

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of the 124TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

**INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION BOARD**



HOME OF FIFA, ZURICH, SWITZERLAND
SATURDAY, 6 MARCH 2010

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FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES
of the
124TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

held at the
Home of FIFA
ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

on

SATURDAY, 6 MARCH 2010
at 09.30 hours



Secretary General
FIFA

FIFA-Strasse 20
P.O. Box
8044 Zurich



March 2010

AGENDA

I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

II. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle, Northern Ireland on Saturday, 28 February 2009.

To confirm the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held at the Home of FIFA, Zurich, Switzerland on Tuesday, 20 October 2009.

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 1 – The Field of Play**
(Submitted by The Football Association)
3. **Law 5 – The Referee**
(Submitted by The Scottish Football Association)

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

- 1. Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct**
(Submitted by FIFA)
- 2. Law 14 – The Penalty Kick**
(Submitted by FIFA)
- 3. The Fourth Official**
(Submitted by The Scottish Football Association)
- 4. Additional Assistant Referees**
(Submitted by FIFA)
- 5. Goal-Line Technology**
(Continuation of discussions at the 122nd Annual General Meeting)

V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- VI. 2011 MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD**
(Venue and date)

PRESENT

Fédération International de Football Association

Mr Joseph S BLATTER
Mr Julio GRONDONA
Mr Ángel María VILLAR LLONA
Mr Jérôme VALCKE

The Football Association

Lord David TRIESMAN
Sir David RICHARDS
Mr David Elleray
Mr Ian WATMORE

The Scottish Football Association

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

The Irish Football Association

Mr Raymond KENNEDY
Mr David MARTIN
Mr Neil JARDINE
Mr Patrick NELSON

The Football Association of Wales

Mr Philip PRITCHARD
Mr Kenneth TUCKER
Mr Trefor LLOYD-HUGHES
Mr Jonathan FORD

ALSO PRESENT

Fédération International de Football Association

Mr Michel PLATINI – special guest
Mr Fernando TRESACO GRACIA
Mr Hansulrich SCHNEIDER
Mr Jean-Paul BRIGGER
Mr Nicolas MAINGOT
Mr Alex STONE
Mr Scott BURNETT

The Football Association

Mr Neale BARRY

The Scottish Football Association

Mr Hugh DALLAS

The Irish Football Association

Mr William CAMPBELL

The Football Association of Wales

Mr David GRIFFITHS
Mr David COLLINS – special guest

I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The FIFA President, Mr Joseph S. Blatter, welcomed the members to the 124th Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) and to the Home of FIFA, which was hosting the Annual General Meeting for the first time since opening its doors in 2006.

Declaring it an honour and great pleasure to chair the meeting, he underlined the pivotal contribution that the IFAB had made in spawning the popularity of association football worldwide by defending the universal nature of the Laws of the Game. He acknowledged the critical role played by match officials in enforcing the Laws consistently on the field of play and the challenging nature of their task due to the intense scrutiny to which their decisions were subjected by contemporary media coverage.

Mr Blatter extended special words of welcome to Messrs David Elleray and Ian Watmore of The Football Association, Mr Hugh Dallas of the Scottish Football Association, Messrs Kenneth Tucker, David Griffiths and Jonathan Ford of the Football Association of Wales, Mr Patrick Nelson of the Irish Football Association, and Mr Fernando Tresaco Gracia of FIFA, all of whom were attending their first Annual General Meeting of the IFAB.

He then invited the members to observe a minute's silence in memory of FIFA Honorary Vice-President and former President of the Scottish Football Association, Mr David Will, who had attended numerous previous meetings of the IFAB and had sadly passed away in September 2009.

II. MINUTES

The IFAB unanimously approved the minutes of the 123rd Annual General Meeting held at the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle, County Down, Northern Ireland on Saturday, 28 February 2009.

The IFAB unanimously approved the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held at the Home of FIFA, Zurich on Tuesday, 20 October 2009.

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)

Goals

Present Text	Proposed Text
The goalposts and crossbar must be made of wood, metal or other approved material. They may be square, rectangular, round or elliptical in shape and must not be dangerous to players.	The goalposts and crossbar must be made of wood, metal or other approved material. They must be square, rectangular, round or elliptical in shape and must not be dangerous to players.

Reason

The current definition requires clarification in order to indicate that goalposts of any other shape are not permitted.

Decision

The proposal was approved.

