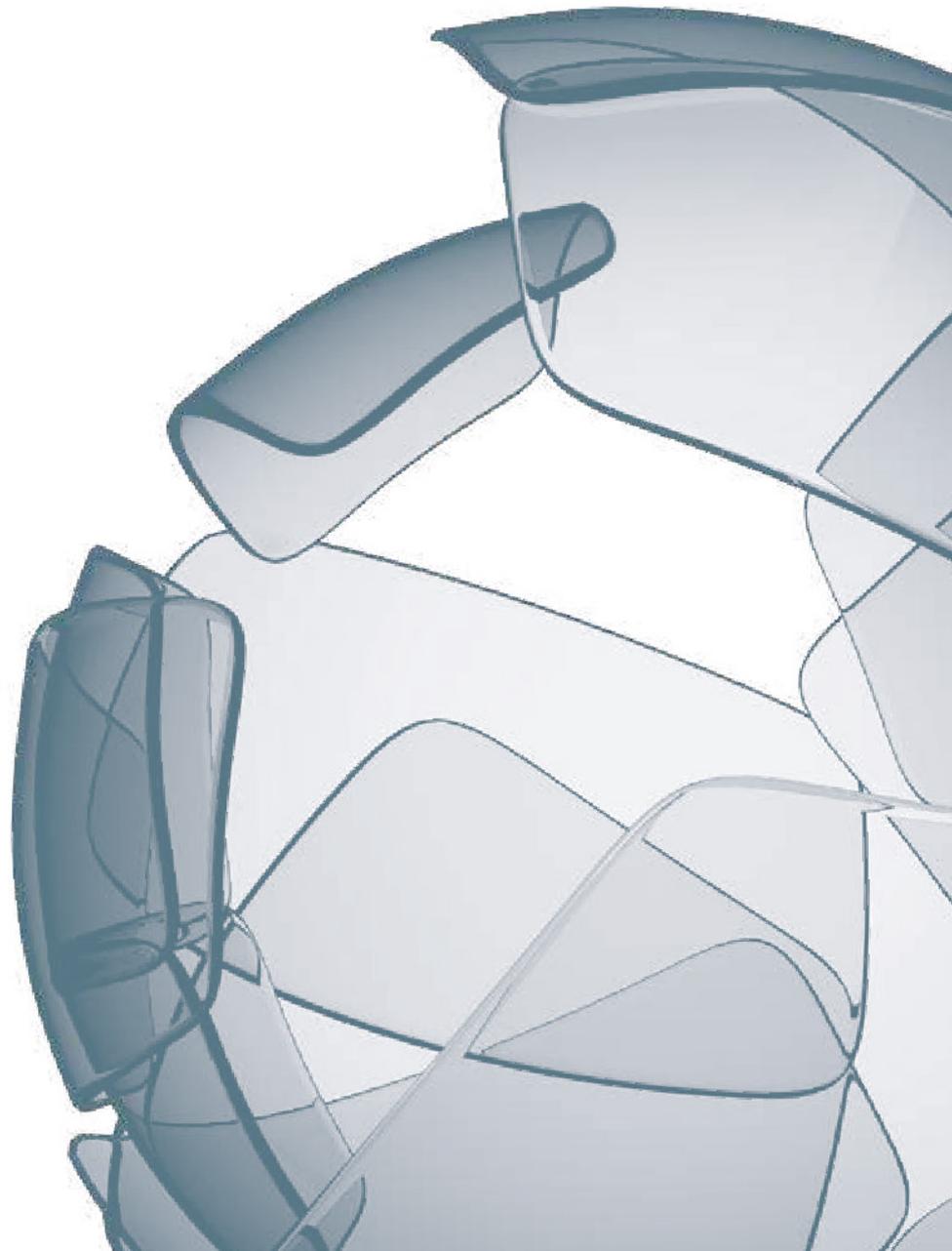
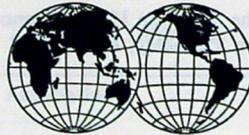


1978

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING





FIFA
(founded 1904)

The International Football Association Board

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting
held at
the Hotel Sheraton
Buenos Aires
on 1 June 1978**

**FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD**

MINUTES OF A MEETING

held at the Sheraton Hotel, Buenos Aires
on Thursday, 1 June 1978

The following constituted the Board:

Fédération Internationale de Football Association:

Dr. J. Havelange
Dr. A. Franchi
Messrs. Koe Ewe Teik
J. M. Codesal
Dr. H. Käser (General Secretary) and
R. Courte (Senior Assistant Secretary)

The Football Association:

Sir Harold Thompson
Messrs. A. D. McMullen
R. Wragg and
E. A. Croker (Secretary)

The Scottish Football Association:

Messrs. W. J. Harkness
T. Younger
T. L. Clark and
E. Walker (Secretary)

The Football Association of Wales:

Messrs. R. G. Jones and
T. Morris (Secretary)

The Irish Football Association:

Messrs. H. H. Cavan and
W. J. Drennan (Secretary)

Also present were: Sir Stanley Rous, Hon. President of FIFA, and the members of the FIFA Referees' Committee: Messrs. J. Arriaga (Mexico), Dr. R. Barde (France), N. Latyshev (USSR), J. Mowat (Scotland), F. Seipelt (Austria) and Mr. J. S. Blatter (FIFA).

Dr. Havelange, President of FIFA, presided and Dr. H. Käser acted as secretary to the meeting.

I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

FIFA President Dr. João Havelange welcomed the delegates. He recalled how interested he had been when attending his first Board Meeting as FIFA President in a country where the law still counted for much and thanked the members for the work done on that occasion. He made special mention of those attending their first Board Meeting, Messrs. Harkness, Younger, Wragg and Dr. Franchi, and asked the members to observe one minute's silence for the late Mr. Tom Russell, who had died since the last Board Meeting.

Dr. Havelange then referred to the presence at the meeting of Sir Stanley Rous, Honorary President of FIFA, and the members of the FIFA Referees' Committee as observers and went on to say how happy FIFA was to organise the meeting on the occasion of the XIth FIFA World Cup in Argentina.

II. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held in London on 19 June 1977 were confirmed and signed

III. LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

Proposals submitted under Rule 3 of the Board Rules

Law XI—Off-side

(1) The Fédération Internationale de Football Association

PRESENT TEXT

A player is off-side if he is nearer his opponents' goal-line than the ball at the moment the ball is played unless:

- (a) He is in his own half of the field of play.
- (b) There are two of his opponents nearer to their own goal-line than he is.
- (c) The ball last touched an opponent or was last played by him.
- (d) He receives the ball direct from a goal-kick, a corner-kick, a throw-in, or when it was dropped by the Referee.

Punishment

For an infringement of this Law, an indirect free-kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred.

A player in an off-side position shall not be penalised unless, in the opinion of the Referee, he is interfering with the play or with an opponent, or is seeking to gain an advantage by being in an off-side position.

PROPOSED ALTERATION

1. *A player is in an off-side position if he is nearer to his opponents' goal-line than the ball, unless:*
 - (a) *he is in his own half of the field of play, or*
 - (b) *there are at least two of his opponents nearer their own goal-line than he is.*
2. *A player shall only be declared off-side and penalised for being in an off-side position, if, at the moment the ball touches, or is played by, one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the Referee*
 - (a) *interfering with play or with an opponent, or*
 - (b) *seeking to gain an advantage by being in that position.*
3. *A player shall not be declared off-side by the Referee*
 - (a) *merely because of his being in an off-side position, or*
 - (b) *if he receives the ball, direct, from a goal-kick, a corner-kick, a throw-in, or when it has been dropped by the Referee.*
4. *If a player is declared off-side, the Referee shall award an indirect free-kick, which shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred.*

Reason:

The FIFA Referees' Committee felt that the new wording as suggested in the revised text last year was better than the present text, with an addition to the final sentence in paragraph 4.

The proposal was adopted

Law XII—Fouls and Misconduct

(2) The Fédération Internationale de Football Association

PRESENT TEXT

5. When playing as goalkeeper,
 - (a) takes more than 4 steps whilst holding, bouncing or throwing the ball in the air and catching it again without releasing it so that it is played by another player, or
 - (b) indulges in tactics which, in the opinion of the Referee, are designed merely to hold up the game and thus waste time and so give an unfair advantage to his own teamshall be penalised by the award of an indirect free-kick to be taken by the opposing side from the place where the infringement occurred.

