

134th Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board

MINUTES

Zurich, 29 February 2020

ATTENDEES

Irish FA (Chair)

David Martin (President, meeting chairman)
Jack Grundie (First Vice President)
Crawford Wilson (Second Vice President)
Patrick Nelson (Chief Executive)
William Campbell (Head of CEO Office)

FIFA

Gianni Infantino (President)
Victor Montagliani (Vice President)
Hany Abo Rida (Council Member)
Kohzo Tashima (Council Member)

Mattias Grafstrom (Deputy SG, Football)
Pierluigi Collina (Referee Committee Chairman)
Arsène Wenger (Chief Global Football
Development)
Massimo Busacca (Head of Refereeing)
Johannes Holzmüller (Head of FTI)

Scottish FA

Rod Petrie (President)
Ian Maxwell (Chief Executive)
William Young (Technical Expert)

The FA

Greg Clarke (Chairman)
Mark Bullingham (Chief Executive)
Neale Barry (Head of Refereeing)

FA of Wales

Kieran O'Connor (President)
Steve Williams (Vice President)
Jonathan Ford (Chief Executive)
Ray Ellingham (Referee Manager)

The IFAB

Lukas Brud (Secretary)
David Elleray (Technical Director)
Simone Studer (Senior Legal Counsel)

Other attendees

Onofre Costa (FIFA)
David Farrelly (FIFA)
Dan O'Toole (FIFA)
Marco Leal (Concacaf)
Danny Lynch (IFA)
Rachel Logan (IFA)
Glenda Dines (IFA, minute-taker)
Thomas Fulton (IFA)

I. WELCOME

Lukas Brud (LB) (Secretary, The IFAB) welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked all present to sign the attendance register.

II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

David Martin (DM) (President IFA and chairman of the meeting) warmly welcomed everyone to Belfast. Before commencing the meeting, he asked all present to stand for a moment to reflect on those members of the football family who had died since the last meeting. He expressed how much of a privilege it was for him, on behalf of the Irish FA, to chair the meeting.

III. ROLL CALL

DM introduced the IFA delegation and LB introduced the other delegations.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vote: the members unanimously approved the agenda for the meeting.

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Vote: the members unanimously approved the minutes of the 133rd AGM.

VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION AND ENCLOSURES

1. Laws of the Game 2019/20

David Elleray (DE) (Technical Director, The IFAB) summarized the main changes to the Laws of the Game approved in 2019 and confirmed that these had been generally well-received with much positive feedback about their impact on the way the game is played and the image of the game. He highlighted the changes relating to Law 3, Law 5, Law 8, Law 9, Law 12, Law 13, Law 14 and Law 16.

2. Laws of the Game 2020/21

DE presented the proposed clarifications and associated Law changes, namely Laws 1, 10, 11, 12, and 14, as well as the VAR Protocol and Glossary ([details](#)).

Vote: the proposals were unanimously approved by the members.

3. Concussion

Feedback from Concussion Expert Group and potential next steps

LB provided background highlighting the seriousness of the matter, developments so far and he reported on the first meeting of the Concussion Expert Group (CEG) who were appointed by the BoD of IFAB to look into the matter and provide recommendations for football, taking into account the most up-to-date medical developments in determining the best approach to in-game diagnosis and management, without compromising sporting fairness.

Based on the initial results/recommendations from CEG, the members had a preference for additional permanent substitutes (rather than temporary substitutes) but agreed that more consultation was needed through the CEG and FIFA Medical before a decision can be made. It was noted that if a solution can be found, it would need to be trialled and that the BoD would have the authority to approve trials in the future.

4. *play fair!*: behaviour on the field of play

Update and potential next steps

LB reported that one of the outstanding items of the *playfair!* strategy was to look into ways, through the support of the Laws of the Game, to improve behaviour on the field of play, and by that, the image of the game. He shared some initial survey results which highlighted that 'mobbing' of referees was a major concern of the football community and IFAB's two advisory panels. He proposed that this matter should continue to be monitored and considered in future meetings.

The members agreed to the proposal.

