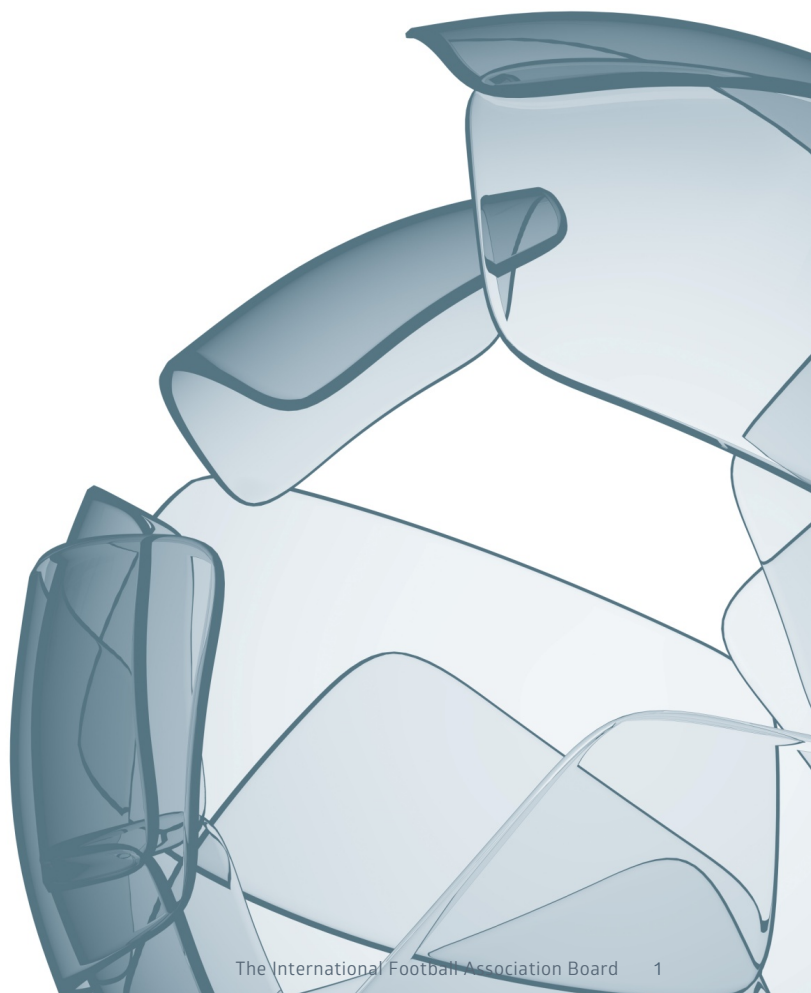


Minutes

131st Annual General Meeting

of the International Football Association Board

Wembley Stadium, London
3 March 2017, 1.30pm



Participants

The FA

Greg Clarke (Chairman)
Martin Glenn (Chief Executive)
David Elleray (Referee Committee Chairman)
Neale Barry (Head of Refereeing)

FIFA

Gianni Infantino (President)
Fatma Samoura (Secretary General)
Ángel María Villar Llona (Vice President)
Alejandro Dominguez (Vice President)
Hany Abo Rida (Member of the Council)
Zvonimir Boban (Deputy General Secretary)
Marco van Basten (Chief Officer for Technical Development)
Pierluigi Collina (Referee Committee Chairman)
Massimo Busacca (Head of Refereeing)

Scottish FA

Alan McRae (President)
Rod Petrie (Vice President)
Stewart Regan (Chief Executive)
Andrew McKinlay (Chief Operating Officer)
John Fleming (Head of Referee Operations)

Irish FA

David Martin (President)
Jack Grundie (First Deputy President)
Crawford Wilson (Second Deputy President)
Patrick Nelson (Chief Executive)
William Campbell (Head of CEO office)

FA of Wales

David Griffiths (President)
Jonathan Ford (Chief Executive)
David Alun Jones (Vice President)
Ray Ellingham (Referees Manager)

The IFAB

Lukas Brud (Secretary)

Other attendees

Boudien Broekhuis (The IFAB)
Fabrice Jouhaud (FIFA)
Mattias Grafström (FIFA)
Tom Gorissen (FIFA)
Naoise King (FIFA)
Brian Alexander (FIFA)



- I. Welcome
- II. Chairman`s remarks
- III. Roll call
- IV. Approval of the agenda
- V. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The chairman of the meeting, Greg Clarke, welcomed everyone to the 131st AGM of The IFAB and asked Martin Glenn, Chief Executive of The FA to say a few words.