PROPOSED ALTERATION

- (a) ...
- (b) indulges in tactics *with or without the participation of a colleague, which are deliberately designed to waste time ...*

Reason:

The text is self-explanatory.

The proposal was withdrawn

(3) The Football Association

PRESENT TEXT

PROPOSED ALTERATION

A player who intentionally commits any of the following nine offences:

- (a) ...
- (b) ...
- (c) ...
- (d) ...
- (e) ...
- (f) ...
- (g) ...
- (h) ...
- (i) ...

shall be penalised by the award of a direct free-kick to be taken by the opposing side from the place where the offence occurred.

Add to this paragraph:

, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal area, in which case, the free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal area in which the offence occurred.

Should a player of the defending side ...

- (1) ...
- (2) ...
- (3) ...
- (4) ...
- (5) When playing as goalkeeper
 - (a) ...
 - (b) ...

shall be penalised by the award of an indirect free-kick to be taken by the opposing side from the place where the infringement occurred.

Add to this paragraph:

, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal area, in which case, the free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal area in which the offence occurred.

A player shall be cautioned if:

- (j) he enters or re-enters the field of play to join or re-join his team after the game has commenced, or leaves the field of play during the progress of the game (except through accident) without, in either case, first having received a signal from the Referee showing him that he may do so. If the Referee stops the game to administer the caution the game shall be restarted by an indirect free-kick taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the ball was when the Referee stopped the game. If, however, the offending player has committed a more serious offence he shall be penalised according to that section of the law he infringed.

Add the following after "where the ball was when the Referee stopped the game":

If the free-kick is awarded to a side within its own goal area it may be taken from any point within the half of the goal area in which the ball was when play was stopped.

- (k) ...
- (l) ...
- (m) ...

For any of these three last offences, in addition to the caution, an indirect free-kick shall also be awarded to the opposing side from the place where the offence occurred, unless a more serious infringement of the Laws of the Game was committed. A player shall be sent off the field of play, if:

Add the following new sentence after the word "committed":
If the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal area, a free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal area in which the offence occurred.

- (n) ...
- (o) ...
- (p) ...

If play be stopped by reason of a player being ordered from the field for an offence without a separate breach of the Law having been committed, the game shall be resumed by an indirect free-kick awarded to the opposing side from the place where the infringement occurred.

Add the following to this paragraph:

, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal area, in which case, the free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal area in which the offence occurred.

Reason:

It is felt that, in certain instances, where the offence occurs in close proximity to the goal post, or near to the goal line between the goal posts, the offended side is placed at a distinct disadvantage, and the player has to take the kick from a restricted position. This amendment will enable the defending side to take the kick without giving an advantage to the offending side.

There are several changes to the Law consequential to this amendment and they are listed as follows:

The proposal was adopted

As a consequence, the following alterations (3.1 to 3.9) were adopted

It was further agreed to change the word "side" for "team" in the proposed text 3 and 3.1 to 3.9

3.1 Law III—Number of Players

PRESENT TEXT

Punishment

- (a) . . .
(b) For any other infringement of this Law, the player concerned shall be cautioned, and if the game is stopped by the Referee to administer the caution it shall be restarted by an indirect free-kick to be taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the ball was when the play was stopped.

PROPOSED ALTERATION

Add the following new sentence to Punishment Clause (b):
If the free-kick is awarded to a side within its own goal area, it may be taken from any point within that half of the goal area in which the ball was when play was stopped.

3.2 Law IV—Players' Equipment. Decision No 6

PRESENT TEXT

6. A player who has been prevented from taking part in a game or who has been sent off because of an infringement of Law IV, and who enters or re-enters the field of play to join or rejoin his team in breach of the conditions of Law XII, shall be cautioned.

If the Referee stops the game to administer the caution, the game shall be restarted by an indirect free-kick by a player of the opposing side, from the place where the ball was when the Referee stopped the game.

PROPOSED ALTERATION

Add the following to this paragraph:
If the free-kick is awarded to a side within its own goal area, it may be taken from any point within that half of the goal area in which the ball was when play was stopped.

