



127th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

International Football Association Board





FIFA



MINUTES
of the 127TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD
2ND MARCH 2013



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PRESENT

The Scottish FA	Campbell Ogilvie (Chair) Alan McRae Rod Petrie Stewart Regan John Fleming
FIFA	Joseph S. Blatter Ángel María Villar Llona Issa Hayatou Jeffrey Webb Jérôme Valcke
The Football Association	David Bernstein David Gill David Elleray Alex Horne Neale Barry
The Irish Football Association	Jim Shaw Terry Pateman Patrick Nelson William Campbell
The Football Association of Wales	Trefor Lloyd Hughes David Griffiths Jonathan Ford John Deakin
FIFA Administration	Jean-Paul Brigger Massimo Busacca Lukas Brud Edward Brown Alex Stone Brian Alexander
Minutes	Drew Herbertson (The Scottish FA)



I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

On behalf of the Scottish FA, the Chairman welcomed the members to the 127th Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board.

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to the FIFA President Mr. Blatter and to the members of the FIFA delegation, including Jeffrey Webb, who was attending his first meeting of the Board. He indicated that the meeting had some significance, since FIFA had become a member of the IFAB 100 years ago in 1913.

The Chairman welcomed the other delegations and extended his congratulations to The Football Association which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. He made particular reference to David Bernstein of the Football Association who was attending the IFAB for the last time and thanked him for his contribution.

The Chairman mentioned the deaths since the last meeting of Dave Sexton, a former club manager and renowned coach in England, Jack Taylor of England, the referee of the 1974 FIFA World Cup Final, Alan McDonald, a former Northern Irish international, Malcolm Brodie, a highly respected journalist in Northern Ireland and of Jack Bryson and Raymond Kelly, two past members of the Scottish FA's Council and who had served the game in Scotland with distinction over many years.

The Chairman invited the FIFA President Mr. Blatter to address the meeting.

Mr. Blatter thanked the Chairman. He indicated that this was a historic date, especially for FIFA given that it was 100 years since it had been invited to join the IFAB. He paid tribute to the generosity of IFAB to have invited delegates from FIFA in 1913. He said that FIFA had been happy and proud to be members of IFAB for 100 years. Given his own personal long connection with IFAB, he required to pay his respects to the IFAB and conveyed that had it not been for the IFAB being so wonderful custodians of the Laws of the Game, the world would not have had such a wonderful game. The conservative approach adopted by the IFAB and its good maintenance of the Laws and resistance to change has made a major contribution to the development of football.

Mr. Blatter continued by saying that football connects people in the world and that it is a wonderful and powerful game as a result. He referred to various countries such as Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, which had been affected by conflict in recent times and where football still continued to be played during such conflicts. He referred to issues such as corruption, violence, discrimination and match fixing which had crept into football from society in recent years. Rather than say at this moment how such problems should be dealt with, he conveyed that solidarity within football will help eradicate these problems from the game.

Recognising the economic restrictions which are affecting the world, he considered that football can play its part in connecting people.

He concluded his remarks by expressing his thanks to the Scottish FA for its organisation of the meeting and saying that he was proud to be in attendance.

II. MINUTES

The IFAB confirmed and unanimously approved the minutes of the following meetings:

- i) The Annual General Meeting held at Pennyhill Park Hotel, Surrey, England on 3rd March 2012
- ii) The Special Meeting held at the Home of FIFA, Zurich, Switzerland on 5th July, 2012, and
- iii) The Annual Business meeting held at Mar Hall, Bishopton, Scotland on 2nd October, 2012

III. LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

1. **Law 8** – Start and Restart of play
 - i) Dropped ball – Contested/Uncontested (submitted by FIFA)

Present text (amended at AGM 2012)	Proposed text
<p>Infringements and sanctions If the ball enters the goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if a dropped ball is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal kick is awarded • if a dropped ball is kicked directly into the teams' own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team 	<p>Infringements and sanctions If the ball enters the goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if a dropped ball is kicked directly (not touched by another player) into the opponent's goal, a goal kick is awarded • if a dropped ball is kicked directly (not touched by another player) into the team's own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team

Reason

Law 8 – Start and Restart of play (dropped ball) was subject to a Law change at the 2012 AGM.

The proposed new text will clarify the interpretation of the word "direct" in the context of any player playing the ball more than once and thereafter scoring a goal without the ball being played by any other player.

Decision

The proposal was withdrawn following a recommendation from FIFA that further time was required to appropriately clarify the interpretation of a dropped ball, given that it had received various enquiries on this point from National Associations.