2. Law 1 – The Field of Play

(Submitted by The Football Association)

Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees

Logos and emblems

Present Text	Proposed Text
The reproduction, whether real or virtual, of representative logos or emblems of FIFA, confederations, member associations, leagues, clubs or other bodies is forbidden on the field of play, the goal nets and the areas they enclose, the goals, the flagposts and their flags during playing time.	The reproduction, whether real or virtual, of representative logos or emblems of FIFA, confederations, member associations, leagues, clubs or other bodies is forbidden on the field of play, the goal nets and the areas they enclose, the goals and the flagposts during playing time.

Reason

The interpretation of Law 1 (formerly IFAB Decisions on Law 1) prohibits advertising of any kind on corner flags. Competition organisers and clubs have placed their logos/emblems/name on corner flags in the past despite the ban which has been in place for many years. It is believed that competition organisers and clubs should be allowed to have their name or emblem or logo on corner flags whilst still prohibiting other commercial/sponsors advertising.

Decision

The proposal was withdrawn.

3. Law 5 – The Referee*

(Submitted by The Scottish Football Association)

a) Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees

Injured Players

Present Text	Proposed Text
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a player is not allowed to receive treatment on the field of play	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a player is not allowed to receive treatment on the field of play, unless his injury is sustained as a result of an offence committed against him by an opponent

Reason

The law was implemented to discourage unnecessary time wasting or breakages in play. In general terms, this has not been successful. Moreover, teams who have been the victims of foul play have been unfairly disadvantaged by the enforced removal of their player, in some cases neutralising the effectiveness of the referee's original award.

Decision

The proposal was not approved. However, as a result of some sympathy for the motives for the proposal, it was agreed that the matter would be discussed further by the IFAB technical sub-committee with a view to drafting a revised proposal.

* This item was initially submitted for discussion. The proposed amendments to Law 5 – The Referee were subsequently submitted by the Scottish Football Association in accordance with the Rules of the International Football Association Board.

Other bulletpoints in the existing procedure for dealing with injured players would require adjustment as a consequence of this amendment, as follows:

Present Text	Proposed Text
<p>The referee must adhere to the following procedure when dealing with injured players:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play is allowed to continue until the ball is out of play if a player is, in the opinion of the referee, only slightly injured • play is stopped if, in the opinion of the referee, a player is seriously injured • after questioning the injured player, the referee may authorise one, or at most two doctors, to enter the field of play to assess the injury and arrange the player's safe and swift removal from the field of play • the stretcher-bearers should enter the field of play with a stretcher at the same time as the doctors to allow the player to be removed as quickly as possible • the referee must ensure an injured player is safely removed from the field of play • a player is not allowed to receive treatment on the field of play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any player bleeding from a wound must leave the field of play. He may not return until the referee is satisfied that the bleeding has stopped. A player is not permitted to wear clothing with blood on it • as soon as the referee has authorised the doctors to enter the field of play, the player must leave the field of play, either on a stretcher or on foot. If a player does not comply, he must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour • an injured player may only return to the field of play after the match has restarted • when the ball is in play, an injured player must re-enter the field of play from the touch line. When the ball is out of play, the injured player may re-enter from any of the boundary lines 	<p>The referee must adhere to the following procedure when dealing with injured players:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play is allowed to continue until the ball is out of play if a player is, in the opinion of the referee, only slightly injured • play is stopped if, in the opinion of the referee, a player is seriously injured • after questioning the injured player, the referee may authorise one, or at most two doctors, to enter the field of play to assess the injury and arrange the player's safe and swift removal from the field of play • the stretcher-bearers should enter the field of play with a stretcher at the same time as the doctors to allow the player to be removed as quickly as possible • the referee must ensure an injured player is safely removed from the field of play • <u>a player is not allowed to receive treatment on the field of play, unless his injury is sustained as a result of an offence committed against him by an opponent</u> • any player bleeding from a wound must leave the field of play. He may not return until the referee is satisfied that the bleeding has stopped. A player is not permitted to wear clothing with blood on it • <u>as soon as the referee has authorised the doctors to enter the field of play, a player who is not allowed to receive treatment on the field of play must leave it, either on a stretcher or on foot. If a player does not comply, he must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour</u> • <u>an injured player who has left the field of play may only return to it after the match has restarted</u> • <u>when the ball is in play, an injured player who has left the field of play must re-enter it from the touch line. When the ball is out of play, the injured player may re-enter from any of the boundary lines</u>