3.3 Law VIII—Start of Play

PRESENT TEXT

Punishment Clause

For any infringement of this Law, the kick-off shall be retaken, except in the case of the kicker playing the ball again before it has been touched or played by another player; for this offence, an indirect free-kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred. A goal shall not be scored direct from a kick-off.

PROPOSED ALTERATION

Add the following after "infringement occurred":
, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal area, in which case, the free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal area in which the offence occurred.

3.4 Law XI—Off-side

PRESENT TEXT

A player is off-side if he is nearer his opponents' goal-line, than the ball at the moment the ball is played unless:

- (a) He is in his own half of the field of play.
(b) There are two of his opponents nearer to their goal-line than he is.
(c) The ball last touched an opponent or was last played by him.
(d) He receives the ball direct from a goal-kick, a corner-kick, a throw-in or when it was dropped by the Referee.

Punishment

For an infringement of this Law, an indirect free-kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred.

A player in an off-side position shall not be penalised unless, in the opinion of the Referee, he is interfering with the play or with an opponent, or is seeking to gain an advantage by being in an off-side position.

PROPOSED ALTERATION

Add to the first sentence of the punishment clause, the following:
, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal area, in which case, the free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal area in which the offence occurred.

PRESENT TEXT

PROPOSED ALTERATION

Free-kicks shall be classified under two heads:

“Direct” (from which a goal can be scored direct against the offending side), and “Indirect” (from which the goal cannot be scored unless the ball has been played or touched by a player other than the kicker before passing through the goal).

When a player is taking a direct or an indirect free-kick inside his own penalty-area, all of the opposing players shall remain outside the area, and shall be at least ten yards from the ball whilst the kick is being taken. The ball shall be in play immediately it has travelled the distance of its own circumference and is beyond the penalty-area. The goalkeeper shall not receive the ball into his hands, in order that he may thereafter kick it into play. If the ball is not kicked directly into play, beyond the penalty-area, the kick shall be retaken.

When a player is taking a direct or an indirect free-kick outside his own penalty area, all of the opposing players shall be at least ten yards from the ball, until it is in play, unless they are standing on their own goal line, between the goal-posts. The ball shall be in play when it has travelled the distance of its own circumference.

If a player of the opposing side encroaches into the penalty area, or within ten yards of the ball, as the case may be, before a free-kick is taken, the Referee shall delay the taking of the kick, until the Law is complied with.

The ball must be stationary when a free-kick is taken, and the kicker shall not play the ball a second time, until it has been touched or played by another player.

Punishment

If the kicker, after taking the free-kick, plays the ball a second time before it has been touched or played by another player, an indirect free-kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the spot where the infringement occurred.

Reason:

See proposal Ref. Law XI and XII above. The changes consequential upon these amendments may be considered such as to be unwieldy. This proposal may be considered as an alternative.

Add the following paragraph:

Notwithstanding any other reference in these Laws from which a free-kick is to be taken, any free-kick taken from a point within that half of the goal area in which the offence occurred, may be taken from a point within that half of the goal area in which the offence occurred.

Add the following to this paragraph:

, unless the offence is committed by a player in his own goal area, in which case, the free-kick shall be taken from a point within that half of the goal area in which the offence occurred.

3.6 Law XIV—Penalty-kick

PRESENT TEXT

PROPOSED ALTERATION

Punishment

For any infringement of this Law:

- (a) by the defending team, the kick shall be retaken if a goal has not resulted;
- (b) by the attacking team, other than by the player taking the kick, if a goal is scored it shall be disallowed and the kick retaken;
- (c) by the player taking the penalty-kick, committed after the ball is in play, a player of the opposing team shall take an indirect free-kick from the spot where the infringement occurred.

Add to the Punishment Clause, the following:

If, in the case of paragraph (c), the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal area, the free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal area in which the offence occurred.

3.7 Law XV—Throw-in

PRESENT TEXT

PROPOSED ALTERATION

Punishment

- (a) ...
- (b) If the thrower plays the ball a second time before it has been touched or played by another player, an indirect free-kick shall be taken from the spot where the infringement occurred.