Martin Glenn emphasised the shift in The IFAB`s culture over the last 18 months from a rather closed and conservative mind-set to being open to change and the use of technology.

A moment of silence was observed for former IFAB members who had passed away in the past year.

All presidents introduced their delegations. Having agreed the request from the Irish FA to withdraw item 2C, the agenda was approved, as were the minutes of the last meeting.

The chairman handed over to IFAB Secretary, Lukas Brud, and IFAB Technical Director, David Elleray, to take members through the agenda.

VI. Agenda containing the items to be discussed and enclosures

1. Law 3 – The Players

- a. 4th substitute in extra time – Update on experiments from several competitions

Currently, experiments with a 4th substitute in extra time are being conducted in competitions organised by FIFA, CONCACAF, CONMEBOL, The FA, FA of Wales, Scottish FA, German FA and the Dutch FA.

An experiment protocol is being used and there will be an analysis of feedback and a comparison with competitions where only three substitutes are permitted.

Competitions have been asked about the potential use of a 5th substitute in extra time. Evidence will be available for the 2017 ABM; a decision will be taken at the 2018 AGM.

NO VOTE REQUIRED

All members agreed to continuation of the experiment.

2. Law 4 – The Players’ Equipment

a. Electronic Performance and Tracking Systems (EPTS)

Since the decision taken in 2015 to permit Electronic Performance and Tracking Systems (EPTS) in football, in particular the wearing of such devices by players on the field of play during a match, FIFA, with the support of The IFAB, has consulted with experts in this field (from associations, clubs, leagues, industry, independent testing bodies etc.) on how to develop quality criteria ranging from the minimum requirements (safety) to a gold standard.

The first step, the development of minimum requirements/standards, is being finalised based on global safety criteria for devices used in sport.

As a next step, based on the minimum requirements, FIFA will continue developing a gold standard for professional use as part of its Football Quality Programme (FQP) and will provide a proposal at the next ABM, and subsequently at the 2018 AGM.

VOTE

All members approved the proposed wording to incorporate minimum standards for EPTS devices into the Laws of the Game 2017/18:

“Where wearable technology (WT) as part of electronic performance and tracking systems (EPTS) is used in matches played in an official competition organised under the auspices of FIFA, confederations or national football associations, the technology attached to the player’s equipment must bear the IMS (International Match Standard) mark:



This mark indicates that it has been officially tested and meets the minimum safety requirements of the International Match Standard developed by FIFA and approved by The IFAB. The institutes conducting the tests are subject to the approval of FIFA. The transition period runs until 31 May 2018.”

b. Electronic communication with players and the technical area

Advances in technology risk having a Law which does not reflect the modern world and which can not be enforced as it is now almost impossible to prevent coaches receiving information in the technical area. However, it is very important that players cannot communicate (or be contacted) electronically, although the use of communication by team officials for player welfare is important.

VOTE

All members approved the proposed wording for the Laws of the Game 2017/18:

“Players (including substitutes/substituted and sent off players) are not permitted to wear or use any form of electronic or communication equipment (except where EPTS is allowed). The use of any form of electronic communication by team officials is not permitted except where it directly relates to player welfare or safety.”

In addition, a detailed consultation with national FAs and other stakeholders will be undertaken to consider what information may be communicated to/from the technical area and what issues may arise from the transmission of such information. In particular, the focus should move to dealing with the behaviour resulting from the use of electronic equipment rather than trying to ban/prevent it.

VOTE

All members approved the proposed consultation with football stakeholders.

3. Law 5 – The Referee

Temporary Dismissals (Sin Bins)

The IFAB has allowed temporary dismissals to be trialled in UEFA development tournaments since 2014. The original protocol, where some cautions (YCs) are punished with a temporary suspension, has been refined by UEFA and The IFAB, including identifying ‘behavioural’ offences suitable for a temporary dismissal.

Many national FAs use temporary dismissals (often for all YCs), primarily at youth and grassroots levels, even though they are not currently permitted within the Laws of the Game.

