

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL  
ASSOCIATION BOARD

1992

AGENDA  
of the  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



# THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES

---

ANNUAL MEETING  
of  
THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD  
to be held at  
CELTIC MANOR HOTEL, NEWPORT, WALES  
on  
SATURDAY, 30th MAY, 1992  
at 09.00 Hours

---

PLYMOUTH CHAMBERS,  
3 WESTGATE STREET,  
CARDIFF CF1 1JF  
20th March, 1992

*Secretary*  
THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION  
OF WALES

# AGENDA

---

I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

II. MINUTES

To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held at The Culloden Hotel, Craigavad, Northern Ireland, on Saturday, 8th June, 1991.

III. LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

To consider the following proposals and amendments submitted under Rule 3:

- (1) Law IV – The FIFA  
– Amendment submitted by The Football Association
- (2) Law V – The FIFA
- (3) Law XI – The Football Association of Wales
- (4) Law XII – Decision of the International F.A. Board  
– The FIFA
- (5) Law XIII – The FIFA
- (6) Law XIV – The FIFA
- (7) Law XVI – The FIFA

IV. RULES OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

To consider the following proposals and amendments:

- (1) The FIFA  
Amendment submitted by The Irish Football Association
- (2) The Scottish Football Association

V. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- (1) Experiments with the Laws of the Game (The Football Association of Wales)
- (2) Experiments with The Laws of the Game (The FIFA)
- (3) Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct (The Scottish Football Association)
- (4) The use of red and yellow cards (The Football Association)
- (5) Veterans' Football (The Football Association)
- (6) Photographers' lines (The FIFA)

VI. 1993 MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

Venue and Date

VII. OTHER BUSINESS



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

Proposals and amendments submitted under Rule 3

**(1) Proposed by The Fédération Internationale de Football Association**

**LAW IV (PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT)**

**Present text:**

**Punishment:**

For any infringement of this Law, the player at fault shall be sent off the field of play to adjust his equipment and he shall not return without first reporting to the referee, who shall satisfy himself that the player's equipment is in order; the player shall only re-enter the game at a moment when the ball has ceased to be in play.

**Proposed new text:**

**Punishment:**

When a player deliberately plays without footwear or shinguard(s) the referee shall:—

- stop the game
- instruct the player to leave the field of play to obtain the necessary equipment
- restart the game with an indirect free kick to the opposing team at the point where the ball was at that time, subject to the overriding conditions of Law XIII.

When a player accidentally loses his footwear or shinguard(s) he shall replace the item(s) at the earliest opportunity.

For any other infringement of this Law the player at fault shall be instructed to leave the field of play to obtain or adjust his equipment.

In all cases the player shall not return without first reporting to the referee who shall satisfy himself that the player's equipment is in order. The player shall only re-enter the game at a moment when the ball has ceased to be in play.

**Reason:**

This proposal refers to the proposal made last year to the Board and which was required to be clarified more precisely.



**The Football Association****Punishment:**

For any infringement of this Law, the player at fault shall be instructed to leave the field of play by the referee, to adjust his equipment or obtain any missing equipment, when the ball next ceases to be in play, unless by then the player has already corrected his equipment. Play shall not be stopped immediately for an infringement of this Law. A player who is instructed to leave the field to adjust his equipment or obtain missing equipment shall not return without first reporting to the referee, who shall satisfy himself that the player's equipment is in order. The player shall only re-enter the game at a moment when the ball has ceased to be in play.

**Reason:**

The amendment is proposed in order to assist referees with the application of the Law and to provide more appropriate punishment for defaulting players.

(2) **Proposed by The Fédération Internationale de Football Association**

**LAW V (REFEREES)**

**Present text:**

- e) from the time he enters the field of play, caution any player guilty of misconduct or ungentlemanly behaviour and, if he persists, suspend him from further participation in the game. In such cases the referee shall send the name of the offender to the competent authority, within the stipulated time, and in accordance with the provisions set up by the National Association under whose jurisdiction the match was played. Reports will be deemed to be made when received in the ordinary course of post.
  
- h) send off the field of play any player who, in his opinion, is guilty of violent conduct, serious foulplay, or the use of foul or abusive language.

