

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION BOARD

1996

MINUTES
of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES
of the
1996 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the

**INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION BOARD**

held
at the Copacabana Palace Hotel
in
RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

on
SATURDAY, 9th MARCH, 1996, at 10⁰⁰ Hours

General Secretary

HITZIGWEG 11
P.O. BOX 85
8030 ZURICH

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

AGENDA

I CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

II MINUTES

To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Turnberry Hotel in Ayrshire (Scotland) on Saturday, 4th March, 1995.

III AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSED ALTERATIONS OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME

To consider the following proposals and amendments submitted under Rule 4.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| (1) Law II | – | FIFA |
| (2) Law III | – | FIFA |
| (3) Law V | – | FIFA |
| (4) Law V | – | The Football Association |
| (5) Law VI | – | Scottish Football Association |
| (6) Law XII | – | The Football Association |
| (7) Law XII | – | Scottish Football Association |
| (8) 4 th Official | – | Scottish Football Association |
| (9) Checklist for Referees | – | Irish Football Association |
| (10) Rules of the I.F.A.B. | – | The Football Association |

IV ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- (1) Additional Instructions Regarding the Laws of the Game (Scottish Football Association)
- (2) Guidelines to Encourage an Increase in Actual Playing Time (Scottish Football Association)
- (3) Support for an Alteration to Law I (FIFA)
- (4) Inventory of all Present Laws of the Game Experiments approved by the International F.A. Board (FIFA)
- (5) Overturn of Match Results (FIFA)
- (6) Addition to the Items for Discussion (The Football Association)

V ANY OTHER BUSINESS

VI 1997 MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

Present:

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Dr. Joao Havelange (Chairman), Mr. I. Hayatou, Mr. D. Will, Mr. J.S. Blatter

THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Messrs. W.H. Dickie, J. Farry, J.C. McGinn, J.Y. Craig, G. Cumming

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Sir Bert Millichip, Messrs. K. St. J. Wiseman, R.H.G. Kelly, K.W. Ridden

THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Messrs. J. Boyce, I. Marshall, D. Bowen, E. Barry

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES

Messrs. B. Fear, D. W. Shanklin, D. G. Collins

Also present:

Messrs. M. Zen-Ruffinen (FIFA), Mr. Ricardo Teixeira (President CBF) Mr. P. Pullen (Interpreter)

I. CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS

Dr. J. Havelange opened the meeting by expressing his pleasure that this meeting was taking place in Rio de Janeiro. He welcomed the members and thanked them for taking the long journey upon themselves, adding that they could not possibly appreciate how much it meant to him to be holding the Annual General Meeting of the International F.A. Board in Rio. The Chairman welcomed the new members to the International F.A. Board, Mr. David Collins, Mr. Ivan Marshall and special guests, Mr. Issa Hayatou, FIFA Vice-President and Mr. Ricardo T. Teixeira, member of the FIFA Executive Committee, President of the Brazilian Football Association and Deputy Chairman of the FIFA Referees’ Committee.

Dr. Havelange laid emphasis on the importance of the decisions taken by the meeting in respect of football, and proceeded to the full Agenda.

II. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Board held at the Turnberry Hotel, Ayrshire, Scotland on Saturday, 4th March 1995 were approved.

III. AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

To consider the following proposals and amendments:

1. LAW II – THE BALL

(Submitted by the FIFA)

Present Text

The ball shall be spherical; the outer casing shall be of leather or other approved materials. No material shall be used in its construction which might prove dangerous to the players.

The circumference of the ball shall not be more than 28 in. and not less than 27 in. The weight of the ball at the start of the game shall be not more than 16 oz. nor less than 14 oz. The pressure shall be equal to 0.6-1.1 atmosphere (=600-1,100gr/cm²) at sea level. The ball shall not be changed during the game unless authorised by the referee.

DECISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL F.A. BOARD – LAW II

(Submitted by the FIFA)

Decision (4) Present Text

(4) For FIFA competition matches and competition matches under the auspices of the Confederations, only footballs which have been tested and which have been shown to meet the minimum technical requirements set forth in Law II, shall be permitted for use. Acceptance of a football for use in the above-mentioned competitions will be conditional upon the football bearing one of the following designations to indicate that it has met the minimal technical requirements:

- The official “FIFA APPROVED” logo
- The official “FIFA INSPECTED” logo
- The reference “International Matchball Standards”

(together with other such indications of technical conformity, as requested by FIFA).