5. Video Assistant Referees (VARs)

a. Report on global VAR use

LB briefly reported on the global success of VARs with over 100 competitions using VARs in competitive matches; more than 4'000 match officials and almost 500 replay operators have been trained and over 650 stadia tested.

He stated that after four years of managing the trials, education and training of all stakeholders for the use of VAR, the day-to-day management and approvals is being handed over to FIFA who, by statutes, is responsible for the implementation of the Laws of the Game, including VARs. The members acknowledged the report and the

success of VARs so far but highlighted that more work continues to be needed to improve consistency and application.

b. Possible future developments

LB informed the members that there is interest from some in the football community to access to more information / communication during a VAR 'check' and/or 'review'. He presented some ideas provided by the Australian FA showing how 'live' communication between match officials during a VAR intervention which could be made public.

He summarised all options for in-game communication to fans and media that are already available and highlighted examples where such measures have worked well, e.g. the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia.

The members agreed that this matter should continue to be monitored and if needed, be considered in future discussions and meetings.

Johannes Holzmüller (JH) (FIFA Head of FTI) reported on the work conducted by FIFA Working Group – VAR Technology related to semi-automated offside technology to increase the speed of offside position decision-making as well as ideas to develop a low-budget VAR system, which must be able to operate in limited infrastructural environments, observing the minimum principles of the VAR protocol and operations.

He pointed out that work/exchange with experienced VAR-using competitions and technology providers is on-going; more information will be presented at the next meetings.

6. Communication and education

Update on work to improve public understanding of the Laws

LB gave an update on the use of IFAB's digital platforms (e.g. website and app) as well as other means of communication to improve knowledge of the Laws of the Game. He outlined the work done on developing a digital VAR-IAAP tool for the implementation and management of VARs as well as an e-learning platform. He announced that both platforms will be passed to FIFA for their future management and implementation.

VII. FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS MATTERS

7. Financial Matters

a. Appointment of statutory auditors

LB reminded the members that PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) AG (Switzerland) performed the ordinary audit of The IFAB accounts in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. He reported excellent collaboration, efficiency and professionalism at reasonable fees. He proposed that PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) AG (Switzerland) are reappointed as statutory auditors for the financial years 2020 and 2021 and retrospectively for 2018/19.

Vote: all members unanimously approved the appointment of the proposed statutory auditors.

b. Audit Report 2019 and detailed financial statements

LB stated that with the assistance of PwC and the FIFA Finance Department it had been possible to complete the audit process before the AGM and that it is now subject for approval. He then explained the various expenses in 2019 with a total of CHF 3'445'000. LB also presented the revenues being a total of CHF 3'480'000, which results in an underspent of CHF 35'000.

Vote: all members unanimously approved the audit report 2019 and detailed financial statements.

c. Budget 2020

FIFA proposed that, as the handover process of all activities related to VAR from The IFAB to FIFA will be executed in mid-2020, the related expenses originally budgeted for The IFAB would be lower and therefore the budget 2020 (and 2021) should be reviewed after the meeting.

Vote: the members unanimously approved the budget in principle and agreed to the approach presented by FIFA. The Board of Directors were given delegated authority to review and approve it by end of April 2020.

8. Governance and Administration

LB reported that two the new members of the Board of Directors (BoD) - Ian Maxwell (Chief Executive, Scottish FA) and Mark Bullingham (Chief Executive, The FA) - must be appointed formally as required by Swiss law for the registration in the commercial registry of the Kanton of Zurich.

Vote: all members unanimously approved these appointments.

VIII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

FIFA President Gianni Infantino extended his thanks, and those of the FIFA delegation, to DM for the Irish FA's hosting of the meeting, the warm welcome received, and the manner by which he chaired the meeting and how smoothly it had been conducted.

The other members extended their FA's thanks and appreciation.

IX. NEXT MEETINGS

Kieran O'Connor (President, FA of Wales) invited members to the 135th Annual General Meeting of The IFAB, to be held in Wales on 5 March 2021.

The chairman closed the meeting.

The IFAB



Lukas Brud
Secretary