**Proposed new text:**

- e) from the time he enters the field of play, caution and show a yellow card to any player guilty of misconduct or ungentlemanly behaviour. In such cases the referee shall send the name of the offender to the competent authority, within the stipulated time, and in accordance with the provisions set up by the National Association under whose jurisdiction the match was played. Reports will be deemed to be made when received in the ordinary course of post.
  
- h) send off the field of play and show a red card to any player who, in his opinion, is guilty of violent conduct, serious foul play, the use of foul or abusive language or who persists in misconduct after having received a caution.

**Reason:**

It was felt necessary to make, in the Laws of the Game, a specific reference to the yellow and red cards. Therefore, these cards will be mandatory at all levels.

Amendment submitted by

Decision



**(3) Proposed by The Football Association of Wales**

**LAW XI – OFF-SIDE**

**Present text:**

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 or a throw in.

**Proposed new text:**

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 or a throw-in, or
  - (c) if he receives the ball direct from a pass from his own half of the field of play.

**Reason:**

This proposal is in line with the experiment in the Law being undertaken in Wales this season.

Amendment submitted by

Decision

**(4) Proposed by The Fédération Internationale Football Association**

**LAW XII (FOULS AND MISCONDUCT)**

**Decisions of the International F.A. Board**

**New Decisions (17)**

On any occasion when a player deliberately passes the ball to his own goalkeeper from outside the penalty-area, the goalkeeper is not permitted to touch it with his hands. If, however, the goalkeeper does touch the ball with his hands, he shall be penalised by the award of an indirect free-kick to be taken by the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred, subject to the overriding conditions of Law XIII.

This restriction only refers to a deliberate pass and not to a situation in which, for example, the ball is deflected by a defender.

(present decision 17 becomes decision 18)

**Reason:**

The experiment conducted in this respect during the U-17 World Championship 1991 in Italy proved to be a very successful measure against timewasting. An amendment has been made to limit the application of the rule to passes coming from outside the penalty-area, since there were some negative comments about this in Italy.



Amendment submitted by

Decision

**(5) Proposed by The Fédération Internationale de Football Association**

**LAW XIII (FREE-KICK)**

**Present text:**

Notwithstanding any other reference in these Laws to point from which a free-kick is to be taken:

1. Any free-kick awarded to the defending team, within its own goal-area, may be taken from any point within that half of the goal-area in which the free-kick has been awarded.
2. Any indirect free-kick awarded to the attacking team within its opponent's goal-area shall be taken from the part of the goal-area line which runs parallel to the goal-line, at the point nearest to where the offence was committed.

**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, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponent's 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:**

This proposed change would help to reduce timewasting and is consistent with the proposed amendment of Law XVI.

**Proposed new text:**

Notwithstanding any other reference in these Laws to the point from which a free-kick is to be taken:

1. Any free-kick awarded to the defending team, within its own goal-area, may be taken from any point within the goal-area.
2. Any indirect free-kick awarded to the attacking team within its opponent's goal-area shall be taken from the part of the goal-area line which runs parallel to the goal-line, at the point nearest to where the offence was committed.

**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, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponent's goal-area, in which case, the free-kick shall be taken from any point within the goal-area.

Amendment submitted by

Decision



(6) **Proposed by The Fédération Internationale de Football Association**

**LAW XIV (PENALTY KICK)**

**Present text:**

(2nd sentence)

The opposing goalkeeper must stand (without moving his feet) on his own goal-line, between the goal-posts, until the ball is kicked.

(the rest of this Law remains unchanged)

**Proposed new text:**

(2nd sentence)

The opposing goalkeeper must take up a position on his own goal-line between the goal-posts, until the ball is kicked.

**Decisions of the International F.A. Board**

- 3 (a) If, after having given the signal for a penalty-kick to be taken, the referee sees that the goalkeeper is not in his right place on the goal-line, he shall, nevertheless, allow the kick to proceed. It shall be retaken, if a goal is not scored.
- (b) If, after the referee has given the signal for a penalty-kick to be taken, and before the ball has been kicked, the goalkeeper moves his feet, the referee shall, nevertheless, allow the kick to proceed. It shall be retaken, if a goal is not scored.

- 3 (a) If, after having given the signal for a penalty-kick to be taken, the referee sees that the goalkeeper is not on the goal-line, he shall, nevertheless, allow the kick to proceed. It shall be retaken, if a goal is not scored.
- (b) If, after the referee has given the signal for a penalty-kick to be taken, and before the ball has been kicked, the goalkeeper moves off the goal-line, the referee shall, nevertheless, allow the kick to proceed. It shall be retaken, if a goal is not scored.