2. **Law 11 – Offside Interpretation of the Laws of the Game**
 i) Discussion on “interfering with an opponent/gaining an advantage” (submitted by FIFA)

Present text (amended at AGM 2012)	Proposed text
<p>In the context of Law 11 – Offside, the following definitions apply: (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “interfering with play” means playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a team-mate • “interfering with an opponent” means preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent’s line of vision • “gaining an advantage by being in that position” means playing a ball that rebounds to him off a goalpost or the crossbar having been in an offside position or playing a ball that rebounds to him off an opponent having been in an offside position 	<p>In the context of Law 11 – Offside, the following definitions apply: (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “interfering with play” means playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a team-mate • “interfering with an opponent” means preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent’s line of vision or challenging an opponent for the ball. • “gaining an advantage by being in that position” means playing a ball <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I) that rebounds or is deflected to him off the goalpost, crossbar or an opponent having been in an offside position II) that rebounds, is deflected or is played to him from a deliberate save by an opponent having been in an offside position <p>A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent, who deliberately plays the ball (except from a deliberate save), is not considered to have gained an advantage.</p>

Reason

The current wording creates many discussions as it gives too much room for interpretation and is not precise enough. The new text is more in line with actual game situations and will eliminate the confusion regarding what is meant by rebound, deflection and when the ball has been deliberately saved.

Decision

The proposal was approved.

Mr. Blatter expressed his thanks to the IFAB for this decision and to the Technical Committee for its preparatory work. He said that the game of football would be destroyed, in the tactical sense, if offside was removed from the Laws of the Game and that the clarification decided upon would be beneficial.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

1. Use of Electronic Performance Monitoring Systems (submitted by the Scottish FA)

Mr. Regan offered the view that coaching is becoming more sophisticated in the techniques which are used through sports science and data collection and gave a brief resume of the operation and coaching benefits of performance monitoring systems. He indicated that the Scottish FA was proposing that the IFAB should form a consultation group to explore the future possibilities offered by such systems and that the use of data at this stage should be limited to half time, full time and to team doctors (the latter to use a limited version of the system).

Mr. Ford indicated that the FA of Wales had no issue with such technological advances but felt that football needed to remain pure and such devices should not be allowed to be used by coaches in the Technical Area. However, the FA of Wales did support the proposal of a group being formed to consider the medical benefits of such technology.

For the Irish FA, Mr. Nelson said that he had viewed the presentation at the Annual Business Meeting with interest and recognised that there were many providers. It was indicated that the Irish FA supported the introduction of a group as suggested.

On behalf of the FIFA delegation, Mr. Blatter referred to the steps taken over a period of time to agree to the introduction of goal line technology and that, during that process, it had been repeatedly stated that this would be the only technology to be introduced into football and that now the IFAB was discussing another form of technology. Having listened to the presentation, he considered within the realms of possibilities that if a chip was inserted into a player's jersey now, the very near future would see a small camera fitted into the jersey. He expressed the view that the IFAB had to be very careful about this new technology and that it has to care about the game. Notwithstanding the potential benefits in regard to the monitoring of players' health, he was concerned about the impact on tactics within the game and expressed fear that this was not the correct direction in which football should go. Mr. Blatter did accept that a working group could consider the implications of having performance monitoring systems in the game.

Mr. Bernstein indicated that the FA was happy with the setting up of a group. He indicated that he concurred with Mr. Blatter's view that the use of such technology could be a step in the wrong direction.

Mr. Regan, whilst understanding the views which had been expressed, wondered if the current Laws of the Game prevented this potential development from happening, recognising that monitoring devices are already being used across the world with chips in footwear and clothing which allow data transfer to take place without interfering with the game itself. How could referees possibly police the usage of these devices? Could we be creating a problem for ourselves?

Mr. Ogilvie acknowledged the mixed views which had been expressed concerning the technology. Notwithstanding this, it was taken that there was general agreement to form the consultation group as proposed.



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2. Goal-line technology

(submitted by FIFA)

i) Update on all developments

Mr. Valcke confirmed that FIFA had issued a circular in regard to GLT following the Special Meeting in July 2012 and that the decisions will be incorporated into the printed version of the Laws of the Game for 2013/14.

He reported that four companies had been granted licences by FIFA, that the costs of systems were now starting to fall and that strong interest in GLT had emerged following IFAB's decision to allow its use.

Mr. Valcke also reported on the use of GLT in the FIFA Club World Cup in Japan in December 2012. A video of the Championship was shown, highlighting the setting up and testing of the equipment in stadia and the referees' pre-match checks. It was noted that GLT had been used in all 8 matches of the Championship.

Mr. Valcke referred to a document on GLT which had been provided to the members and which FIFA would be issuing to Member Associations. It was noted that the document is intended for use by competition organisers and serves as a support for the implementation of GLT and as a guide to its development in recent years.

ii) Matters arising with implementation

Mr. Valcke expressed the view that the use of the GLT system in the FIFA Club World Cup had demonstrated to him that the human eye had its limits in trying to accurately determine whether or not the ball had crossed the goal line. He cited a recent example from a UEFA Champions League match to substantiate his comment.