In all other matches the ball used must satisfy the requirements of Law II. National Associations or Competitions may require the use only of balls bearing one of the afore-mentioned designations.

Proposed New Text

The ball shall be spherical; the outer casing shall be of leather or other suitable materials. No material shall be used in its construction which might prove dangerous to the players. The circumference of the ball shall not be more than 70.0cm and not less than 68.0cm. The weight of the ball at the start of the game shall not be more than 450g. nor less than 410g. The pressure shall be equal to 0.6-1.1 atmosphere (=600-1,100gr/cm²) at sea level. The ball shall not be changed during the game unless authorised by the referee.

Reason:

Such an addition is necessary in view of the programme to improve the quality of footballs, currently implemented by FIFA.

Decision (4) Proposed New Text

1. Acceptance of Use

In FIFA competition matches and in competition matches under the auspices of the Confederations, acceptance of a football for use will be conditional upon the football bearing one of the following three designations:

- The official “FIFA APPROVED” logo, or
- The official “FIFA INSPECTED” logo, or
- The reference “International Matchball Standards”

Such designation on a football indicates that it was duly tested and found to be in compliance with the specific technical requirements for each category (FIFA APPROVED, FIFA INSPECTED and International Matchball Standards, the latter being of equal technical standard to FIFA INSPECTED), additional to the minimum specifications set forth in Law II. The ball shall carry appropriate indication that it has been successfully tested. Such additional requirements, specific to each of the respective categories, have to be approved

contd . . .

DECISION

The proposal submitted by FIFA was adopted, as was the proposed new text for Decision (4).

In view of the very recent investigations conducted by the European Committee, it was also decided to re-insert the following paragraph:

“In all other matches the ball used must satisfy the requirements of Law II. National Associations or Competitions may require the use only of balls bearing one of the afore-mentioned designations”.

The amendment to the proposed new text submitted by the F.A. of Wales was withdrawn after explanations were given on the reason for the conversions not being completely accurate.

Amendment to Proposed New Text

(Submitted by the F.A. of Wales)

Amendment to paragraph 2 of the proposed new text as follows:-

“The circumference of the ball shall not be more than 71.0cm and not less than 68.0cm. The weight of the ball at the start of the game shall not be more than 453g. nor less than 397g. The pressure shall be equal to”

Reason:

The amendment more accurately reflects the conversion from the present imperial measurement to metric measurement. This is based on 1 inch = 2.54cm and 1 ounce = 28.35g.

1. LAW II – THE BALL

(Submitted by the FIFA)

contd . . .

by the International F.A. Board. The institutes conducting the tests shall be selected by FIFA.

National Association competitions may require the use of balls bearing any one of the three aforementioned designations.

Reason:

The proposed new text better describes the situation with respect to the improvement programme for footballs integrated last year into the Laws.

DECISION

2. LAW III – NUMBER OF PLAYERS

(Submitted by the FIFA)

Present Text

(2) Up to a maximum of three substitutes may be used in any match played in an official competition under the auspices of FIFA, the Confederations or the National Associations.

The rules of the competition shall state how many substitutes may be nominated, up to a maximum of five.

(3) In other matches, up to five substitutes may also be used . . .

Proposed New Text

(2) Up to a maximum of three substitutes may be used in any match played in an official competition under the auspices of FIFA, the Confederations or the National Associations.

The rules of the competition shall state how many substitutes may be nominated, up to a maximum of seven.

(3) In other matches, up to seven substitutes may also be used . . .

Reason:

In the league season 1994/95 it was possible to choose two substitutes from the five provided, apart from the goalkeeper. Therefore it should now be permitted to choose the three allowed substitutes from a nomination of seven. A positive development of the quality of the game by having a bigger choice of players is anticipated.

DECISION

Amendment to Proposed New Text

(Submitted by the F.A. of Wales)

Amendment to paragraph 2 and reinstating paragraph 3 & 4 as follows:-

“The rules of the competition shall state how many substitutes may be nominated, from three up to a maximum of seven.

The names of the substitutes must be given to the referee prior to the commencement of the match.

Substitutes not so named may not take part in the match.”

Reason:

Clarifies the position between paragraphs 1 and 2. Clearly stating that a maximum of three substitutes will be allowed from up to seven nominated.