**Reason:**

Allowing goalkeepers to move their feet on the goal-line at penalty kicks will avoid the frequent situations in which they move in whatsoever direction before the kick is taken. Furthermore, it facilitates the work of the referee who has to attend to too many other tasks simultaneously.

Amendment submitted by

Decision

(7) **Proposed by The Fédération Internationale de Football Association**

**LAW XVI (GOAL-KICK)**

**Present text:**

When the whole of the ball passes over the goal-line excluding that portion between the goal-posts, either in the air or on the ground, having last been played by one of the attacking team, it shall be kicked direct into play beyond the penalty-area from a point within that half of the goal-area nearest to where it crossed the line, by a player of the defending team.

(the rest of the Law remains unchanged)

**Proposed new text:**

When the whole of the ball passes over the goal-line excluding that portion between the goal-posts, either in the air or on the ground, having last been played by one of the attacking team, it shall be kicked direct into play beyond the penalty-area from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team.

**Reason:**

It is felt that this simplification of the goal-kick rule eliminates one of the common timewasting tactics.



Amendment submitted by

Decision

(7) **Proposed by The Fédération Internationale de Football Association**

**LAW XVI (GOAL-KICK)**

**Present text:**

When the whole of the ball passes over the goal-line excluding that portion between the goal-posts, either in the air or on the ground, having last been played by one of the attacking team, it shall be kicked direct into play beyond the penalty-area from a point within that half of the goal-area nearest to where it crossed the line, by a player of the defending team.

(the rest of the Law remains unchanged)

**Proposed new text:**

When the whole of the ball passes over the goal-line excluding that portion between the goal-posts, either in the air or on the ground, having last been played by one of the attacking team, it shall be kicked direct into play beyond the penalty-area from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team.

**Reason:**

It is felt that this simplification of the goal-kick rule eliminates one of the common timewasting tactics.

Amendment submitted by

Decision



**IV RULES OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD**

**(1) Proposed by The Fédération Internationale de Football Association**

**Present text:**

**3. Closing date for alterations**

Each Association shall forward in writing on or before the 31st day of December in each year to the Secretary of the Association convening the next meeting of the Board, suggestions or proposed alterations to the Laws of the Game, which shall be printed and distributed on or before the 15th day of January of each year. Any amendments to such proposed alterations must be submitted in writing to the Secretary on or before the 1st day of March, and such proposals and amendments shall be written and distributed on or before the 20th day of March for consideration at the Annual General Meeting or other appropriate meeting of the Association.

**4. Board to meet in June**

The Board shall meet annually in the month of June and the date and venue shall be fixed at the previous Board meeting. The meeting shall be held in rotation in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland; but when the FIFA Congress and the World Cup coincide, the meeting of the Board shall be convened by FIFA and, if practicable, held at the venue of the World Cup. One of the representatives of the Association convening the meeting shall preside.

**5. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting shall be recorded by the Secretary of the Association convening the meeting and shall be fully reported in the official Minutes Book which shall be forwarded to the Association next in rotation before the 1st June ensuing.

**7. Alterations to the Laws of the Game**

No alterations shall be made to the Laws of the Game except in the Annual Meeting of the Board in June and then only if agreed by at least three-quarters of those present and entitled to vote.

**Proposed new text:**

**3. Closing date for alterations**

Each Association shall forward in writing on or before the 15th day of October in each year to the Secretary of the Association convening the next meeting of the Board, suggestions or proposed alterations to the Laws of the Game, which shall be printed and distributed on or before the 1st November of each year. Any amendments to such proposed alterations must be submitted in writing to the Secretary on or before the 7th day of December, and such proposals and amendments shall be written and distributed on or before the 31st day of January for consideration at the Annual General Meeting or other appropriate meeting of the association.

**4. Board to meet between the 14th February and the 14th March**

The Board shall meet annually in the second half of February or in the first half of March and the date and venue shall be fixed at the previous Board meeting. The meeting shall be held in rotation in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland; but when the FIFA Congress and the World Cup coincide, the meeting of the Board shall be convened by FIFA and, if practicable, held at the venue of the World Cup. One of the representatives of the Association convening the meeting shall preside.

