



135th Annual General Meeting of The International Football Association Board

MINUTES

Video conference call (chaired by FA of Wales)
5 March 2021, 10:00am – 1:00pm (CET)

ATTENDEES

FA of Wales

Kieran O'Connor (President and Chairman)
Ray Ellingham (Head of Refereeing)
Paul Evans (Head of Compliance)

FIFA

Gianni Infantino (President)
Vittorio Montagliana (Vice President)
Kohzo Tashima (Council Member)
Hany Abu Rida (Council Member)

Fatma Samoura (Secretary General)
Mattias Grafström (DSG, Football)
Arsène Wenger (Chief Global Football Development)
Pierluigi Collina (Referee Committee Chairman)
Massimo Busacca (Director of Refereeing)
Johannes Holzmüller (Director of Football Technology Innovation)
Andy Massey (Director of Medical)
Dan O'Toole (Head of DSG Football Office)
David Farrelly (Director of Communications)
Federico Raviglione (President's Office)
Serafino Ingardia (DSG Football Office)

The FA

Peter McCormick (Acting Chairman)
Mark Bullingham (Chief Executive)
Neale Barry (Head of Refereeing)

Irish FA

David Martin (President)
Jack Grundie (Deputy President)
Patrick Nelson (Chief Executive)
William Campbell (Head of CEO Office)

Scottish FA

Mike Mulraney (Vice President)
Ian Maxwell (Chief Executive)
Crawford Allan (Head of Refereeing)

The IFAB

David Elleray (Technical Director)
Simone Studer (Senior Legal Counsel)
Maximilian Müller (Media & Comms Manager)
Mandy Bachmann (Admin Manager, minute-taker)
Lukas Brud (Secretary)

I. WELCOME

Lukas Brud (LB) (Secretary of The IFAB) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Kieran O'Connor (KO) (President FAW and chairman of the meeting) warmly welcomed everyone to the video conference call and kindly asked the FIFA President, Gianni Infantino (GI), to address the board.

III. ROLL CALL

KO invited the heads of each delegation to introduce their members in attendance of the meeting.

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 134th AGM.

VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION AND ENCLOSURES**1. Laws of the Game 2020/21 – Summary of Law changes**

David Elleray (DE) (Technical Director, The IFAB) summarised the main changes to the Laws of the Game approved in 2020. He highlighted the changes relating to Law 10, 12 and the Glossary.

No questions were raised by the attendees.

2. Laws of the Game 2021/22**a. Proposed changes and clarifications**

DE presented the proposed clarifications and associated Law changes, namely Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct: handball. Several example videos were shown before DE proposed to adjust the wording of Law 12 for the next edition 2021/22.

Vote: A few comments were raised before the changes were unanimously approved by the members.

b. Other changes and clarifications

DE summarised the other proposed changes that affect more than one Law, namely that metric units in the Laws are authoritative, that “action(s)/acting” replace “gesture(s)/gesturing” in the context of non-violent inappropriate behaviour in Laws 4, 5, 12 and VAR protocol, and that there is a section explaining the FIFA Quality Programme, mentioned in Laws 1, 2 and 4.

Furthermore, DE explained the following individual Law changes:

Law 1: The goalposts and crossbar (and goals) must be the same shape, and the GLT signal can be sent to the video operation room (VOR)

Law 6: There is now a FIFA list of international video match officials (VMOs)

Law 7: Stoppage time relates to ‘lost’ playing time

Law 11: Inclusion of the Law 12 definition of where the arm ends when determining offside/onside position

Law 12: Using a ‘trick’ to circumvent the Law against the goalkeeper handling the ball from a deliberate kick from a team-mate now applies at goal kicks; the instigator is cautioned (YC), and a free kick/penalty kick can only be awarded for an offence against someone on the team lists or a match official

VAR protocol: Written permission to use VARs is only required from FIFA, and principles for when a video match official or replay operator is unable to start or continue a match.

Vote: the changes and clarifications were unanimously approved by the members.

3. Discussion topics

a. Concussion substitutes (trial)

LB provided background information on the ongoing global trial with concussion substitutes and explained the two protocols approved at the last ABM on 16 December 2020. He then presented an overview showing countries which are currently interested or participating in the trial.

The participants raised some additional comments and highlighted the importance of this trial before moving on.

b. Increased number of substitutes (temporary amendment)
 LB provided background information explaining that the reason for this temporary amendment was the pandemic, during which many competitions used this option in their leagues and tournaments.

Arsène Wenger (AW) presented some statistics on the use of the temporary amendment so far.

A few additional comments were made by the members, however, no further questions were raised.

c. Offside
 DE explained the evolution of Law 11 – Offside, summarised the Law’s main principles and challenges before handing over to AW, who also presented historical facts around offside, statistics and proposals. He closed this topic by informing the members that the approved trials could not yet be conducted due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic.

A few additional comments were made by the members, however, no further questions were raised.

4. Video Assistant Referees (VARs)

Johannes Holzmüller (JH) summarised the development of the semi-automated offside technology so far and what is to be expected in the future. Several example videos were shown before he presented the objectives and developments of the ‘VAR light’ concept to the members.

A few additional comments were made by the members, however, no further questions were raised.

5. Financial and business matters

a. Ratification of approved 2020 budget
 LB summarised the reason for the ratification of the approved 2020 budget and highlighted that the revised budget 2020 was approved by the IFAB’s BoD (who was given delegated authority by the 134th AGM to approve the budget) and was communicated to the members on 16 April 2020.

Vote: all members unanimously approved the ratification of the approved 2020 budget

b. Audit Report 2020 and detailed financial statements

LB stated that the Audit report 2020 was completed by PwC on 25 February 2021. He explained that the IFAB produced a positive result of CHF 12'000.- despite various unplanned projects. LB then presented the detailed breakdown which showed a total revenue of CHF 2'089'952.

Vote: all members unanimously approved the audit report 2020 and detailed financial statements.

c. Budget 2021

LB presented a detailed overview of the planned budget for 2021 and mentioned that the budget for 2022 will be determined later in the year to optimise the use of financial resources.

Vote: the members unanimously approved the budget 2021

6. Composition of Advisory Panels (TAP + FAP)

LB presented a slide of the new composition of the Advisory Panels, primarily showing the new members proposed by FIFA, the confederations and other member organisations.

Vote: the composition of the Advisory Panels was unanimously approved by the members.

VII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LB proposed that the date on which the Laws become effective would change from 1 June to 1 July and highlighted where this would change in the IFAB statutes. (Art. 14).

Vote: the members unanimously approved the change of date on which the Laws become effective including the change to Art. 14 of the Statutes

VIII. NEXT MEETINGS

Gianni Infantino (FIFA President) thanked the members and invited them to the 136th Annual General Meeting of The IFAB to be held in early March 2022.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their participation closed the meeting.

The IFAB



Lukas Brud
Secretary