The Board agreed with the principles of the proposal advanced by FIFA and with the amendment to the proposed new text submitted by the F.A. of Wales. It was decided to adopt the first paragraph of the proposed new text, adding the entire amendment, as follows:

(2) Up to a maximum of three substitutes may be used in any match played in an official competition under the auspices of FIFA, the Confederations or the National Associations.

The rules of the competition shall state how many substitutes may be nominated, from three up to a maximum of seven.

The names of the substitutes must be given to the referee prior to the commencement of the match.

Substitutes not so named may not take part in the match.

3. LAW V – REFEREES

(Submitted by the FIFA)

Present Text

(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.

Proposed New Text

(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 is guilty of a second cautionable offence.

Reason:

This change is deemed necessary to keep in line with the words of Law XII, (9).

DECISION

The proposed new text submitted by FIFA was adopted. Thus, paragraph (h) of LAW V now reads as follows:

(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 is guilty of a second cautionable offence.

4. LAW V – REFEREES

(Proposed by the Football Association)

DECISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL F.A. BOARD DECISION (7)

Present Text

(7) If the referee has decided to apply the advantage clause and to let the game proceed, he cannot revoke his decision if the presumed advantage has not been realised, even though he has not, by any gesture, indicated his decision. This does not exempt the offending player from being dealt with by the referee.

Proposed New Text

(7) If the referee applies the advantage clause and, if the anticipated advantage does not accrue, the referee shall penalise the original offence.

Reason:

The proposed new text will ensure that an offending team does not benefit from an offence committed, nor will the team offended against be denied the due award for that offence merely because the referee has attempted unsuccessfully to utilise the advantage clause to the latter's initial benefit.

DECISION

Decisions of the International F.A. Board - Decision (7)

The proposed new text submitted by The Football Association was withdrawn in favour of the amendment put forward by the Scottish F.A.

(7) If the referee applies the advantage clause and the advantage which was anticipated does not develop at that time, the referee shall immediately penalise the original offence.

Amendment to Proposed New Text

(Submitted by the Scottish F.A.)

(7) If the referee applies the advantage clause and the advantage which was anticipated does not develop at that time, the referee shall penalise the original offence.

Reason:

The amendment seeks to indicate a timescale during which the referee could penalise the original offence if the anticipated advantage does not develop.

5. LAW VI – LINESMEN

(Submitted by the Scottish F.A.)

Present Text

Two linesmen shall be appointed, whose duty (subject to the decision of the referee) shall be to indicate:

- (a) when the ball is out of play;
- (b) which side is entitled to a corner-kick, goal-kick or throw-in;
- (c) when a substitution is desired.

Proposed New Text

Two linesmen shall be appointed, whose duty (subject to the decision of the referee) shall be to indicate:

- (a) when the ball is out of play;
- (b) which side is entitled to a corner-kick, goal-kick or throw-in;
- (c) when a player shall be penalised for being in an offside position;
- (d) when misconduct or other incident has occurred outwith the vision of the referee
- (e) when a substitution is desired.

Reasons:

- (1) The present text makes no mention of this duty which is one of the most important performed by assistant referees.
- (2) This should encourage linesmen to be aware of their responsibilities within the match officials' team in order to ensure that the correct decisions are arrived at.

5. LAW VI – LINESMEN

(Submitted by the Scottish F.A.)

Present Text

Two linesmen shall be appointed, whose duty (subject to the decision of the referee) shall be to indicate:

- (a) when the ball is out of play;
- (b) which side is entitled to a corner-kick, goal-kick or throw-in;
- (c) when a substitution is desired.

Proposed New Text

Two linesmen shall be appointed, whose duty (subject to the decision of the referee) shall be to indicate:

- (a) when the ball is out of play;
- (b) which side is entitled to a corner-kick, goal-kick or throw-in;
- (c) when a player shall be penalised for being in an offside position;
- (d) when misconduct or other incident has occurred outwith the vision of the referee
- (e) when a substitution is desired.

Reasons:

- (1) The present text makes no mention of this duty which is one of the most important performed by assistant referees.
- (2) This should encourage linesmen to be aware of their responsibilities within the match officials' team in order to ensure that the correct decisions are arrived at.

DECISION

The proposed new text submitted by the Scottish F.A. was adopted with the following alterations:

- (c) when a player may be penalised for being in an offside position;
- (d) when misconduct or other incident has occurred out of the vision of the referee;

The amendments submitted by the F.A. of Wales and by The Football Association were withdrawn.