**5. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting shall be recorded by the Secretary of the Association convening the meeting and shall be fully reported in the official Minutes Book which shall be forwarded to the Association next in rotation before the 1st February ensuing.

**7. Alterations to the Laws of the Game**

No alterations shall be made to the Laws of the Game except in the Annual Meeting of the Board and then only if agreed by at least three-quarters of those present and entitled to vote.

**Reason:**

It is felt that more time is necessary to prepare the implementation of the decisions taken by the Board at its annual Meetings and which are binding on the National Associations on July 25th each consecutive year.



**The Irish Football Association**

4. Delete second sentence.

Insert:

The meeting shall be held in rotation in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; but when the Fifa Congress and the World Cup coincide, the meeting of the Board shall be convened by FIFA and, if practicable, held at the venue of the World Cup.



## **(2) Proposed by The Scottish Football Association**

### **Introduction**

At the meeting of the International Football Association Board in Rome in June 1990, Mr. Harry Cavan, the retiring Senior Vice-President of FIFA, urged that positive steps be taken to enhance the universal understanding of the role of the International Football Association Board.

The proposals contained in this submission seek to illustrate the role of the Board as the historical custodian of the Laws of the Game for over a century and also the pivotal role occupied by FIFA in the successful operation of the Board.

The proposed changes are not revolutionary but merely reflect the forward thinking attitudes which have been apparent in recent years by all members of the International Football Association Board.

The proposals also seek to provide a framework within which the International Football Association Board can fully meet the increasing demands being placed upon it by world football. There is a need for the Board to have the flexibility to meet these demands and to satisfy the legitimate aspirations and requirements of the Confederations and National Associations in membership of FIFA.

It is hoped these proposals will allow the International Football Association Board to move forward with vigour, confidence and efficiency towards the next century.

### **Present text:**

#### **1. Name and constitution**

The title of the Board shall be the International Football Association Board. The Football Association (England), The Scottish Football Association, The Football Association of Wales, The Irish Football Association and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), hereafter called Associations, shall constitute the Board and each shall be entitled to be represented by four delegates.

#### **2. Objects**

The objects of the Board shall be to discuss and decide proposed alterations to the Laws of the Game and such other matters affecting association football as may be referred to the Board after consideration by the Annual General Meetings or other appropriate meetings of the Associations forming the Board.

#### **3. Closing date for alterations**

Each Association shall forward in writing on or before the 31st day of December in each year to the Secretary of the Association convening the next meeting of the Board, suggestions or proposed alterations to the Laws of the Game, which shall be printed and distributed on or before the 15th day of January of each year. Any amendments to such proposed alterations must be submitted in writing to the Secretary on or before the 1st day of March, and such proposals and amendments shall be written and distributed on or before the 20th day of March for consideration at the Annual General Meeting or other appropriate meeting of the Association.

### **Proposed text:**

#### **1. Name and constitution**

The title of the Board shall be the International Football Association Board. The Football Association (England), The Scottish Football Association, The Football Association of Wales, The Irish Football Association and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), hereafter called associations, shall constitute the Board and each shall be entitled to be represented by four delegates.

#### **2. Objects**

The objects of the Board shall be to discuss and decide proposed alterations to the Laws of the Game and such other matters affecting association football as require to be referred to the Board after consideration by the Annual General Meetings or other appropriate meetings of the Associations forming the Board or Confederations or National Associations..

#### **3. Meetings of the Board**

The Board shall meet bi-annually. The Annual General Meeting will take place on a date between 14th February and 14th March. The Annual Business Meeting will take place in the month of September or October, as agreed.

The date and venue of both the Annual General Meeting and the Annual Business Meeting will be decided at the previous Annual General Meeting of the Board.

In each current year both the Annual General Meeting and the Annual Business Meeting will be hosted by the same member Association. A representative of the host Association shall preside. The responsibility

Amendment submitted by

Decision



#### **Present text (continued):**

#### **4. Board to meet in June**

The Board shall meet annually in the month of June and the date and venue shall be fixed at the previous Board meeting. The meeting shall be held in rotation in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland; but when the FIFA Congress and the World Cup coincide, the meeting of the Board shall be convened by FIFA and, if practicable, held at the venue of the World Cup. One of the representatives of the Association convening the meeting shall preside.