VOTE

All members approved including Temporary Dismissals in the (extended) ‘Modifications of the Laws’ for youth, veterans, disability and grassroots football, based on the following wording in the Laws of the Game 2017/18:

“... (the referee) has the power to show yellow or red cards and, where competition rules permit, temporarily dismiss a player, from entering the field at the start of the match until after the match has ended, including during the half-time interval, extra time and kicks from the penalty mark.”

As temporary dismissals may be used for all or only some cautions (YCs) - usually relating to behaviour - guidelines will be included in the 'Modifications of the Laws of the Game' section of the Laws of the Game book.

4. Law 12 – Fouls and misconduct

Denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO)

The 2016 AGM approved a two-year experiment where a DOGSO offence, which is an attempt to play the ball, is punished with a caution (YC) if the referee awards a penalty kick. Reaction has been positive with no reported negativity or significant difficulty for referees to apply the new wording. Evidence will be collected and analysed in the coming year.

Without changing the interpretation of application of this principle, the following clearer wording for the Laws of the Game 2017/18 was proposed:

“Where a player commits an offence against an opponent which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, the offender is cautioned if the offence was an attempt to play the ball; in all other circumstances (e.g. holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball etc.) the offending player must be sent off.”

VOTE

All members approved:

- **continuation of the experiment for another year with the final decision taken at the 2018 AGM**
- **the amended (clearer) wording**
- **extending the philosophy to the removal of a caution (YC) for a penalty kick awarded for a ‘stopping a promising attack’ if the offence was an attempt to play the ball.**

5. Laws of the Game 2017/18

a. Extension of modifications by national football associations (FAs)

The IFAB and the Laws of the Game should be encouraging more people to take part in football. Consequently, it was unanimously agreed that national FAs should be given more freedom to modify ‘organisational’ Laws for their domestic football (except the highest levels) when they believe that this will increase participation and enjoyment.

This increased freedom will include removing the definition of youth as u16 and veterans as 35+ so that national FAs will have discretion to decide which age(s) are most appropriate for their domestic football.

National FAs will also have the option to use different modifications for different competitions - there is no requirement to apply them universally (i.e. in all their domestic competitions), but **no other modifications are allowed**.

National FAs will be asked to inform The IFAB of their use of these modifications as this information; and especially the reason(s) why the modifications are being used, may identify development ideas and strategies which The IFAB can share with other national FAs. The IFAB will also be very interested to hear about other potential modification of the Laws of the Game which could increase participation, make football more attractive and promote its worldwide development.

Members commented that this initiative could have very beneficial impacts on the game e.g. an increased number of substitutions could lead to much greater participation. In general, it was perceived as positive that, by extending the modifications section, the focus was more on mass participation instead of only the elite level of the game.

VOTE

All members approved the proposed wording:

“For youth, veterans, disability and grassroots (lowest levels) football:

- *size of the field of play*
- *size, weight and material of the ball*
- *width between the goalposts and height of the crossbar from the ground*
- *duration of the two (equal) halves of play (and two equal halves of extra time)*
- *the use of temporary dismissals (sin bins) for some/all cautions*
- *the use of return substitutes*

In addition, for all football except Men and Women competitions involving the 1st team of clubs in the top division or senior ‘A’ international teams:

- *the number of substitutions each team is permitted to use, up to a maximum of five”*

b. Law changes

The 2016/17 revision of the Laws of the Game was well-received but, as with all major revisions, a second, follow-on stage has been necessary to extend its principles and to add clarifications. In addition, there have been requests for additional or different wording to assist translation of the Laws of the Game.

c. Changes to text for clarification and/or easier translation

The Law changes and Law clarifications for 2017/18 which are the final stage of the major revision of the Laws of the Game were presented.

The proposed change relating to respecting offside decisions was withdrawn and in its place the philosophy, always to respect match officials' decision, was included in Law 5 – The Referee.

The use of artificial materials for field markings on grass fields was debated. Currently Canada are using this and members agreed that in principle its use could be approved provided it did not create any danger. It was agreed that the situation should be closely monitored.

In addition, members approved the proposed clarifications to Law 11 – Offside, when there is foul on or by a player in an offside position, but emphasised that clear guidance and communication will be required.

VOTE

All proposed amendments to the Laws of the Game 2017/18 were approved.

