September 2008.

### **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 FIFA)

#### **2. Law 3 – The Number of Players**

(Submitted by The Scottish FA)

#### **3. Law 4 – The Players' Equipment**

(Submitted by The Scottish FA)

#### **4. Law 7 – The Duration of the Match**

(Submitted by FIFA)

#### **5. Law 11 – Offside**

(Submitted by FIFA)

(Amendment submitted by FIFA)

#### **6. Procedures to Determine the Winner of a Match or Home-And-Away**

Kicks from the Penalty Mark

(Submitted by The Football Association of Wales)

(Amendment submitted by FIFA)

#### **7. The Technical Area**

(Submitted by FIFA)

#### **8. Laws of the Game**

(Submitted by FIFA)

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

**1. Additional Assistant Referees**

(Submitted by FIFA)

**2. Instigation of 'Sin Bins'**

(Submitted by The Irish FA)

**3. Players leaving the Field of Play after Treatment**

(Submitted by The Scottish FA)

**4. Goal-Line Technology**

(Submitted by The Scottish FA)

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

#### **VI. 2010 MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD**

(Venue and date)

## **PRESENT**

### **The Irish Football Association**

Mr Raymond KENNEDY  
Mr David MARTIN  
Mr Neil JARDINE  
Mr William CAMPBELL

### **Fédération International de Football Association**

Mr Joseph S BLATTER  
Mr Ángel María VILLAR LLONA  
Mr Worawi MAKUDI  
Mr Jérôme VALCKE

### **The Football Association of Wales**

Mr Peter REES  
Mr Philip PRITCHARD  
Mr Trefor LLOYD-HUGHES  
Mr David COLLINS

### **The Football Association**

Lord David TRIESMAN  
Sir David RICHARDS  
Mr Ray LEWIS  
Mr Jonathan HALL

### **The Scottish Football Association**

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

## **ALSO PRESENT**

### **Fédération International de Football Association**

Mr Michel PLATINI – Special Guest  
Mr José Maria GARCIA-ARANDA  
Mr HansUlrich SCHNEIDER  
Mr Jean-Paul BRIGGER  
Mr Scott BURNETT  
Mr Nicolas MAINGOT

### **The Football Association**

Mr Neale BARRY

### **The Scottish Football Association**

Mr Donald McVICAR

### **The Irish Football Association – Administration**

Mrs Glenda DINES  
Miss Karen KEE

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

The Irish FA President, Mr Raymond Kennedy, welcomed the members to the 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board and to Northern Ireland.

He declared it an honour and privilege to preside over the meeting of the 'guardians of the Laws of the Game' and trusted, as in the past, that it would be a cordial and constructive meeting which would progress and benefit the game throughout the world.

He made a special mention of Mr Jonathan Hall, from The FA, Mr Worawi Makudi and Scott Burnett from FIFA, Glenda Dines and Karen Kee, from the Irish FA, who were all attending their first meeting of the IFAB.

## **II. MINUTES**

The IFAB unanimously approved the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Gleneagles Hotel, Perthshire, Scotland on Saturday, 8 March 2008.

The IFAB unanimously approved the minutes of the Special Meeting held by telephone conference on Thursday, 8 May 2008.

The IFAB unanimously approved the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held at the Home of FIFA, Zurich on Thursday, 25 September 2008.

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

#### 1. Law 1 – The Field of Play

(Submitted by FIFA)

##### *Field surface*

Present Text	Proposed Text
Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces, according to the rules of the competition.	Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces, according to the rules of the competition.
The colour of artificial surfaces must be green.	The colour of artificial surfaces must be green.
Where artificial surfaces are used in either competition matches between representative teams of member associations affiliated to FIFA or international club competition matches, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept for Artificial Turf or the International Artificial Turf Standard, unless special dispensation is given by FIFA.	Where artificial surfaces are used in either competition matches between representative teams of member associations affiliated to FIFA or international club competition matches, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf or the International Artificial Turf Standard, unless special dispensation is given by FIFA.

##### ***Reason***

FIFA has renamed the FIFA Quality Concept for Artificial Turf. The new designation is the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf. This change should be reflected in the Laws of the Game to ensure consistency.

##### ***Decision***

The proposal submitted by FIFA was approved.

## 2. Law 3 – The Number of Players

(Submitted by The Scottish Football Association)

### **Official Competitions**

Present Text	Proposed Text
<p>Up to a maximum of three substitutes may be used in any match played in an official competition organised under the auspices of FIFA, the confederations or the member associations.</p> <p>The rules of the competition must state how many substitutes may be nominated, from three up to a maximum of seven.</p>	<p>Up to a maximum of three substitutes may be used in any match played in an official competition organised under the auspices of FIFA, the confederations or the member associations. In the event of extra time being required to determine the winner of a match, the maximum substitutes allowed for each team will increase to 4 in such circumstances.</p> <p>The rules of the competition must state how many substitutes may be nominated, from three up to a maximum of seven.</p>

### **Reason**

With the increasing number of matches now being played and the resultant demands on players, the opportunity to play an additional substitute in extra time would be of advantage to teams.