#### **5. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting shall be recorded by the Secretary of the Association convening the meeting and shall be fully reported in the official Minutes Book which shall be forwarded to the Association next in rotation before the 1st June ensuing.

#### **6. Quorum and voting powers**

The business of a meeting shall not be proceeded with unless four Associations, one of which shall be FIFA, are represented. The four British Associations shall each have one vote and FIFA shall have four votes on behalf of all other National Associations in membership with it.

#### **7. Alterations to the Laws of the Game**

No alterations shall be made to the Laws of the Game except in the Annual Meeting of the Board in June and then only if agreed by at least three-quarters of those present and entitled to vote.

#### **8. Special meetings**

The Association entitled to convene the Board meeting for the current year\* shall, on receiving a written requisition signed by any two of the British Associations or by the FIFA, accompanied by a copy of the proposals to be submitted, call a special meeting of the Board. Such special meeting shall be held within twenty-eight days of the requisition and the Associations forming the Board shall receive twenty-one days' notice together with a copy of the proposals.

#### **9. Decisions of the Board**

The decisions of the Board shall be binding on National associations on and after 25th July following each Annual Meeting of the Board but National associations whose current season has not ended by 25th July may delay the introduction of the adopted alterations for their national competitions until the beginning of their next season. No alterations to the Laws of the Game shall be made by any association until they have been passed by the Board.\*\*

#### **Proposed text (continued):**

for hosting both meetings shall be passed in rotation to each Association.

#### **Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting is authorised to discuss and decide on proposed alterations to the Laws of the Game and other relevant matters affecting association football which fall within the remit of the Board.

#### **Annual Business Meeting**

The Annual Business Meeting will take place in the month of September or October, as agreed. The meeting will have the authority to consider general business submitted to the Board. It may provide decisions on such items but the Annual Business Meeting does not have the authority to alter the Laws of the Game.

#### **4. Procedures**

#### **Annual General Meeting**

Each Association shall forward in writing, fourteen weeks before the date of the Annual General Meeting, to the Secretary of the Association hosting the meeting suggestions or proposed alterations to the Laws of the Game, requests for experimentation to the Laws of the Game and other items for discussion which shall be printed and distributed twelve weeks before the Annual General Meeting. Any amendments to such proposed alterations must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the host Association not later than eight weeks before the Annual General Meeting, and such proposals and amendments shall be printed and distributed to member Associations for consideration six weeks before the Annual General Meeting.

#### **Annual Business Meeting**

Each association shall forward in writing to the Secretary of the host association, at least six weeks before the date of the meeting, any proposals, requests for experimentation regarding the Laws of the Game and other items for discussion.

The Agenda and relevant papers shall be distributed to all member Associations of the Board four weeks before the meeting.

Any Confederation or other National Association may forward in writing to the General Secretary of FIFA proposals, requests or items for discussion in good time to ensure that they may be considered by FIFA and, if acceptable, forwarded to the Secretary of the host association at least six weeks before the meeting.

#### **5. Minutes**

Minutes of meetings shall be recorded by the



**Amendment submitted by**

### Decision

**Present text:**

**Proposed text (continued):**

Secretary of the host Association and shall be reported in the official Minute Book which shall be forwarded to the Association next in rotation before the first day of February ensuing.

**6. Quorum and voting powers**

The business of all meetings shall not proceed unless four Associations, one of which shall be FIFA, are represented. FIFA shall have four votes on behalf of all Confederations and National Associations in membership. The other member Associations shall each have one vote. for any proposal to succeed it must receive the support of at least three-quarters of those present and entitled to vote.

**7. Alterations to the Laws of the Game**

No alterations shall be made to the Laws of the Game except at the Annual General Meeting of the Board and then only if agreed by at least three-quarters of those present and entitled to vote.

**8. Special meetings**

The Association hosting the Board meetings for the current year\* shall, on receiving a written requisition signed by FIFA or by any two of the other member Associations, accompanied by a copy of the proposals to be submitted, call a special meeting of the Board. Such special meeting shall be held within twenty-eight days of the requisition and the Associations forming the Board shall receive twenty-one days' notice together with a copy of the proposals.

**9. Decisions of the Board**

The decisions of the Annual Business Meeting of the Board shall be effective from the date of that meeting, unless agreed otherwise.