Add to the Punishment Clause, Section (b), the following: *, unless the offence is committed by a player in his own goal area, in which case, the free-kick shall be taken from a point within that half of the goal area in which the offence occurred.*

3.8 Law XVI—Goal-kick

PRESENT TEXT

Punishment

If a player taking a goal-kick plays the ball a second time after it has passed beyond the penalty-area, but before it has touched or been played by another player an indirect free-kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

PROPOSED ALTERATION

Add the following to this paragraph:

, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal area, in which case, the free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal area in which the offence occurred.

3.9 Law XVII—Corner-kick

PRESENT TEXT

Punishment

(a) If the player who takes the kick plays the ball a second time before it has been touched or played by another player, the Referee shall award an indirect free-kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

(b) For any other infringement, the kick shall be retaken.

PROPOSED ALTERATION

Add to the Punishment Clause, Section (a), the following:

, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal area, in which case, the free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal area in which the offence occurred.

Law XIII (and others)

(4) The Football Association of Wales

PRESENT TEXT

Free-kicks shall be classified under two headings: "Direct" (from which a goal can be scored direct against the offending side), and "Indirect" (from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has been played or touched by a player other than the kicker before passing through the goal).

Second paragraph:

When a player is taking a direct or an indirect free-kick inside his own penalty area . . .

Third paragraph:

When a player is taking a direct or indirect free-kick outside his own penalty area . . .

Punishment

If the kicker, after taking the free-kick, plays the ball a second time before it has been touched or played by another player an indirect free-kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the spot where the infringement occurred.

Present Decision 1

In order to distinguish between a direct and an indirect free-kick, the Referee, when he awards an indirect free-kick, shall indicate accordingly by raising an arm above his head. He shall keep his arm in that position until the kick has been taken.

Reason:

(a) *Surely in this unfortunate day and age of increasing disregard for the authority of the Referee, the indirect free-kick has outlived its usefulness. Whatever influence it once may have had as a deterrent has been manifestly eroded.*

Each and every infringement of the Laws of the Game should make the offending team vulnerable to conceding a goal direct from the resultant kick. So often the punishment, the award of an indirect free-kick, does not fit the crime but merely tends to give unfair advantage to the transgressor.

The indirect free-kick is an unnecessary complication which leads to confusion and its abolition would simplify the Laws.

It also has to be said that the indirect free-kick is too readily at the disposal of a Referee should he wish to take the easy way out and avoid making an unpopular decision.

(b) *The wording "to be taken from the place where the offence occurred" is repetitious and unnecessary. The proposed new definition of a free-kick would, in itself, prove quite adequate.*

PROPOSED ALTERATION

Delete the paragraph and substitute:

A free-kick is a kick from which a goal can be scored direct against the offending side and shall be taken, unless otherwise stated in the Laws of the Game, from the place where the infringement occurred.

Delete "direct or indirect".

Delete "direct or indirect".

Delete and substitute:

If the kicker, after taking the free-kick, plays the ball a second time before it has been touched or played by another player a free-kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team.

Delete the whole paragraph.

Re-number present paragraphs (2) and (3) to read (1) and (2).

The proposal was not adopted

Consequently, proposals 4.1 to 4.9 were not considered

It was however agreed that experiments may be authorised and carried out.

nishment

For any other infringement of this Law, the player concerned shall be cautioned, and if the game is stopped by the Referee, to administer a caution, it shall be restarted by an indirect free-kick, to be taken by a player of the opposing team, from the place where the ball was, when play was stopped.

Delete “an indirect” and substitute “a”.

4.2 Law IV—Players’ Equipment

PRESENT TEXT

PROPOSED ALTERATION

Present Decision 6

second sentence which reads:

When the Referee stops the game to administer the caution, the game shall be restarted by an indirect free-kick, taken by a player of the opposing side, from the place where the ball was when the Referee stopped the game.

Delete “an indirect” and substitute “a”.

4.3 Law VIII—The Start of Play

PRESENT TEXT

PROPOSED ALTERATION

nishment

For any infringement of this Law, the kick-off shall be retaken, except in the case of the kicker playing the ball again before it has been touched or played by another player; for this offence, an indirect free-kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred. A goal shall not be scored direct from a kick-off.

Delete “an indirect” and substitute “a”.

And also:

Delete “from the place where the infringement occurred”.

