



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

of the

2004 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

**INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION BOARD**

held at

Claridge's,

LONDON, ENGLAND

At 10.00am on 28th February 2004

*Hitzigweg 11
P.O. Box 85
8030
Zurich*

*Urs Linsi
General Secretary
Fédération Internationale
de Football Association*

AGENDA

I. **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

II. **MINUTES**

To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Culloden Hotel, Craigavad, Northern Ireland on Saturday 15th March 2003.

To receive the Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held in FIFA House, Zurich on 16th September 2003

III. **LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD**

To consider the following proposals and amendments submitted under the regulations of the International Football Association Board.

1. Law 1 – **The Field of Play**
(Submitted by FIFA)
2. Law 1 – **The Field of Play**
(Submitted by FIFA)
3. Law 3 – **The Number of Players**
(Submitted by FIFA)
4. Law 5 – **The Referee**
(Submitted by FIFA)
5. Law 7 – **The Duration of the Match**
(Submitted by FIFA)
6. Law 10 – **The Method of Scoring.**
(Submitted by FIFA)
7. Law 12 – **Fouls and Misconduct**
(Submitted by FIFA)
8. Law 13 – **Free Kicks.**
(Submitted by The Football Association)
9. **Procedures to determine the winner of a match**
(Submitted by FIFA)

IV. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

1. The treatment of injured players.
(Submitted by FIFA)
2. Questions and Answers Book
(Submitted by FIFA)
3. Radio communication system
(Submitted by FIFA and The Scottish Football Association)

V. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

VI. **2005 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD**

Venue and date

Present

**THE FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

Joseph S. Blatter
Julio Grondona
Angel Maria Villar Llona
Urs Linsi

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Geoffrey Thompson
David Richards
Mark Palios
David Davies

THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

James Boyce
Raymond Kennedy
David J. Martin
David I. Bowen

THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

John McBeth
George W. Peat
Campbell Ogilvie
David Taylor

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES

Tegwyn M. Evans MBE
Peter Rees
Philip C. Pritchard
David G. Collins

Others attending

Jérôme Champagne	FIFA
José-Maria Garcia Aranda	FIFA
Hans Ulrich Schneider	FIFA
George Cumming	FIFA
John Baker	The Football Association
William Campbell	The Irish Football Association
Donald McVicar	The Scottish Football Association
Idwal F. Williams	The Football Association of Wales

Also in attendance

THE FIFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

David H. Will CBE	
Lennart Johansson	
Issa Hayatou	
Dr Chung Mong-Joon	
Jack A. Warner	
Slim Aloulou	
Dr Michel D'Hooghe	
Ricardo Teixeira	
Mohamed Bin Hammam	
Senes Erzik	
Chuck Blazer	
Worawi Makudi	
Dr Nicolás Leoz	
Ismail Bahmjee	
Amadou Diakite	
Dr Viacheslav Koloskov	
Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder	
Michel Platini	
'Ahongalu Fusimalohi	
Ogura Junji	
Tautulu Roebek	Observer

I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The FIFA President, Joseph S. Blatter, welcomed the members to the 2004 Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board. He said that it was a privilege and a pleasure for FIFA to chair this meeting in the FIFA Centennial Year.

Mr Blatter welcomed the Board members attending their first meeting – Julio Grondona, (FIFA), Mark Palios (The Football Association), Raymond Kennedy (Irish Football Association), Campbell Ogilvie (Scottish Football Association) and Philip Pritchard (Football Association of Wales).

He also welcomed the members of the FIFA Executive Committee, who on this special occasion were attending as guests.

In the past year, two former Board members, Jacques Georges of FIFA and R. Gwynfryn Jones MBE of the Football Association of Wales had passed away. The members stood in silence in respect of their memory.

Mr Blatter summarised the history of the Board and reminded those present that the Board had been founded in 1886 by the British associations and that FIFA, after its formation in 1904, had become a full member of the Board in 1913.

He said that, although the International FA Board was now embodied in the FIFA Statutes, it has been and will remain an independent institution, comprising an equal number of representatives from FIFA and the British associations which fulfils its duties and responsibilities as the guardian of the Laws of the Game.

He explained the procedures of the Board and recognised the responsibility of FIFA in ensuring that the Laws are applied universally.

Finally, on this historic occasion, Mr Blatter, unveiled a display of a jersey and international cap worn in the first international match between Scotland and England in 1872 and of the ball used in the final match of the 1930 FIFA World Cup in Uruguay.

II. MINUTES OF THE 2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the 2003 Annual General Meeting held in the Culloden Hotel, Craigavad, Northern Ireland on 15th March 2003 and these were formally signed by the FIFA President.

III. LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FA BOARD.

1. *Proposed by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association*

Law 1 – The Field of Play

Present Text

Proposed New Text

Field surface

Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces, according to the rules of the competition.