Mr. Valcke indicated that the issue of dealing with video replays of contentious GLT incidents in stadia remained to be addressed.

It was agreed that it should be for the competition organiser to decide on such an issue, rather than it being for IFAB to determine.

It was also decided that it should be for the competition organiser to decide on the use of GLT in its competitions. There was unanimous agreement that if the facility of GLT was available in a stadium, it should be used as there was no advantage to either team.

It was noted that amendments to the FIFA Quality Programme Testing Manual 2012 had been approved at the Annual Business Meeting in October 2012.

3. Additional Assistant Referees

(submitted by FIFA)

Mr. Valcke reported that FIFA had issued a circular on Additional Assistant Referees following the approval given at the previous Annual Business meeting in October 2012 to the Law amendment agreed at the Special Meeting in July 2012 and that the relevant text would be incorporated into the printed version of the Laws of the Game for 2013/14.

4. Law 4 – The Players’ Equipment (“Headscarf”)
(submitted by FIFA)

Mr. Blatter indicated that a final decision on this matter would be taken at the 2014 AGM. He said that the trial experiment was only for women’s football and for the protection of women in certain countries. He required to make this clear as the experiment was not intended for men’s football, despite requests being received by FIFA.

Mr. Bernstein said that the Football Association was very positive about this development and that it would be interested to see if there were health and safety issues evident, if such evidence existed. He concurred with Mr. Blatter’s view that the experiment was for women’s football only.

Mr. Regan indicated that the Scottish FA had always regarded the issue as aiding greater participation in football and that it was content to review the issue in 2014.

The FA of Wales and the Irish FA were also content for the matter to be reviewed in 2014.

5. IFAB Structure, Planning and Consultation 2013

i) Process for future/wider consultation/structure of IFAB
(submitted by all members)

Mr. Horne, on behalf of the four British Associations, gave a presentation on proposals to “self-reform” the IFAB in relation to the FIFA governance initiative. He indicated that the process to date had involved consultation with the FIFA and UEFA Presidents, and the General Secretaries of the Confederations.

The key principles of the review were outlined as follows:

- IFAB works and should be protected as the universal decision making body for the Laws of the Game
- Continuity in composition and personnel is essential as it leads to understanding and institutional memory in decision making
- The reputation of IFAB is unimpinged and it should retain its separate identity for the benefit of FIFA’s own governance
- Greater levels of consultation with the game are required to inform and improve decision making
- Greater levels of transparency in terms of decision making and rationale would benefit decision making, and the perception of IFAB

On the basis of these principles, it was proposed that the composition of the IFAB remained unchanged and that the following structure was recommended to address the issues of consultation and transparency:

Two Advisory Panels be created:

- i) An IFAB Football Advisory Panel, comprising football personnel
- ii) An IFAB Technical Advisory Panel, comprising refereeing experts

Proposals regarding the Laws of the Game would be considered by the two Panels for referral to the Annual Business Meeting.



IFAB Football Advisory Panel

It was proposed that the purpose of the Panel would be:

- i) To consider current issues affecting the game
- ii) To provide feedback to IFAB, alongside the Technical Advisory Panel

It was proposed that the Panel could be composed of a pool of approximately 20 former players, managers, coaches, current coaches, representatives of FIFPRO and the Technical Directors of the Confederations

IFAB Technical Advisory Panel

It was proposed that the purpose of the Panel would be:

- i) To focus on technical aspects of proposed law amendments through referee expertise
- ii) To draft law amendments

It was proposed that the composition of the Panel would be:

- i) The refereeing experts of the four British Associations and FIFA
- ii) FIFA Executive
- iii) The leading refereeing experts of the Confederations

It was proposed that the Annual Business Meeting should be composed of:

- i) The four General Secretaries of the British Associations and the FIFA Secretary General
- ii) Refereeing experts of the four British Associations and FIFA
- iii) Invited persons from the Football Advisory Panel and the Technical Advisory Panel

In respect of the Annual Business Meeting, it was proposed that its purpose would be:

- i) To guide and oversee the process of consultation on behalf of IFAB
- ii) To consider amendments to the Laws of the Game and guide on whether these should be rejected, consulted, piloted or drafted for consideration by IFAB

At the Annual Business Meeting, the options regarding the proposals would be:

- i) Rejection with written reasons made publicly available
- ii) Sent back to the Football Advisory Panel for specific consultation
- iii) Approval, and referral to the IFAB Technical Advisory Panel (for law drafting) prior to being submitted to the Annual General Meeting

At the Annual General Meeting, the options regarding the proposals would be:

- i) Rejection, with reasons made publicly available
- ii) Sent back for further specific consultation with either the Football Advisory Panel or the Technical Advisory Panel
- iii) The endorsement of a pilot for testing
- iv) Approval of law change

Executive Support

To facilitate the new structure, it was proposed that secretarial support should be provided for each part of the process and to each of the panels and IFAB Meetings and that this support should be provided by a unit of the FIFA Executive reporting directly to the FIFA Secretary General.