4.4 Law XI—Off-side

PRESENT TEXT

PROPOSED ALTERATION

nishment

For an infringement of this Law, an indirect free-kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred.

Delete paragraph and substitute:

For an infringement of this Law a free-kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team.

4.5 Law XII—Fouls and Misconduct

PRESENT TEXT

PROPOSED ALTERATION

Paragraph following (i):

He shall be penalised by the award of a direct free-kick to be taken from the opposing side from the place where the offence occurred.

Delete and substitute:

“shall be penalised by the award of a free-kick to be taken from the opposing side”.

Paragraph following 5 (b):

He shall be penalised by the award of an indirect free-kick to be taken from the opposing side from the place where the infringement occurred.

Delete and substitute:

“shall be penalised by the award of a free-kick to be taken from the opposing side”.

Paragraph 5 (j), second sentence, which reads:

When the Referee stops the game to administer the caution the game shall be restarted by an indirect free-kick taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the ball was when the Referee stopped . . .

Delete “an indirect” and substitute “a”.

PRESENT TEXT

PROPOSED ALTERATION

ment

By the player taking the penalty-kick, committed after the ball is in play, a player of the opposing team shall take an indirect free-kick from the spot where the infringement occurred.

Delete and substitute:

- (c) "by the player taking the penalty-kick, committed after the ball is in play, a player of the opposing team shall take a free-kick".

Decision 4 (c)

In the circumstances described in the foregoing paragraph, the ball rebounds into play from the goalkeeper, the cross-bar or a goal-post, the Referee shall stop the game, caution the player and award an indirect free-kick to the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred.

Delete and substitute:

If, in the circumstances described in the foregoing paragraph, the ball rebounds into play from the goalkeeper, the cross-bar or goal-post, the Referee shall stop the game, caution the player and award a free-kick to the opposing team.

4.7 Law XV—Throw-in

PRESENT TEXT

PROPOSED ALTERATION

ment

If the thrower plays the ball a second time before it has been touched or played by another player, an indirect free-kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred.

Delete and substitute:

- (b) If the thrower plays the ball a second time before it has been touched or played by another player, a free-kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team.

Decision 1

If a player taking a throw-in, plays the ball a second time by kicking it within the field of play before it has been touched or played by another player, the Referee shall award a direct free-

Delete "direct".

4.8 Law XVI—Goal-kick

PRESENT TEXT

PROPOSED ALTERATION

ment

If a player taking a goal-kick plays the ball a second time after it has passed beyond the penalty-area, but before it has been touched or played by another player, an indirect free-kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

Delete and substitute:

If a player taking a goal-kick plays the ball a second time after it has passed beyond the penalty-area, but before it has been touched or been played by another player, a free-kick shall be awarded to the opposing team.

4.9 Law XVII—Corner-kick

PRESENT TEXT

PROPOSED ALTERATION

ment

If the player who takes the kick plays the ball a second time before it has been touched or played by another player, the Referee shall award an indirect free-kick to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

Delete and substitute:

- (a) If the player who takes the kick plays the ball a second time before it has been touched or played by another player, the Referee shall award a free-kick to the opposing team.

SUBMITTED UNDER RULE 2 OF THE BOARD RULES

A. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Universal Guide for Referees)

(5) Law XIV—Answer 7 (FIFA)

PRESENT TEXT	PROPOSED ALTERATION
7.Q. What action does the Referee take if, at the taking of a penalty-kick, the ball strikes the goal-post and/or cross-bar and bursts?	Q. ...
A. (i) <i>He asks for another ball and re-starts the game by dropping the ball.</i> (ii) <i>If the penalty-kick is being taken in extended time (see Universal Guide—Law XIV, decision 8) and the ball strikes the goal-post and/or cross-bar and bursts, the game ends.</i>	A. (i) ... (ii) ... (see Universal Guide—Law XIV, decision 7) ...

Reason:

This change was omitted when the decisions to the Law were made in 1973.

The proposal was adopted

(6) Law XV—Answer 1 (FIFA)

PRESENT TEXT	PROPOSED ALTERATION
1.Q. The ball is in touch, but before it is thrown in, a player deliberately kicks an opponent, what action should the Referee take?	Q. ...
A. <i>He should caution the player or order him off the field and re-start the game by a throw-in.</i>	A. <i>He should send him off the field of play and re-start the game by a throw-in.</i>

Reason:

“Kicking an opponent” is to be considered violent conduct for which the punishment must be an expulsion.