The decisions of the Annual General Meeting of the Board regarding changes to the Laws of the Game shall be binding on Confederations and National Associations on and after 25th July following each Annual General Meeting of the Board but Confederations or National Associations whose current season has not ended by 25th July may delay the introduction of the adopted alterations to the Laws of the Game for their competitions until the beginning of their next season. No alterations to the Laws of the Game shall be made by any Confederation or Association unless they have been passed by the Board.\*\*

\* The current year shall be understood to commence on the day following the previous Annual General Meeting.

\*\* It was agreed that for international matches any such decisions would be effective from 25th July following the Annual General Meeting of the Board at which they were reached.

Amendment submitted by

Decision

--	--



# V ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Submitted by The Football Association of Wales

1. **Experiments with the Laws of the Game**

To receive a report of the observers appointed by the members of the Board concerning the experiments carried out under Law XI and Law XII in the Final Competition of the FIFA World Under-17 Championship held in Italy on 16-31 August, 1991. (Appendix I)

Submitted by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association

2. **Experiments with the Laws of the Game**

Competence for authorising experiments.

With regard to the several requests to conduct experiments submitted by the Swedish and Finnish Football Associations, (most of which are definitively submitted by FIFA as Law amendments) only the following three remain:

- (a) Law XI – Offside:  
Experiment similar to that carried out at the Under-17 World Championship 1991 in Italy (to limit the offside rule to an area prescribed by a line drawn from that penalty-area line which is parallel to the goal-line in the opponents’ half of the field extending as far as the touch-line on either side. A player who is not in this area cannot be declared off-side).
- (b) Law XIII – Free Kick  
Free kicks, classified as indirect, taken from outside the penalty area, to be converted into direct free kicks (this rule to apply to the whole field of play, except the penalty area, where the existing rule prescribing direct and indirect free kicks is to remain in force).
- (c) Law XV – Throw-in  
Throw-ins to be replaced by kicks from the side-line (at the spot where the ball went out).

Submitted by the Scottish Football Association

3. **Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct**

The Scottish Football Association would wish consideration to be made to include an offence **grossly unfair play** in the list of offences for which a player may be sent off. A discussion paper is appended. (Appendix II)

Submitted by The Football Association

4. **The use of red and yellow cards**

The Football Association requests that the International F.A. Board should consider requiring referees, in competitions where red and yellow cards are used to indicate dismissals and cautions respectively, to show a red card and a yellow card simultaneously in one hand when a player is sent off for a second cautionable offence in a match.

It is suggested that this technique would more clearly communicate the specific reason for the dismissal and would be of benefit to players, spectators and particularly to the multi-media observers.



Submitted by The Football Association

**5. Veterans' Football – Number of substitutes**

The Football Association requests that the International F.A. Board considers allowing veterans' football competitions, recognised by the National Associations solely for players above the age of thirty five years (or an age to be agreed by the International Board), to modify the application of Law III in respect of the number of substitutes permitted to be used in a match.

It is suggested that if the concept is approved, an appropriate note could be included in the front of the Laws of the Game publication, as is the case for modifications agreed by the International F.A. Board for matches played by women and matches for players of under 16 years of age.

Submitted by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association

**6. Photographers' Line**

Discussion of methods to improve the present unsatisfactory situation.

## **VI 1993 MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD**

Venue and date.

## **VII OTHER BUSINESS**



**APPENDIX I**

**REPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL F.A. BOARD  
ON THE MONITORING OF EXPERIMENTS ON THE LAWS OF THE GAME**

**FIFA UNDER-17 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**ITALY, 1991**

**BACKGROUND**

At its meeting in Belfast on 8th June, 1991, the International F.A. Board agreed to a request from FIFA that approval be given for experiments to Law XI – Offside and Law XII – Fouls and misconduct at the FIFA Under-17 World Championships in Italy from 16th to 31st August, 1991. Dr. Joao Havelange, the President of FIFA, then extended an invitation to a representative from each of the four Home Associations to observe the experiments as guests of FIFA on behalf of the International F.A. Board.

**THE EXPERIMENTS**

**1. Law XI – Offside**

The lines presently drawn parallel with the goal-line at a distance of 18 yards from the goal-line were extended in a straight line across the field until they joined the touch-lines. A player could not be declared offside by the referee if, at the moment the ball was passed to him by one of his own side, he was further from the opposing side’s goal-line than 18 yards.

