



To all national football associations
and confederations

Circular no. 25

136th Annual General Meeting of The International Football Association Board

Decisions

Zurich, 16 June 2022
SEC/2022-C393/bru

The International Football Association Board

Münstergasse 9, 8001 Zürich, Switzerland
T: +41 (0)44 245 1886
theifab.com

Dear Sir or Madam,

After an initial postponement, The IFAB held its 136th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Doha on Monday, 13 June 2022. The meeting was chaired by the FIFA President, Gianni Infantino, and attended by delegations from The IFAB's five members: FIFA, the Scottish FA, The FA, the Irish FA and the FA of Wales.

The members formally ratified the proposed Law changes that had already been approved by The IFAB's Board of Directors (BoD), which were communicated in The IFAB's circular 24 on 25 March 2022: <https://downloads.theifab.com/downloads/circular-24?l=en>.

An additional amendment to Law 3 – The Players, giving competitions the option of increasing the maximum number of named substitutes from twelve to fifteen, was also approved.

The full Laws of the Game are now available for download and can also be accessed directly on The IFAB's website and app: <https://downloads.theifab.com/downloads/laws-of-the-game-2022-23?l=en>.

The members also received an update on the early results of the global trial with [additional permanent concussion substitutes](#). Although more than 140 competitions are involved in the trial, the members supported the [decision](#) taken at The IFAB's Annual Business Meeting (ABM) to extend the trial until August 2023 so that sufficient medical data can be gathered to form a scientifically valid conclusion. Temporary concussion substitutes were reconsidered, but the members agreed that the trials should continue to focus on permanently removing any player with actual or possible concussion to ensure that the player does not continue taking part in the match in question. It was agreed that further education is needed to ensure that the trial protocols are applied correctly.

Furthermore, FIFA gave an update on innovations that could allow more competitions to use video assistant referee (VAR) technology – VAR Light, which has been trialled in over 100 matches – and on successful tests with systems to help video match officials determine offside situations more quickly and accurately (so-called "semi-automated offside technology").

A trial of another concept is also being considered, which could offer competitions with very limited infrastructures and/or budgets video support for their match officials. More details will be provided at a later stage.

Other trials were also discussed, such as the possibility of explaining certain refereeing decisions during a game, a potentially fairer calculation of playing time, and kick-ins. An update on the ongoing limited trials with the alternative offside concept was likewise presented by FIFA.

Concerns were raised about the use of very small shinguards, which offer minimal protection. The members wish to encourage competitions to recommend that players wear appropriately sized shinguards, although this is ultimately the responsibility of each player, in association with their club/team.

Proposals for possible Law amendments and related processes

The IFAB remains committed to the ongoing development of the game, which sometimes involves trialling promising ideas and possible Law changes. However, to ensure valid outcomes, such trials must be conducted using agreed protocols and requirements, and with appropriate oversight. Therefore, all football stakeholders are reminded that any use of, or trials with, alternatives to the Laws of the Game must be approved by The IFAB and competitions may not proceed with such use/trials without the involvement of The IFAB and FIFA. More information on the processes relating to proposals that would result in a change to the Laws will be communicated soon.

Laws of the Game 2022/23 effective from 1 July

The Laws of the Game 2022/23 come into effect on **1 July 2022**. Competitions that start before that date may implement the changes earlier or delay their implementation until no later than the start of the next competition.

We will maintain our global consultation so that the Laws of the Game continue to promote and protect fairness and integrity on the field of play at all levels of the game.

Thank you for your attention. Please contact us if you have any questions or enquiries.

Yours sincerely,
The IFAB



Lukas Brud
Secretary

Cc: FIFA