The proposal was adopted

(7) The Football Association of Wales

The proposals quoted under 7. were not considered because of the non-adoption of the proposal under 4.

Law XIII

PRESENT TEXT	PROPOSED ALTERATION
1.A. Yes, by a direct free-kick or by a penalty kick if the offence took place in the penalty-area.	Delete “direct”.
4.Q. If the ball from an indirect free-kick touches an opponent and enters the net, should a goal be awarded?	Delete both question and answer.
A. Yes.	

7.1 Law IX

PRESENT TEXT	PROPOSED ALTERATION
2. A. The player shall be cautioned. The game shall be re-started by an indirect free-kick, taken by a player of the opposing team, from the place where infringement occurred.	Delete “an indirect” and substitute “a”.

7.2 Law XII

PRESENT TEXT	PROPOSED ALTERATION
2. A. The player should be cautioned and the game re-started by a direct free-kick because the offence occurred within the field of play.	Delete “direct”.
4. A. Yes. He must be cautioned and an indirect free-kick awarded to the opposing team. In case of repetition of the offence, he must be sent off the field.	Delete “an indirect” and substitute “a”.
7. A. The Referee should caution them or dismiss them from the field of play and re-start the game by an indirect free-kick.	Delete “an indirect” and substitute “a”.

2. Mini-Corner There seemed to be no advantage in the introduction of the mini-corner, and quite a number of disadvantages. These were:-

- (a) In the earlier stages of the competition the ball was kicked very hard and low as though it was recognised that the ball could strike a player's leg and ricochet into goal, giving the goalkeeper very little chance. This happened in the second match of the tournament when Germany scored.
- (b) In subsequent matches defending players formed a 'wall' 9 metres from the mini-corner. This resulted in the goalkeeper's view of the ball being obscured when the ball was passed out into the field of play or lobbed over the wall. It also caused a concentration of players in close proximity to the goal.
- (c) The concentration of players could produce incidents between players.
- (d) The positioning of the referee produced difficulties in attempting to be in an advantageous position to deal with the corner kick and the subsequent play while himself ensuring that he did not interfere with play.

<u>Statistics</u>	<u>No. of mini-corners</u>	<u>No. of corners (Normal)</u>	<u>No. of goals scored from Mini-Corner</u>
England -v- Spain	3	1	
W. Germany -v- Yugoslavia	10	4	1
Italy -v- Hungary	8	4	
France -v- Russia	8	4	
Spain -v- Yugoslavia	9	5	
England -v- W. Germany	7	2	1
Russia -v- Hungary	7	3	
Italy -v- France	8	1	1
England -v- Yugoslavia	5	1	
W. Germany -v- Spain	2	10	
Italy -v- Russia	3	3	
France -v- Hungary	8	5	
Russia -v- Yugoslavia	10	5	
Italy -v- W. Germany	9 (3 in extra time)	3 (1 in extra time)	
Totals	97	41	3

3. 'Kick-in' from ball in touch The only advantage seemed to be that the ball was usually kicked in from the point at which it crossed the line, and there was only one instance of encroachment by the player taking the kick. As opponents had to be 9 metres from the ball it eliminated numbers of players being in close proximity to the kicker. Players failing to retire 9 metres might be a problem, but this did not arise in these matches. It was noted that defending players in order to avoid a corner kick played the ball over the touch line as is a common tactic in normal play. On this occasion there was no advantage in doing so as a kick from the touch line near the corner flag had the same advantages as a corner kick. There was a variety of tactics employed by the kicker but, usually, the kick was a long one well into the field of play. It is difficult to form an opinion from a single tournament but there were certain advantages and only a minimal disadvantage in that the period in which the ball was out of play was usually longer than similar periods in matches where the ball is thrown in from play.