### **Decision**

The proposal submitted by The Scottish Football Association was not approved. However, it was agreed that this matter should be placed on the agenda of the FIFA Football Committee and Technical & Development Committee for further discussion and debate.



**3. Law 4 – The Players’ Equipment**  
(Submitted by The Scottish Football Association)

***Basic Equipment***

<b>Present Text</b>	<b>Proposed Text</b>
<p>The basic compulsory equipment of a player comprises the following separate items;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A jersey or shirt with sleeves – if undergarments are worn, the colour of the sleeve must be the same colour as the sleeve of the jersey or shirt.</li><li>• Shorts – if undershorts are worn, they must be of the same main colour as the shorts</li><li>• Stockings</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shinguards</li><li>• Footwear</li></ul>	<p>The basic compulsory equipment of a player comprises the following separate items;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A jersey or shirt with sleeves – if undergarments are worn, the colour of the sleeve must be the same colour as the sleeve of the jersey or shirt.</li><li>• Shorts – if undershorts are worn, they must be of the same main colour as the shorts</li><li>• Stockings – if tape or similar material is applied externally it must be of the same main colour as the stockings</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shinguards</li><li>• Footwear</li></ul>

***Reason***

There is an increasing use of tape applied externally to stockings, primarily to ensure that shinguards stay in place. The tape can vary in width and often changes the predominant colour of the stocking. The proposal does not prevent the use of tape or similar material but ensures that there is no alteration to the team colours.

***Decision***

The proposal submitted by The Scottish Football Association was not approved.

#### 4. Law 7 – The Duration of the Match

(Submitted by FIFA)

##### *Half-Time Interval*

Present Text	Proposed Text
Players are entitled to an interval at half-time.	Players are entitled to an interval at half-time.
The half-time interval must not exceed 15 minutes.	The half-time interval must not exceed 20 minutes.
Competition rules must state the duration of the half-time interval.	Competition rules must state the duration of the half-time interval.
The duration of the half-time interval may be altered only with the consent of the referee.	The duration of the half-time interval may be altered only with the consent of the referee.

##### ***Reason***

The location of the dressing rooms in certain stadiums around the world is such that the walk from and back to the field of play can take players and match officials much of the current 15-minute half-time interval.

It is therefore proposed that the maximum duration of the half-time interval be increased to 20 minutes.

##### ***Decision***

The proposal submitted by FIFA was withdrawn.

**5. Law 11 – Offside**  
(Submitted by FIFA)

***Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and  
Guidelines for Referees***

***Infringements (page 100)***

<b>Present Text</b>	<b>Proposed Text</b>
<p>When an offside offence occurs, the referee awards an indirect free kick to be taken from the position of the offending player when the ball was last played to him by one of his team mates.</p> <p>If a defending player steps behind his own goal line in order to place an opponent in an offside position, the referee must allow play to continue and caution the defender for deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission when the ball is next out of play.</p>	<p>When an offside offence occurs, the referee awards an indirect free kick to be taken from the position of the offending player when the ball was last played to him by one of his team mates.</p> <p>Any defending player leaving the field of play for any reason without the referee's permission shall, until he returns to the field of play, be considered to be on his own goal line or touchline for the purposes of offside. If the player left the field of play or delayed his return to the field of play deliberately, he must be cautioned when the ball is next out of play.</p>

***Reason***

While there is a general understanding of the action to be taken when a defending player leaves the field of play placing an attacking player in an offside position, it is proposed that the wording of the Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines be made more explicit in order to clarify this situation.

**Amendment to Proposed Text**

(Submitted by FIFA)

When an offside offence occurs, the referee awards an indirect free kick to be taken from the position of the offending player when the ball was last played to him by one of his team mates.

Any defending player leaving the field of play for any reason without the referee's permission shall be considered to be on his own goal line or touchline for the purposes of offside until the next stoppage in play. If the player leaves the field of play deliberately, he must be cautioned when the ball is next out of play.

