

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION BOARD

1939

MINUTES
of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

International Football Association Board

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

held at HOTEL NEGRESCO, NICE

on 10th JUNE 1939

The following representatives constituted the Board:

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION:

Messrs. Dr. P. J. Bauwens (in the Chair), H. Delaunay and Dr. I. Schriker (Secretary) who acted as Secretary of the Meeting.

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION:

Messrs. W. C. Cuff, H. J. Huband, S. F. Rous (Secretary),

THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION:

Messrs. D. Bowie D. Gray, J. Bogie (acting Secretary)

THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION:

Messrs. J. Mac Bride, J. M. Small, Ch. Watson (Secretary).

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES:

Messrs. Lt. Col. J. Ll. Williams, B. Watts Jones, T. Robbins (Secretary)

Before proceeding to the agenda-business the Chairman, Dr. Bauwens, referred to the loss sustained by The Football Association and the International F. A. Board through the death of Mr. W. Pickford and Mr. Chas. E. Sutcliffe. The following resolution was adopted, the members standing in silence:

„That this Board places on record the great loss sustained by the Game and by this International Board through the death of Messrs. William Pickford and Charles E. Sutcliffe and, at the same time, this Board, desires to express its appreciation of and esteem for the services given by these men for so long a period“.

The Chairman welcomed to the Board Mr. W. C. Cuff, Vicepresident of the Football Association and President of the Football League.

Telegrams of good wishes to the Officials and players of the Football Association touring in South Africa and to the Scottish F. A. touring in Canada and U. S. A. were despatched.

1. The Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held at Portrush on June 11th 1938 were confirmed.

2. Laws of the Game.

The following proposals by The Football Association, on behalf of the Editorial Committee, were after amendment (noted in *italics*) unanimously adopted:

Present Law:

LAW I.—THE FIELD OF PLAY.

2.—MARKING. First sentence:—The field of play shall be marked with distinctive lines, not by a V shaped rut, in accordance with the plan, the longer boundary lines being called the touch-lines and the shorter the goal-lines.

6.—THE GOALS. First and second sentences:—The goals shall be placed on the centre of each goal-line and shall consist of two upright posts, equi-distant from the corner-flags and 8 yards apart (inside measurement), joined by a horizontal cross-bar 8 feet from the ground. The width of the goal-posts and the depth of the cross-bars shall not exceed 5 inches.

Alteration:

Add after the word «lines» in line 2, «not more than 5 inches in width.»

Add after the word «cross-bar» in line 4 «the lower edge of which shall be.»

Insert «and depth» after «width» in line 5 and «width and» before «depth» in line 5.

LAW III.—NUMBER OF PLAYERS.

PUNISHMENT. If, without notifying the referee, a player changes to goalkeeper during the game, and then handles the ball within the penalty-area, a penalty-kick shall be awarded.

LAW IV.—PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT.

PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT. Eighth sentence:— «Bars and studs on the soles or heels shall not project more than half-an-inch and shall have all fastenings driven in flush with the leather or rubber.»

LAW X.—METHOD OF SCORING.

First sentence:—

Except as otherwise provided by these Laws, a goal is scored when the whole of the ball has passed over the goal-line, between the goal-posts and under the cross-bar, provided it has not been thrown, propelled by hand or arm, or carried by a player of the attacking side.

LAW XI.—OFF-SIDE.

(c) The ball was last played by an opponent.

LAW XII.—FOULS AND MISCONDUCT.

A player shall be penalised if he intentionally:—

- (a) Kicks, strikes, or jumps at an opponent.
- (b) Trips, including throwing or attempting to throw an opponent by use of the legs, or by stooping in front or behind him.
- (c) Handles the ball, i.e., strikes or propels it with the hand or arm. (This does not apply to the goalkeeper within his own penalty area).
- (d) Holds or pushes an opponent with his hand, or with his arms extended from his body.
- (e) Charges in a violent or dangerous manner; or charges an opponent from behind unless the latter be deliberately obstructing. (N.B.— This is not intended to penalise all charging; it is permissible as long as, in the opinion of the Referee, it is fair and the players concerned are attempting to play the ball).
- (f) Charges a goalkeeper, except when he is holding the ball or wilfully obstructing an opponent, or when he has passed outside the goal area.
- (g) When playing as goalkeeper, carries the ball, i.e., takes more than four steps while holding the ball, without bouncing it on the ground.
- (h) Joins his team after the game has commenced or returns to the field of play while the game is in progress, without reporting to the Referee.
- (i) Plays in a manner considered by the Referee to be dangerous.

PUNISHMENT.

1.—**OUTSIDE THE PENALTY AREA.** For any infringement of (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (g), a direct free-kick shall be taken by a player of the opposite team from the place where the infringement occurred.