Statistics

	<u>Free Kick (Ball in 'touch')</u>	
England -v- Spain	England 17	Spain 17
W. Germany -v- Yugoslavia	Germany 29	Yugoslavia 31
Italy -v- Hungary	Italy 17	Hungary 23
France -v- Russia	France 19	Russia 18
Spain -v- Yugoslavia	Spain 17	Yugoslavia 31
England -v- W. Germany	England 21	W. Germany 19
Russia -v- Hungary	Russia 20	Hungary 28
Italy -v- France	Italy 15	France 25
England -v- Yugoslavia	England 19	Yugoslavia 20
W. Germany -v- Spain	Germany 16	Spain 23
Italy -v- Russia	Italy 21	Russia 21
France -v- Hungary	France 20	Hungary 22
Russia -v- Yugoslavia	Russia 16	Yugoslavia 19
Italy -v- W. Germany (Inc. extra time)	Italy 38	Germany 27
	Total <u>285</u>	Total <u>324</u>

609

General Assessment

It is an advantage to experiment with proposed changes of law by their application to matches played in a competition and an objective assessment made before their submission or otherwise to the International Football Association Board. This competition seems to be ideal for such experiments providing all players club officials and referees have time prior to the tournament to study the implications of the proposed changes. Of those experiments conducted in the 6th Tournament a general observation might be that:-

- (a) the 'temporary expulsion' seems very successful in such a tournament but its practicality as a universal change of law seems doubtful unless competitions could be given the right in law to use this method within their own competitions subject to conditions in the provision of effective officials and adequate facilities.
- (b) The 'mini-corner' - this seemed to serve no useful purpose and could produce many problems.
- (c) Kick in from 'touch' - an extended trial or trials might be advisable for the change has merit.

Observations made by participating team delegates

Italy - prefers 'mini-corner' but not 'temporary suspension'

W. Germany - supports 'kick-in from touch' but not the other two proposed changes

France Agrees with temporary suspension

Spain - Suggests each National Association be allowed to try experimental rules in national competitions.
Supports 'mini-corner' but suggests it be called 'short-corner'
Supports temporary expulsion but concerned about inconsistency of referees.
'Ball out of play' - request the upraised arm to be used to signal it is an indirect free kick but supports proposed change.

Hungary - supports all changes but considers that there should be no offside from a kick in from touch.

Russia - Suggests suspension should not exceed 5 minutes
Kick in from touch - very good
Mini-corner - uncertain but not favoured by team Captain

Yugoslavia - Do not support mini-corner. Suggest no offside from kick in from touch.

England - Do not support mini-corner.
Can see limited use of temporary suspension to matches where extra officials are available and facilities are adequate but not for universal adoption.
Do not support kick-in from touch but can see value in extended trial.

International Board 1977 - FIFA's proposals

It is to inform you that at our last Referees' Committee meeting it was decided not to submit any proposals to the Board in 1977 but to study further certain problems. However it was decided to submit the following question to the International Board:

From the F.W.V.B. a proposal to make a mark about 10 yards from the corner flag marking the goal-line in order to facilitate the control of players' movement at the taking of corner-kicks. After discussion the Referees' Committee agreed that the proposal would have to be put to the International Board, despite the fact that it concerned an area technically outside the field of play. In the same way the proposed "Photographers' line" was approved by the Board.

It would like to know the opinion of the Board about such proposals.

Yours sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

FONDÉE LE 21 MAI 1904

TÉLÉPHONE: 53 87 53
ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE: FIFA
CASE POSTALE 136 8030 ZURICH
TÉLEX 55 678 FIFA CH

Mr. E.A. Croker
The Football Association
16 Lancaster Gate

London, W2 3LW

ENGLAND

ZURICH. 23 December 1976
HITZIGWEG 11 K/hp

Dear Ted,

International Board 1977 - FIFA's proposals

This is to inform you that at our last Referees' Committee meeting it was decided not to submit any proposals to the Board in 1977 but to study further certain problems. However it was decided to submit the following question to the International Board:

FIFA received from the K.N.V.B. a proposal to make a mark about 20 cm long 10 yards from the corner flag outside the goal-line and the side-line in order to facilitate the control of players' positions at the taking of corner-kicks. After discussion the Referees' Committee agreed that the proposal would have to be put to the International Board, despite the fact that it concerned markings technically outside the field of play, in the same way as the so-called "Photographers' line" was approved by the Board in 1975.

FIFA would like to know the opinion of the Board about such markings.

Yours sincerely,

HELMUT

IFAB®