It was also proposed that a web platform should be created for IFAB to provide a distinct identity and that this would assist in creating transparency in all processes.

Mr. Horne concluded the presentation by commenting that the proposals and methodologies would improve consultation and transparency and thus confidence in IFAB, and sought approval.

Mr. Ogilvie said that the proposals had been brought forward by the four British Associations and offered the opportunity to others to comment.

Mr. Ford said the FA of Wales supported the constitution of IFAB but also supported the principles of greater consultation and transparency. It was happy to support the proposals.

Mr. Nelson thanked Mr. Horne for his presentation. He indicated that he was aware that other European Associations were pleased with the proposals and that the Irish FA was happy to support the proposals.

Mr. Regan also thanked Mr. Horne for his presentation. He indicated that the Scottish FA was of the view that greater consultation in the processes would be beneficial to IFAB and that the proposals are supported.

Mr. Blatter also thanked Mr. Horne and the four British Associations and Mr. Valcke. He indicated that the work which had been presented was part of the FIFA reform process which had started in 2011 and which included amending the FIFA Statutes, reinforcement of the Ethics Committee and developing greater transparency and compliance. He indicated that, during the review process regarding reform, it had become clear that the four British Associations were not the most important part of the process and they would not be affected by any outcomes (notwithstanding the issue concerning the Vice President position held by the associations). In respect of the position of IFAB, he conveyed that, whilst views had been expressed at the outset of the reform process that it was not required, the conclusion had been reached that, in essence, it should remain. Mr. Blatter expressed the view that, in the efforts to introduce more transparency across all of FIFA's activities, the proposals which had been presented achieved exactly that and that he was happy with the processes outlined. He considered it important for IFAB to explain why proposals are rejected and that the creation of the two Advisory Panels was an excellent solution to ensuring greater consultation. He was of the opinion that the adoption of the proposals would enhance the value of the IFAB, the Laws of the Game and the referees who apply the Laws, and that the FIFA Congress would accept the proposals. He agreed that the IFAB should have a permanent Secretary based in FIFA and that this will help to explain the business of the IFAB.

He expressed his thanks to the four British Associations and to Mr. Horne in particular for his professional presentation.

The proposals were agreed.



V. MISCELLANEOUS

6. Fairness and potential law amendment of Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play “Dropped Ball” (submitted by FIFA)

Mr. Busacca referred to a proposal which the Danish FA had submitted to FIFA in relation to a dropped ball at the start or restart of play. A video of a match incident involving the circumstance of a dropped ball being utilised to restart play was shown.

Mr. Busacca conveyed that the Technical Sub Committee had considered the Danish FA’s proposal at a meeting in January and that it was recommending that the concept of the dropped ball as a means of restarting play be investigated and that a proposal be submitted for the 2014 Annual General Meeting.

This was agreed.

7. Development in women’s football and the reference in the Laws of the Game (submitted by FIFA)

Mr. Blatter indicated that FIFA had decided to withdraw this point from consideration.

8. Updating text within the Laws of the Game (submitted by the Scottish FA)

It was agreed that it would be appropriate to conduct a review of the text of the Laws of the Game and for the text to be updated.

9. Future Meetings

It was agreed that:

- i) the future meeting dates of the Technical Sub Committee would be confirmed in due course
- ii) the Annual Business Meeting would be held on 24th October 2013 at the Home of FIFA in Zurich, and
- iii) The Annual General Meeting would be held on 28th February 2014 at the Home of FIFA in Zurich

VI. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Blatter expressed his thanks and compliments to the Chairman for his conducting of the meeting and to the members for their active participation. He referred to the FIFA Congress to be held in Mauritius on 30th-31st May 2013 where the proposals regarding the reformation of the IFAB would be considered. On the basis that he expected these proposals to be approved, he indicated the new structures would operate directly thereafter and that meetings would require to be arranged to progress matters.

He indicated that the FIFA Congress will have the opportunity of congratulating the FA on reaching its 150th anniversary and said that he will take the opportunity of speaking of the Scottish FA at the Dinner in the evening.

Mr. Ogilvie concluded the meeting by saying that it had been a privilege to chair the meeting given the importance of the business.

The meeting closed at 10.55 am.



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