6. Strategy 2017-2022

- a. Overall strategy for the development of the Laws of the Game
- b. Criteria and timelines for evaluation of proposed changes

The IFAB and FIFA have a unique opportunity to use the Laws to tackle many of the issues and illnesses affecting football and to promote a better game on every football field in the world, by a strategy which focuses on three main pillars:

- fairness and integrity
- universality and inclusion
- using technology to benefit the game

The IFAB '*play fair!*' strategy for the development of the Laws of the Game is based on the achievements of the last three years and will consider important areas in two to three-year cycles by involving the entire football world.

The input of The IFAB's Football and Technical Advisory Panels (TAP + FAP), wider consultation with national FAs and engagement with experts will ensure that the Laws always reflect 'what football wants'.

A structured approach, including criteria and timelines, has been defined to evaluate and manage proposed Law changes to prevent too much change in a short period of time.

The strategy's philosophy was received positively by the members and it was noted that for successful implementation, it would be crucial to be disciplined and stay focused on the strategic priorities and not deviate into other areas.

VOTE

All members approved the overall strategy, the proposed criteria, timelines and processes for evaluating proposed changes to the Laws of the Game.

c. Potential Law changes and tests

This year's changes complete the major two-year revision of the Laws of the Game - only the third major Law revision in IFAB history.

Consequently, it was proposed that The IFAB should only consider large scale revisions (if deemed necessary) approximately every 10 years.

The main topics proposed for immediate discussion include the role of the captain, players' behaviour and handball.

In addition, potential testing, further to the ongoing experiments such as VARs, could be undertaken into offside technology, a new order for kicks from the penalty mark, and methods to reduce time-wasting / increasing playing time.

Members welcomed the focus on players' behaviour as it is aligned to what all stakeholders want for football and can set the right example for young people.

VOTE

All members approved the proposed areas for discussion and the testing of future potential changes to the Laws of the Game.

7. Video Assistant Referees experiment (VARs)

A detailed VAR update was presented and members noted the considerable progress that has been made since the decision at the AGM in March 2016 to allow experiments with VARs.

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Czech Rep, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Portugal, Qatar and USA have signed/will sign contracts to be part of the experiment and a number of other countries are following developments closely and have started some offline work and referee/VAR education. The IFAB has produced protocols which are contained in a comprehensive Implementation Handbook which everyone has agreed to follow strictly.

Three VAR workshops were organised by The IFAB focusing on referee education and the technology systems. They involved discussions, presentations and practical sessions, with participants having direct experience of using the VAR technology. The workshops have enabled The IFAB to achieve unanimity amongst all countries/competition organisers taking part in the VAR experiment.

Members were reminded that VAR is only for CLEAR ERRORS in match-changing situations (and serious missed incidents) namely: goals, penalty/no penalty decisions, direct red cards (not second yellow cards) and mistaken identity.

Massimo Busacca, FIFA Head of Refereeing, shared the key results of the use of VARs during the FIFA Club World Cup in Japan in December 2016.

An extensive interim report will be provided to the 2017 ABM on the progress made and whether or not it will be feasible to approve the use of VARs during the 2018 AGM.

Members inquired about the practicalities of the referee review area; for example whether it would be possible, in the future to have more monitoring systems in place to speed up the review process, or even to equip the referee with a mobile system to view replays. It was noted that all necessary resources and costs are being borne by the participating parties and these costs vary depending on the infrastructure already in place.

NO VOTE REQUIRED

All members agreed to the continuation of the experiment and were very positive about the progress so far.

VII. Business matters

8. Financial matters

a. Audit Report 2014/15

The audit for the years 2014 and 2015 (combined) was undertaken by KPMG and submitted for approval at the beginning of October 2016.

It is based on the financial commitment of FIFA to support The IFAB with USD 1.2m for each of the financial years 2015 – 2018 (inclusive). The report combines 2014 and 2015 as there was no IFAB income (or expenses) registered for 2014.

VOTE

All members approved the Audit Report 2014/15 (combined) undertaken by KPMG AG (Switzerland).

b. Audit Report 2016 and detailed financial statements

PriceWaterhouseCoopers AG was selected as the independent auditors for 2016 and 2017 and will undertake the limited audit for 2016 in March/April 2017.

Members were presented the detailed financial statements totalling expenses of USD 1.3m.