***Decision***

The amended proposal submitted by FIFA was approved

## 6. Procedures to Determine the Winner of a Match or Home-And-Away

(Submitted by the Football Association of Wales)

### *Kicks from the Penalty Mark*

<b>Present Text</b>	<b>Proposed Text</b>
<p>If at the end of the match and before the kicks start to be taken from the penalty mark, one team has a greater number of players than their opponents, they must reduce their numbers to equate with that of their opponents and the team captain must inform the referee of the name and number of each player excluded.</p>	<p>If at the end of the match and before the kicks start to be taken from the penalty mark, one team has a greater number of players than their opponents, they must reduce their numbers to equate with that of their opponents and the team captain must inform the referee of the name and number of each player excluded, the player who is excluded must not be the goalkeeper.</p>

### **Amendment to Proposed Text**

(Submitted by FIFA)

If at the end of the match and before the kicks start to be taken from the penalty mark, one team has a greater number of players than their opponents, they must reduce their numbers to equate with that of their opponents and the team captain must inform the referee of the name and number of each player excluded. Any player so excluded may not participate in kicks from the penalty mark.

### **Decision**

The amended proposal submitted by FIFA was approved

**7. The Technical Area**  
(Submitted by FIFA)

<b>Present Text</b>	<b>Proposed Text</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Only one person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions and he must return to his position after giving these instructions</li><li>• The coach and other officials must remain within the confines of the technical area except in special circumstances, for example, a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play, with the referee's permission, to assess an injured player.</li><li>• The coach and other occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible manner.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Only one person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions from the technical area.</li><li>• The coach and other officials must remain within the confines of the technical area except in special circumstances, for example, a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play, with the referee's permission, to assess an injured player.</li><li>• The coach and other occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible manner.</li></ul>

***Reason***

In order to avoid unnecessary conflicts between fourth officials and coaches or other occupants of the technical area, it is proposed that, provided they behave in a responsible manner, these persons be permitted to remain in the technical area and no longer be required to return to their position on the bench after conveying tactical instructions.

***Decision***

The proposal submitted by FIFA was approved

## **8. Laws of the Game**

(Submitted by FIFA)

New graphics throughout the Laws of the Game.

### ***Reason***

At present, various styles of graphic appear in the Laws of the Game. It is proposed that the existing graphics be replaced with images of a single, contemporary style and that these graphics also be used in teaching materials and training courses to improve recognition of the concepts illustrated and thus promote more uniform understanding and implementation of the Laws of the Game.

### ***Decision***

The proposal submitted by FIFA was approved.

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

### **1. Additional Assistant Referees**

(Submitted by FIFA)

Mr Ángel María Villar Llona, on behalf of FIFA, presented a comprehensive report on the experiment conducted during UEFA U-19 European Championship qualifying tournaments in Slovenia, Hungary and Cyprus and a DVD presentation was shown.

A full discussion followed during which FIFA requested permission to extend the experiment into a full league season in a professional league where matches would be televised and the number of spectators and media would be high. It was noted that any such experiment would result in a proposal being brought to the Board at its meeting in 2011 which would allow a full analysis of any such experiment.

The Board unanimously approved this recommendation. The IFAB Technical Sub-Committee was charged with producing definitive criteria, protocols and arrangements for this experiment.

### **2. Instigation of ‘Sin Bins’**

(Submitted by The Irish Football Association)

The Irish Football Association instigated a discussion on the principle of temporary expulsions (‘Sin Bins’), and following this it was agreed that this matter would not be progressed further.

### **3. Players leaving the Field of Play after Treatment**

(Submitted by The Scottish FA)

George Peat, on behalf of The Scottish Football Association, expressed concern at the current regulations which required players to leave the field of play having received treatment.

The members noted with some sympathy circumstances which could result in a defending team being disadvantaged by this ruling, and it was agreed that this matter be placed before the Technical Sub-Committee for investigation with a view to a proposal being brought to the Annual Business Meeting in the autumn.

### **4. Goal-Line Technology**

(Submitted by The Scottish FA)

Gordon Smith, on behalf of The Scottish Football Association, sought clarification from FIFA as to where the issue of goal-line technology now stood, and it was noted that Cairo had recently contacted FIFA indicating they had made further technological advances. It was decided that should this be the case this matter could be brought to the attention of the Annual Business Meeting. Otherwise, the issue of goal-line technology remained on “ice”.



## **V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The FIFA President, Mr J S Blatter, noted that the International Football Association Board Meeting had been conducted with respect and discipline and expressed his view that the game would be improved if players and fans behaved in a similar manner.

He thanked the Irish Football Association for their hospitality and organisation and particularly complimented the Chairman on his excellent handling of the Meeting.

## **VI. 2010 MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD**

The President of FIFA invited the delegates to attend the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board from the 5-7 March 2010 at the Home of FIFA in Zurich.

Mr Raymond Kennedy closed the meeting at 11.02 am.

### Note

At the conclusion of the Meeting the International Football Association Board paid tribute to three former stalwarts of the Board from Northern Ireland Messrs E N Barry CB, D I Bowen and J Boyce who were presented with appropriate mementoes.