Present Text

- irrespective of whether the ball is in play or not, only the referee is authorised to allow an injured player to re-enter the field of play
- the referee may give permission for an injured player to return to the field of play if an assistant referee or the fourth official verifies that the player is ready
- if play has not otherwise been stopped for another reason, or if an injury suffered by a player is not the result of a breach of the Laws of the Game, the referee must restart play with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the goal area, in which case the referee drops the ball on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped
- the referee must allow for the full amount of time lost through injury to be played at the end of each period of play
- once the referee has decided to issue a card to a player who is injured and has to leave the field of play for treatment, the referee must issue the card before the player leaves the field of play

Proposed Text

- irrespective of whether the ball is in play or not, only the referee is authorised to allow an injured player to re-enter the field of play
- the referee may give permission for an injured player to return to the field of play if an assistant referee or the fourth official verifies that the player is ready
- if play has not otherwise been stopped for another reason, or if an injury suffered by a player is not the result of a breach of the Laws of the Game, the referee must restart play with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the goal area, in which case the referee drops the ball on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped
- the referee must allow for the full amount of time lost through injury to be played at the end of each period of play
- once the referee has decided to issue a card to a player who is injured and has to leave the field of play for treatment, the referee must issue the card before the player leaves the field of play

Decision

Since proposal 3a) was not approved. The above amendments were not necessary.

3. Law 5 – The Referee

(Submitted by The Scottish Football Association)

b) Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees

Injured Players

Present Text	Proposed Text
<p>Exceptions to this ruling are to be made only when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a goalkeeper is injured• a goalkeeper and an outfield player have collided and need immediate attention • a severe injury has occurred, e.g. swallowed tongue, concussion, broken leg	<p>Exceptions to this ruling are to be made only when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a goalkeeper is injured• a goalkeeper and an outfield player have collided and need immediate attention• <u>o</u> players from the same team have collided and need immediate attention• a severe injury has occurred, e.g. swallowed tongue, concussion, broken leg

Reason

It is considered unfair that players of the same team who collide are currently required to leave the field of play to receive treatment leaving the team concerned at a numerical disadvantage.

Decision

The proposal was approved.

3. Law 5 – The Referee

(Submitted by The Scottish Football Association)

c) Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees

Injured Players

Present Text

- the stretcher-bearers should enter the field of play with a stretcher at the same time as the doctors to allow the player to be removed as quickly as possible

Proposed Text

- stretcher-bearers should only enter the field of play with a stretcher following a signal from the referee

Reason

Stretcher-bearers' mandatory entry onto the field of play for all injuries where a doctor is requested frequently causes unnecessary disruption to the game.

Decision

The proposal was approved.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

1. Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

(Submitted by FIFA)

Sending-off offences

Present Text

A player, substitute or substituted player is sent off if he commits any of the following seven offences:

- ...
- denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
- denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick

Reason

To discuss sending-off offences, particularly the triple punishment (penalty kick, red card, player suspension) that results when a player denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to the opposing team by an offence punishable by a penalty kick.

Decision

In view of some sympathy for the FIFA Football Committee's calls for a revision of the sanctions, which it considers overly severe, on a player who denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards his goal by an offence punishable by a penalty kick, it was agreed after lengthy discussion that this point would be investigated further by the IFAB technical sub-committee, whose conclusions would be presented to the IFAB at a Special Meeting on 18 May 2010.

2. Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

(Submitted by FIFA)

Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees

Procedure

Present Text

Feinting to take a penalty kick to confuse opponents is permitted as part of football. However, if, in the opinion of the referee, the feinting is considered an act of unsporting behaviour, the player must be cautioned.

Reason

To discuss the procedure and players' feinting and stopping during the run-up to take a penalty kick

Decision

It was agreed that this topic would be discussed further by the IFAB technical sub-committee in preparation for presentation at a Special Meeting of the IFAB on 18 May 2010.

3. The Fourth Official

(Submitted by The Scottish Football Association)

In acknowledgement of the Scottish Football Association's proposal that the scope of the fourth official's duty to assist the referee be extended to allow him to offer support and advice on matters not covered under the existing Laws of the Game, it was agreed after debate that the technical sub-committee would examine the matter in more detail and report back to the IFAB with its conclusions along with any proposed amendment to the existing definition.

4. Additional Assistant Referees

(Submitted by FIFA)

Mr Blatter explained that since the IFAB's decision at its 123rd Annual General Meeting in February 2009 to authorise an experiment with additional assistant referees at professional level, the group phase of the UEFA Europa League 2009/2010 had been confirmed as the testing ground. Furthermore, at its annual business meeting in October 2009, the IFAB had confirmed that the experiment would be extended to the end of the knock-out phase of the competition in view of the higher stakes and pressure in these later rounds.