2.—**INSIDE THE PENALTY AREA.** (A) For any infringement of (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), by the attacking team the punishment shall be a direct free-kick for the defending team from the place where the infringement occurred. For an infringement of (g), the punishment shall be an indirect free-kick. (B) For any infringement of (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), by the defending team, the punishment shall be a penalty-kick. A penalty-kick can be awarded, irrespective of the position of the ball, if in play, at the time an offence within the penalty-area is committed.

3.—**INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE PENALTY-AREA.** For any infringement of (f) or (i), an indirect free-kick shall be taken by a player of the opposite team from the place where the infringement occurred, or where play was stopped.

4.—If a player liable to be penalised under (h) commits a more important offence, he should be penalised according to that portion of the Law he infringes.

A Player shall be cautioned if he:

1.—Joins his team after the kick-off or returns to the field of play while the game is in progress without reporting to the Referee.

2.—Persistently infringes any of the Laws of the Game.

Add as last sentence:—

«Any player leaving the field during the progress of the game (except through accident) without the consent of the Referee shall be deemed guilty of ungentlemanly conduct.»

Delete the following words after «half-an-inch» in Line 2:— «and shall have all fastenings driven in flush with the leather or rubber.»

Insert in Line 3 «carried or» before the word «propelled». Delete «or carried» after the word «arm» in Line 4.

Delete and substitute the following:— (c) «The ball last touched an opponent or was last played by him.»

Insert «carries» before «strikes».

Delete «deliberately».

Delete «and the players concerned are attempting to play the ball» and substitute „and is made when the ball is within playing distance of the players concerned and they are definitely attempting to play it.

Between sections (e) and (f) insert the words *Also if he:—*“ as a sub-heading applying to (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j).

Delete «wilfully».

Insert:

«(j) Is guilty of ungentlemanly conduct».

Delete «(g)».

Insert:

«(C) For any infringement of (f) the punishment shall be an indirect free-kick.

Delete «(f), or» and insert «or (j)», after (i).

Delete «or where play was stopped».

Present Law:

3.—Shows, by word or action, dissent from any decision given by the Referee.

In addition to the caution, if play has been stopped by reason of such misconduct it shall be resumed (a) if under paragraph (1), by the Referee dropping the ball at the place where the infringement occurred and (b) if under paragraphs (2) and (3) by an indirect free-kick taken by a player of the opposite team from the place where the infringement occurred.

A Player may be ordered off if he:

1.—Persists in misconduct after having received a caution.

2.—Is guilty of Violent Conduct, i.e., using foul or abusive language or if, in the opinion of the Referee, he is guilty of serious foul play.

If play be stopped by reason of a player being ordered off for an offence against an opponent without a separate breach of the Law having been committed, the game shall be resumed by an indirect free-kick to be taken by a player of the opposite team from the place where the infringement occurred.

LAW XIV.—PENALTY-KICK.

Third sentence:— «The ball shall be deemed in play directly it is kicked and a goal may be scored direct from such a penalty-kick.»

LAW XVI.—GOAL-KICK.

Third sentence:— «If the ball is not kicked beyond the penalty-area, i.e., direct into play, the kick shall be retaken.»

Law XVII.—CORNER-KICK.

PUNISHMENT.

For any infringement of this Law, an indirect free-kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

3. International Board Agreements.

The following proposals by the Scottish F. A. were by leave withdrawn:

Proposal by the Scottish Football Association.

Delete first and second paragraphs of the Agreement of 18th June 1894, the first paragraph of the Agreement of 8th June 1907, the Agreement of 11th June

1927, and the Agreement of 10th June 1933 (amended 1935), and substitute therefore new Agreement in the following terms:—

I. SUSPENSIONS.

When a National Association has imposed suspension on a player, an official, or a club in respect of a breach of the Laws of the Game, or of its rules, such suspension shall be recognised and applied by the British National Associations and the Associations in membership with La Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

When a National Association has cause to investigate the conduct of any player who, at the time of such investigation, is playing under the jurisdiction of another National Association, such Association shall not make any decision to impose a penalty by suspension or otherwise, but shall, if they deem the player guilty of an offence, forward all documents and recommendations to the Association under whose jurisdiction

the player is then playing, and that Association shall deal with the matter,

Where a National Association makes provision in its rules for membership of all clubs or bodies playing within its area, the British Associations and the Associations in membership with La Fédération Internationale de Football Association shall recognise and apply any embargo placed by a National Association on an Association, players, club, or body of clubs within its area, but not in its membership, and such embargo shall exclude the proscribed organisation and all the persons connected therewith, including players, from all the privileges obtainable from membership of the National Association.

II. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS.

All British National Associations and the Associations in membership with La Fédération Internationale de Football Association shall recognise the registration of a player when such registration falls within one of the following categories:

(a) A Player who according to a contract of service entered into between a Club and himself has registered as a Professional.

(b) A Professional Player not falling into category (a) who has registered himself with one Club for the currency of the Season.

(c) An Amateur Player who has registered himself voluntarily with one Club for the currency of the Season.

Alteration:

Insert:

«4.—Commits ungentlemanly conduct.»

Delete «and» and insert a comma between (2) and (3) and insert «and (4)» after (3).

Delete «may» and substitute «shall».

Delete «against an opponent».

Insert after the word «kicked» in line 2 the words, «i.e., travelled the distance of its circumference».

Insert after the word «retaken» in line 2 the following sentence:—

«The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has touched or been played by another player.»

Insert at the end of the Law:—

«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.»

Substitute «an» for «any» in line 1.

III. ALTERATION OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The following regulations shall cover a player changing his National Association:—

- (1) A Player registered with one of the four British National Associations and falling into either category (a) or (b) as mentioned in paragraph II shall not register with a Club in membership with another British National Association until he has lodged a transfer from and has obtained a certificate of transfer from the National Association with which he be at the time registered.
- (2) A Player registered with one of the four British National Associations and falling into category (c) as mentioned in paragraph II shall not sign on with a new Club until his previous registration has been cancelled by the Association with which he be registered.
- (3) A Player coming from a British Dominion or Colony and desirous of being registered with one of the four British

National Associations shall not be accepted for such registration until he can satisfy the Association concerned that he be free of any contract or registration in the Dominion or Colony which he has left.

- (4) A Player registered with an Association in membership with La Fédération Internationale de Football Association and subject to the rules thereof shall not be registered by a Club in membership with any one of the four British National Associations until the appropriate Association in membership with La Fédération Internationale de Football Association certifies that he be free to register.
- (5) A Player registered with or retained by a Club under the rules of a British National Association shall not be allowed to register with an Association in membership with La Fédération Internationale de Football Association unless it be with the permission of the Association with which he be registered or by which he be retained.

IV. REINSTATEMENT.

A Professional Player desirous of reinstatement as an Amateur shall make application to the National Association with which he be registered or was last registered which shall deal with such application in accordance with its rules.

A Player granted reinstatement as an Amateur shall be bound to comply with the rules of the National Association under which he be desirous to play. A Player who has been reinstated as an Amateur shall not be eligible to play in Amateur International Football Matches.

V. CLAIMS.

A Club in membership with one British Association alleging a breach of this Agreement and so lodging a claim against a Club in membership with another British Association shall deposit a fee of £ 3 with the National Association with which it is registered. This deposit fee shall only be returnable if the claim be sustained.

The Association with which the pursuing Club is in membership shall examine the claim in the first instance and if this Association be satisfied that there be a *prima facie*

case the matter shall then be dealt with jointly by both Associations concerned. The joint decisions shall be final and binding on all parties.

(Note. It is suggested that it would help to safeguard Clubs from being subjected to claims by Clubs of other National Associations if the following were inserted in Registration Forms:—

«State name of Club (if any) for which you last played as a professional or amateur...»)

It was agreed that within six months a Special Meeting of the International Board should be convened (Int. Board Rules Art. 8) to consider new proposals concerning (a) the agreements between the four British Associations (b) the agreements between the four British Associations and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

4. Miscellanea.

- a) The Scottish Football Association having asked the Board whether recognition would be given under International Board Agreement to a system of registration of players introduced by the Scottish Junior Football Association affiliated to the Scottish Football Association to apply to all players playing within their jurisdiction the Board decided that recognition would not be given.
- b) It was decided that the Agreements made by the International Board since 1894 should be revised and coordinated by the Editorial Committee and submitted for approval to a subsequent Meeting of the Board.
- c) The Board passed a resolution congratulating the Football Association of Denmark on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.
- d) Next Meeting June 1940. The invitation by The Football Association to meet next year in the Lake District was adopted.
- e) The Chairman was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

A. Brook-Hart
14 June 1947.

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD.

Annual Meeting - Hotel des Anglais . Cannes .

Saturday 9th June 1934.

Present :

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

John Arnold *for Barinnes* *H. Delaunay*
D. J. Schuster.

J. M. Kenna ENGLAND

Stubbs
Hall Secretary -

SCOTLAND

James Fleming

Thos. L. Muir

James Bogie

G. G. Graham Sinton WALES.

J. Henry Williams

J. H. Ottens

IRELAND.

A. MacRae

J. Ferguson

Chas. Macdonald