New International FA Board Decision 7

Where artificial surfaces are used in either competition matches between representative teams of national associations affiliated to FIFA or international club competition matches, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept for Artificial Turf or the International Artificial Turf Standard, unless special dispensation is given by FIFA.

Reason:

Advances in artificial surface technology have created high quality surfaces which are fully acceptable at all levels of the game. This proposal recognises the surface of the field in the Laws of the Game for the first time and also the fact that artificial surfaces in identified levels of international competition must meet recognised FIFA standards.

Decision:

The proposal of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association was adopted.

2. Proposed by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association

Law 1 – The Field of Play

Present Text

Proposed New Text

New International FA Board Decision 8

Where a technical area exists, it must meet the requirements approved by the International FA Board, which are contained in this publication.

Reason:

This new International FA Board Decision gives formal recognition to the text on the technical area which is published as an Appendix to the Laws in the Laws of the Game book

Decision:

The proposal of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association was adopted.

3. Proposed by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association

Law 3 – The Number of Players

Present Text

Other matches

In other matches, substitutes may be used, provided that:

- The teams reach agreement on a maximum number
- The referee is informed before the match

If the referee is not informed, or if no agreement is reached before the start of the match, no more than three substitutes are allowed.

Reason:

The practice of making large numbers of substitutions in friendly matches devalues the game and creates a farcical situation. The number of substitutes used in friendly matches must be controlled.

Decision:

The proposal of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association was adopted having been amended from five substitutes to six.

Proposed New Text

Other matches

In other matches up to five substitutes may be used.

4. Proposed by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association

Law 5 – The Referee

Present Text

International FA Board Decision 2

In tournaments or competitions where a fourth official is appointed, his role and duties must be in accordance with the guidelines approved by the International FA Board.

Proposed New Text

International FA Board Decision 2

In tournaments or competitions where a fourth official is appointed, his role and duties must be in accordance with the guidelines approved by the International FA Board, which are contained in this publication.

Reason:

This additional text using the phrase ‘which are contained in this publication’ is to provide consistent wording with other IFAB Decisions and to formally recognise the guidelines on the fourth official published in the Laws of the Game book.

Decision:

The proposal of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association was adopted.

5. Proposed by the *Fédération Internationale de Football Association*

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match

Present Text

Half-Time Interval

Players are entitled to an interval at half-time.

The half-time interval must not exceed 15 minutes.

Proposed New Text

Half-Time Interval

Players are entitled to an interval at half-time.

The half-time interval must not exceed 20 minutes.

Reason:

The extension of the maximum time permitted for the half time interval from 15 to 20 minutes will allow additional time which may be required in certain competitions. Competition rules, however, will continue to determine the length of the interval.

Decision:

The proposal of the *Fédération Internationale de Football Association* was not adopted.

Present Text

Extra Time

Competition rules may provide for two further equal periods to be played.
The conditions of Law 8 will apply.

Proposed New Text

Extra Time

Text to be deleted.

Reason:

This text will now be included in Procedures to determine the winner of a match.

Decision:

The proposal of the *Fédération Internationale de Football Association* was adopted.

6. *Proposed by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association*

Law 10 – The Method of Scoring

Present Text

Competition Rules

For matches ending in a draw, competition rules may state provisions involving extra time, or other procedures approved by the International F.A. Board, to determine the winner of a match.

Proposed New Text

Competition Rules

When competition rules require there to be a winning team after a match has been drawn, only the following procedures which have been approved by the International FA Board are permitted

- Away goals rule
- Extra time
- Golden Goal
- Kicks from the penalty mark

New International FA Board Decision 1

Only procedures to determine the winner of a match which are approved by the International FA Board and contained in this publication, are permitted in competition rules.

Reason:

These texts confirm the decision taken at the Annual Business Meeting of the IFAB in September 2003 that competition rules to determine the winner of a match may only include procedures which have been approved by the International FA Board.

Decision:

The proposal of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association was adopted with the modification that the Golden Goal be removed from the list of procedures which have been approved by the International FA Board.

7. Proposed by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Present Text

Proposed New Text

New International FA Board Decision 6

A player who removes his jersey when celebrating a goal must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour

Reason:

The removal of the jersey after a goal has been scored is unnecessary and players must avoid such excessive displays of celebration.

Decision:

The proposal of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association was adopted.

8. *Proposed by The Football Association*

Law 13 – Free Kicks

Present Text

Proposed New Text

New International FA Board Decision 1

If, after a free kick is awarded for an offence under Law 12, a player from the offending team:

- a) Fails to respect the required distance and retreat 9.15 m (10 yards) from the position of the free kick, or
- b) Delays the restart of play by carrying, throwing or kicking the ball away, or
- c) Shows dissent by word or action, or
- d) Indulges in any other form of unsporting behaviour

The referee will first caution the offending player appropriately, show the yellow card and advance the position of the free kick 9.15 m (10 yards) toward the midpoint of the offending team's goal

If this advancement results in entering the offending team's penalty area, the ball shall be placed just outside of the penalty area line nearest the point where the advancement would cross the penalty area line.