Mr Donald McVicar, the coordinator appointed by the IFAB to analyse and evaluate the experiment, presented a summary of the findings after the 144 matches of the group phase, which had been collated on the basis of reports filed by the match officials (referee, assistant referees, fourth official and additional assistant referees) and referee observers after each match in conjunction with full video recordings. His report, which was complemented by video clips to highlight various benefits and drawbacks identified during the experiment, explained the impact on decisions and teamwork, and safety issues in relation to the additional assistant referees. A written summary was also distributed.

Following on from this report, it was agreed that the IFAB would defer any decision on additional assistant referees until the experiment concluded with the UEFA Europa League final on 12 May 2010. In order to avoid any undue delay, the IFAB would convene for a Special Meeting in Zurich on 18 May 2010 when the final analysis of the experiment would be presented and a decision reached.

5. Goal-Line Technology

(continuation of discussions at the 122nd Annual General Meeting)

Delegations from adidas/Cairos Technologies and Hawk Eye Innovations gave brief presentations on the latest status of their respective goal-line technology projects, using chip-in-ball technology in the case of adidas/Cairos and high-resolution cameras in the case of Hawk Eye

A range of views were voiced during the subsequent debate concerning the place of technology in football. Despite interest from the FA and the Scottish FA in conducting an experiment with goal line technology in its competitions, the use of goal line technology and indeed technology in general within the game was ultimately rejected by majority decision.

V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Vanishing spray paint for referees

(submitted by FIFA)

Mr Fernando Tresaco-Gracia, on behalf of FIFA, sought guidance from the IFAB so that a formal directive could be issued in the face of referees in a number of leagues in Central and South America using a spray paint that subsequently vanished to mark on the pitch the position of a free kick and the minimum 9.15m distance from the ball for the defensive wall. Other leagues had also since made queries as to whether its use was permitted.

Following a short discussion, the IFAB confirmed that it would not permit the use of this spray paint as it did not comply with the Laws of the Game.

2. Laws of the Game Trivia

(submitted by FIFA)

The IFAB welcomed the launch of an interactive Laws of the Game Trivia CD-Rom produced by FIFA for use at all levels of the game in the teaching and assessment of referees in order to raise standards worldwide and ensure uniform interpretation of the Laws of the Game. It was noted that the material would be distributed to the confederations and associations, and would appear on the FIFA website in due course.

3. Hot Topics for 2010 FIFA World Cup™

(submitted by FIFA)

The IFAB approved the distribution of a CD-Rom to referees appointed for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ highlighting key issues concerning the interpretation and application of the Laws of the Game that were to be focused on during the tournament, including elbowing, holding and hand ball. The material would also be presented to the delegations (players, coaching staff, functionaries) of all 32 teams participating in the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ prior to the start of the tournament.

4. Authoritative language for the Laws of the Game

(submitted by FIFA)

It was agreed that a sentence would be added to the Notes on the Laws of the Game (printed on page 3 of the 2009/2010 edition) to confirm that the English version was authoritative in the event of discrepancies between language versions. The wording would be based on article 8 paragraph 4 of the FIFA Statutes.

5. Entry into force of Laws of the Game 2010/2011

(submitted by FIFA)

In view of the fact that the Rules of the International Football Association Board stated that any amendments to the Laws of the Game passed at the Annual General Meeting customarily came into force only on 1 July and following a similar ruling in 2006, the IFAB unanimously agreed that the decisions of the 124th IFAB Annual General Meeting would come into force on 1 June 2010 in order to apply for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™, which kicked off on 11 June.

Before closing the meeting, Mr Blatter presented a small replica of the FIFA World Cup trophy to the recently retired Secretary General of the Football Association of Wales, Mr David Collins, in recognition of his many years loyal service to the IFAB and football in general. Mr Collins said that it had been an immense privilege to have worked with the IFAB, and he lauded the members on their work as guardians of the Laws of the Game,

VI. 2011 MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

The President of the Football Association of Wales, Mr Philip Pritchard, announced that the 125th Annual General Meeting would be held at the Celtic Manor Hotel, Newport, South Wales on 4-6 March 2011. In view of this landmark anniversary, the full FIFA Executive Committee would be invited to attend the meeting as observers.

After thanking the members for their insightful contribution to the debates, Mr Blatter closed the meeting at 1.32pm.

On behalf of the board, Mr Raymond Kennedy congratulated Mr Blatter on the manner in which he had chaired the meeting.