The final finance report will be provided to the members in writing for approval and will be made available publicly thereafter.

VOTE

All members approved the formal appointment of PriceWaterhouseCoopers AG (Switzerland) as independent Auditors of The IFAB for financial years 2016 and 2017; the detailed financial statements for 2016 were also approved.

c. Budget 2017

Members were informed that for the year 2017 The IFAB will require an operational budget of USD 1.2m. Any significant expenses related to the VAR experiment, or to other decisions taken at the 2017 AGM, will be discussed with FIFA and the British members to agree financing.

VOTE

All members approved the proposed budget for 2017.

9. Governance and Administration

a. Proposed amendments to The IFAB Statutes

The Statutes of the IFAB have been amended to be more aligned with the recently updated FIFA Statutes, and with The IFAB's new Organisation Regulations (ORs).

The revision was developed in cooperation with FIFA Legal and includes the following categories of amendments: amendments to the content of the IFAB Statutes; amendments for a clearer and more complete definition of The IFAB's (internal) organisation and processes (in accordance with the new IFAB ORs); and amendments for linguistic reasons or for the sake of completeness or clarity.

VOTE

All members approved the proposed amendments to the Statutes of The IFAB.

b. Other regulations

Members were informed that the Organisational Regulations of The IFAB would follow shortly for final review and approval by the Board of Directors.

10. Composition of Advisory Panels (TAP + FAP)

Football Advisory Panel

The members for the Football Advisory Panel of The IFAB, including those proposed by each confederation were presented:

AFC	Faisal AL DAKHEEL	Former national team player KUWAIT
AFC	PARK Ji Song	Former national team player KOREA REPUBLIC
CAF	Florent IBENGE	Current national team coach CONGO DR
CAF	Khalilou FADIGA	Former national team player SENEGAL
CONCACAF	Shaka HISLOP	Former national team goal-keeper TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
CONCACAF	Rergis PACHECO	Former national team player MEXICO
CONMEBOL	Gonzalo BELLOSO	Former player ARGENTINA
CONMEBOL	Francisco MATURANA	Former national player and international coach from COLOMBIA
OFC	Ivan VICELICH	Former national team player NEW ZEALAND
UEFA	Jean-François DOMERGUE	Former national team player FRANCE
UEFA	Ioan LUPESCU	Former national team player ROMANIA
FIFA	Zvonimir BOBAN	FIFA Deputy SG Football
FIFA	Marco VAN BASTEN	Former national team player THE NETHERLANDS
FIFA	Carolina MORACE	Former national women's team player ITALY
SFA	Anna SIGNEUL	Current national women's team coach SCOTLAND
FIFPro	TBC	
IFAB	Gijs DE JONG	Director Football at KNVB

Technical Advisory Panel

The members for the Technical Advisory Panel of The IFAB, including those proposed by each confederation were presented:

AFC	Shamsul MAIDIN	Head of Refereeing
CAF	Celestin NTAGUNGIRA	Member of CAF Referee Committee
CONCACAF	Brian HALL	Head of Refereeing
CONMEBOL	Wilson SENEME	Head of Refereeing
OFC	Kevin STOLTENKAMP	Head of Refereeing
UEFA	Carlos VELASCO CARBALLO	Former FIFA Referee
FIFA	Pierluigi COLLINA	Chairman FIFA Referee Committee / member of TSC
FIFA	Massimo BUSACCA	Head of Refereeing / member of TSC
The FA	Neale BARRY	Head of Refereeing / member of TSC
FAW	Ray ELLINGHAM	Referees Manager / member of TSC
SFA	John FLEMING	Head of Referee Operations / member of TSC
IFA	William CAMPBELL	Head of CEO Office / member of TSC
The IFAB	David ELLERAY	IFAB Technical Director / member of TSC

VOTE

The members approved all candidates proposed for FAP and TAP.

11. Website and media platforms

Members were updated about The IFAB's use of digital platforms to communicate with its stakeholders, including the recent addition of a dedicated section for VARs on the website.

VIII. Any other business

IX. Next meetings of IFAB bodies

The chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions. Members were informed that the 2018 AGM will be hosted by FIFA in Zürich, Switzerland.

London, April 2017

Greg Clarke (Chairman of the meeting)

Lukas Brud (IFAB Secretary and minute taker)