**2. Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct**

On any occasion when a player deliberately passed the ball to his own goalkeeper, the goalkeeper was not permitted to touch the ball with his hands. In the event of a goalkeeper touching the ball with his hands in these circumstances, he would be penalised by the award of an indirect free kick to be taken by the opposing side from the place where the infringement occurred, subject to the overriding conditions imposed by Law XIII. This restriction only referred to a deliberate pass and not, for example, to a ball being deflected by a defender to the goalkeeper.

The experiments were aimed at making the game more attractive by creating more attacking play and by reducing the amount of time wasted by goalkeepers and by over-defensive tactical play.

**ORGANISATION OF THE MONITORING TEAM**

The Home Associations were represented as follows:—

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| The Irish Football Association    | — Mr. William Campbell |
| The Football Association          | — Mr. Ken Ridden       |
| The Football Association of Wales | — Mr. Alun Evans       |
| The Scottish Football Association | — Mr. George Cumming   |

A representative or representatives were present throughout the duration of the tournament.

**ANALYSIS OF THE EXPERIMENTS**

**1. Law XI – Offside**

In some of the matches, for example China v. Argentina and Sudan v. Germany, no offside decisions were made. In many matches the absence or near absence of offside was caused by the tactical formations of the teams. In order to combat the possibility of teams leaving a striker far upfield all teams played with at least one sweeper and in many cases two sweepers. The presence of these players therefore altered the normal tactical formation. The midfield area, however, became less congested. By creating more space, teams were able to gain more benefit if they played either a long ball from defence or if they had strong running midfield players who were able to run at the opposing defence from the space created



## **2. Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct**

The initial proposal for this experiment was that deliberate passes to the goalkeeper would be penalised. In pre-tournament instructions to the teams, however, this was modified and the final instruction was that only passes **kicked** to the goalkeeper would be penalised.

This experiment was more successful if measured **only** in terms of a reduction in the number of back passes. There are no records of any passes to goalkeepers which were actually picked up by the goalkeeper in any of the matches observed.

The analysis, however, requires more detail than merely the number of such passes. The experiment was introduced specifically to reduce the amount of time lost in a match but measurement of the actual time played showed, for example, in one match a total playing time of 49 minutes in an 80 minute game. This is generally the average playing time when considered pro rata in a 90 minute game and so the experiment did not appear to increase playing time.

Much of the reason for this would seem to be that the ball was out of play more often and so the flow of the game was interrupted. In the games Brazil v. Germany and Argentina v. China there were 50 and 56 throw-ins respectively, while an analysis of throw-ins given away by defenders in their own half of the field in the match USA v. Qatar showed 39 throw-ins and another 11 during the period of extra time.

One of the alternatives to passing the ball back to the goalkeeper is to skilfully turn and play the ball upfield. However, in many cases as witnessed by the earlier statistics, the ball was played out for a throw-in or in some cases a corner-kick. It is also worth commenting that the presence of deep lying defenders acting as sweepers also created alternatives to a back pass to the goalkeeper.

### **THE COMMENTS OF THE REFEREES**

During the competition the monitoring team obtained the views of the match officials on the experiments. The overall reactions were very similar. The offside experiment created more space but placed extra physical demands on players and also on the referee. It was also suggested that the experiment could be tried again with the offside line drawn midway between the 18 yard line and the centre line.

Referees felt that the back pass experiment reduced timewasting and felt the game flowed because the goalkeepers did not have possession of the ball in their hands for too long. This perception of the pattern of play, however, is not borne out by some of the statistical analysis undertaken by the monitoring team.

The duties of the linesmen were less onerous than in a normal match since there were fewer offside decisions. It was, however, pointed out that because they were not so actively involved in a match there was a need for a high degree of concentration.

### **THE COMMENTS OF THE COACHES**

An analysis of the comments made by some of the coaches of the teams shows a number of common factors. All of those questioned were critical of the fact that in the qualifying stages of the tournament and also in any warm-up matches, they were unable to practice under the experimental law conditions. It was suggested that where future experiments are to be introduced they should be introduced for qualifying stages as well as the final stages.

There was also agreement among coaches about the failure of the offside experiment. The midfield area became an open space where the teams most liable to benefit were the teams with stronger runners at the expense of the skilful midfield players in other teams. There was more positive reaction to the back pass experiment. It was felt that it had been somewhat more successful and should be tried elsewhere, preferably in a professional league over a longer period.