Reason:

Where the text of this proposed new International FA Board Decision has been applied in experiments in amateur, semi-professional and professional football matches, it has significantly improved the quality of sportsmanship and assisted referees controlling games.

The risk of instant punishment of the offending team, as a result of an individual player's misconduct, has proved to be a helpful deterrent to unfair tactics and fair play has become much more prevalent.

The advancement should stop outside the penalty area because at the experimental stage it proved to be a disadvantage to the team awarded the free kick when the ball was advanced into the penalty area.

Decision:

The proposal of The Football Association was not adopted.

It was agreed that The Football Association will be allowed to conduct the experiment for one more year before a final decision is taken by the Board.

9. *Proposed by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association*

Procedures to determine the winner of a match

Present Text

The Golden Goal and taking kicks from the penalty mark are methods of determining the winning team where competition rules require there to be a winning team after a match has been drawn.

Proposed New Text

Away goals, extra time, the Golden Goal and taking kicks from the penalty mark are methods of determining the winning team where competition rules require there to be a winning team after a match has been drawn.

Away Goals

Competition rules may provide that where teams play each other home and away, if the scores are equal after the second match, any goals scored at the ground of the opposing team will count double.

Extra Time

Competition rules may provide for two further equal periods to be played. The conditions of Law 8 will apply.

The Golden Goal

Text unchanged

Kicks from the penalty mark

Text unchanged

Reason:

This text confirms the procedures proposed earlier.

Amended text

Away goals, extra time and taking kicks from the penalty mark are methods of determining the winning team where competition rules require there to be a winning team after a match has been drawn.

Away Goals

Competition rules may provide that where teams play each other home and away, if the scores are equal after the second match, any goals scored at the ground of the opposing team will count double.

Extra Time

Competition rules may provide for two further equal periods, not exceeding 15 minutes each, to be played. The conditions of Law 8 will apply.

Kicks from the penalty mark

Text unchanged

Decision

Following discussion, the amended text was adopted.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

Submitted by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association

1. Treatment of injured players

The discussion item that all players who require treatment must remain off the field of play for at least two minutes was withdrawn

Submitted by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association

2. Questions and Answers Book

The Board approved the Draft Document on Questions and Answers and gave the Sub-Committee authority to complete final editing before publication.

Submitted by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association and the Scottish Football Association

3. Radio communication system

The Board received reports on experiments using radio communication systems between referees, assistants and the fourth official which had taken place in the FIFA Confederations Cup and in the Scottish Premier League.

It was recognised that this technology could make a positive contribution to match control but it was also recognised that such a system must only be used for communication between the match officials and must not be used for broadcasting purposes.

V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Offside

The Football Association raised the subject of offside and the matter was referred to the Sub-Committee for further consideration.

2. Electronic advertising boards

The Football Association expressed its concern at the distraction caused to players and match officials by the use of LED advertising screens around the field of play.

The matter was referred to the Sub-Committee and to the FIFA administration for further consideration.

3. Radio communication between players and technical staff

The Board supported FIFA's opposition to the use of radio communication between players and technical staff which had recently taken place in Belgium. FIFA would inform the Union Royale Belge des Sociétés de Football Association accordingly.

4. Law 4 – The Players' Equipment

The Board agreed that the use of a one-piece playing suit was contrary to the Laws of the Game and noted that, following the use of such equipment in a recent competition, the matter was being dealt with by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

The International FA Board

In recognition of the FIFA Centennial, each member received a specially produced 1930 replica FIFA referee jersey.

Also, as part of the FIFA Centennial, a set of two DVDs on the International FA Board had been produced and was presented to the members.

George Cumming gave a short presentation to show the archives of the International FA Board since 1886, multi-lingual versions of the Laws of the Game and pictures of goalposts from different parts of the world.

The chairman thanked him for his interesting contribution.

**VI. 2005 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD.**

The 2005 Annual General Meeting of the International FA Board will take place on 26th February 2005 in the Vale of Glamorgan, Wales.

Votes of Thanks

Mr Geoffrey Thomson, Chairman of The Football Association, expressed his thanks to the FIFA President, on behalf of the Board, for the manner in which he had conducted the meeting during this historic and memorable weekend.

Mr Mohamed Bin Hammam, President of the Asian Football Confederation, thanked the Board, on behalf of the FIFA Executive Committee, for its invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting and said it had been a very interesting and beneficial experience to see its workings at first hand.

The FIFA President, in closing the meeting, thanked both Mr Thompson and Mr Bin Hammam for their kind words. He said he was very pleased to have presided over this important and successful meeting and thanked those present for their valuable contributions.

This being all the business, the meeting was closed at 11.50 am.