### **FURTHER COMMENTS**

Law XII – International F.A. Board Decision 17 – was of course effective during the time of these experiments. This dramatically reduced the amount of time goalkeepers spent with the ball in their hands. Indeed the tendency among many of the young goalkeepers was to play the ball too quickly before their team mates had moved into a position to receive it. There were no instances observed of goalkeepers either over-carrying the ball or timewasting during any of the matches studied.



## **FAIR PLAY**

It was very encouraging to see the high standard of behaviour of the young players throughout the tournament. There were, of course, some cautions but these were mostly for unfair challenges and hardly any cautions were for dissent. This is an encouraging development although perhaps it is too much to hope that these young players will retain the same attitude to Fair Play throughout their careers.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

### **Law XI – Offside**

On the evidence of the matches in this competition there does not seem merit in continuing this offside experiment. Although there were fewer offsides in comparison with normal laws, the negative responses of coaches to the experiment by placing sweepers deep in their own half obviously cut down the number of offside offences. The experiment was introduced to create more goals and on this criteria, it was unsuccessful. In the World Youth Tournament in Portugal in June, 1991, played under the normal Laws of the Game, a total of 78 goals were scored in 32 matches while in Italy this number increased by only 3 to 81 in a similar number of matches.

Comment has been made by the observers, by coaches and by referees on the extra space created in midfield by this experiment but this space was not used to the full. The main beneficiaries in many of the games were strong running midfielders to the detriment of less physical but more skilful players.

### **Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct**

There is no doubt that intentional passing to the goalkeeper was almost eliminated from play during the experiment. It would be wise, however, to avoid making superficial judgements since linked with the reduction in back passes was an increase in hold-ups for throw-ins and a time analysis showing no real increase in actual playing time.

Comment should also be made about the original terms of the experiment during the competition. The initial intention was that a deliberate pass was prohibited by any part of the body. However, this was modified to include only the feet. As players rapidly gain experience of such a limitation there is no doubt simple ways could be found around this restriction. It would be possible, for example, for a defender to juggle the ball onto his knee or thigh or head and play it back to the goalkeeper. The net effect would be the same as passing the ball back with his feet but the overall effect on the spirit of the Laws would be that a restriction which had been introduced with the best of intentions could be easily circumvented and made to look ridiculous.

## **FINAL COMMENT**

Probably the most effective positive measure in all of the matches observed was the manner in which referees and players applied International F.A. Board Decision 17 relating to Law XII. By insisting that the existing Laws were correctly applied referees gave a message to players which was easily understood and readily accepted and which perhaps points the way forward in the future.

The basic Laws of the Game have stood the test of time. There are, of course, ways in which the Laws can always be improved but these may perhaps involve minor and not major alterations. Referees have a vital role to play. If they are prepared to apply the Laws correctly with the full and continuing support of the International F.A. Board and of FIFA football, the world's game and the people's game will, be in a strong position to move with confidence into the 21st century.



## APPENDIX II

### LAW XII – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

The term **serious foul play** is inappropriate in describing the situation where a player prevents a goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball. The Scottish Football Association is of the opinion that a new offence “**grossly unfair play**” be included in the list of offences for which a player may be sent off. Such a change would not only provide a more accurate description of the offence but the wording would also emphasise the need to punish offences which are against the philosophy of Fair Play.

It would be necessary to define very clearly what is meant by such a term. It should not be used to punish offences other than the handball offence which prevents an obvious goal-scoring opportunity. The following changes are suggested for consideration:—

#### (a) LAW XII (n)

##### New Text:

A player shall be sent off the field of play if, in the opinion of the referee, he is guilty of violent conduct, serious foul play or **grossly unfair play**.

#### (b) LAW XII – INTERNATIONAL BOARD DECISION 16

If, in the opinion of the referee, a player, other than the goalkeeper within his own penalty area, denies his opponents a goal, or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, by intentionally handling the ball, he shall be sent off the field of play for **grossly unfair play** in accordance with Law XII (n).

The International F.A. Board is of the opinion that the offence **grossly unfair play** should only relate to the circumstances as described above.

#### (c) LAW V (h)

##### New Text:

Send off the field of play any player who, in his opinion, is guilty of violent conduct, serious foul play, **grossly unfair play** or the use of foul and abusive language.

## NOTES