Amendment to Proposed New Text

(Submitted by the F.A. of Wales)

Amendment to paragraph (d) as follows:-

“(d) when misconduct or other incident has occurred without the knowledge of the referee”

Reason:

Plain English i.e. a simplified expression making it easier to understand.

Amendment to Proposed New Text

(Submitted by The Football Association)

Two linesmen shall be appointed, whose duty (subject to the decision of the referee) shall be to indicate:

- (a) when the ball is out of play;
- (b) which team is entitled to a corner-kick, goal-kick or throw-in;
- (c) when a player commits an offside offence;
- (d) when misconduct or other incident has occurred outside of the vision of the referee;
- (e) when a substitution is desired;

Reason:

The amendment is submitted, with terminology to re-emphasise that a linesman should only indicate, in the case of offside considerations, when a player commits an offside offence. It is felt that it is preferable to emphasise “offence”, rather than refer to the player’s position. The referee will still decide whether play should be halted to penalise the offence.

Amendment to Proposed New Text

(Submitted by the FIFA)

LAW VI – ASSISTANT REFEREES

To replace the words “Linesman” and “Linesmen” in the Law by the words “Assistant Referee” and “Assistant Referees”, where applicable.

Reason: The word “linesmen” does not accurately reflect the tasks of the linesmen who are, in actual fact, assistants to the referee.

The amendment to the proposed new text advanced by FIFA was adopted, i.e. linesman (lineswoman) and linesmen (lineswomen) shall now be referred to as assistant referee and assistant referees.

6. LAW XII – FOULS & MISCONDUCT

(Submitted by The Football Association)

Present Text

A player who commits any of the following six offences in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or involving disproportionate force:

- (a) kicks or attempts to kick an opponent; or
- (b) trips an opponent; or
- (c) jumps at an opponent; or
- (d) charges an opponent; or
- (e) strikes or attempts to strike an opponent; or
- (f) pushes an opponent;

or who commits any of the following four offences:

- (g) when tackling an opponent makes contact with the opponent before contact is made with the ball; or
- (h) holds an opponent or spits at an opponent; or
- (i) handles the ball deliberately, i.e., carries, strikes or propels the ball with his hand or arm (this does not apply to the goalkeeper within his own penalty area);

shall be penalised by the award of a direct free-kick to be taken by the opposing team from the place where the offence occurred, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal-area, in which case the free-kick shall be taken from any point within the goal-area.

Should a player of the defending team intentionally commit one of the above ten offences within the penalty-area, he shall be penalised by 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.

Proposed New Text:

A player who commits any of the following six offences in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or involving disproportionate force:

- (a) kicks or attempts to kick an opponent; or
- (b) trips an opponent; or
- (c) jumps at an opponent; or
- (d) charges an opponent; or
- (e) strikes or attempts to strike an opponent; or
- (f) pushes an opponent;

or who commits any of the following four offences:

- (g) when tackling an opponent, makes contact with the opponent before contact is made with the ball; or
- (h) spits at an opponent; or
- (i) holds an opponent; or
- (j) handles the ball deliberately, i.e. carries, strikes or propels the ball with his hand or arm (this does not apply to the goalkeeper within his own penalty area);

shall be penalised by the award of a direct free-kick to be taken by the opposing team from the place where the offence occurred, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal area, in which case the free kick shall be taken from any point within the goal area.

Should a player of the defending team commit one of the above ten offences within the penalty area, he shall be penalised by 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.

DECISION

The proposal submitted by The Football Association was withdrawn in view of the intended total renewal of the Laws of the Game in 1997.

It was agreed however, to remove the following text:

“attempting to kick the ball while held by the goal-keeper” in Para 1.

LAW XII – FOULS & MISCONDUCT (continued)

(Submitted by The Football Association)

Present Text

A player committing any of the five following offences:

1. playing in a manner considered by the referee to be dangerous, e.g. attempting to kick the ball while held by the goalkeeper;

2. charging fairly, i.e. with the shoulder, when the ball is not within playing distance of the players concerned and they are definitely not trying to play it;

3. when not playing the ball, impeding the progress of an opponent, i.e. running between the opponent and the ball, or interposing the body so as to form an obstacle to an opponent;

4. charging the goalkeeper except when he

(a) is holding the ball;

(b) is obstructing an opponent

(c) has passed outside his goal-area.

5. when playing as a goalkeeper and within his own penalty-area:

(a) from the moment he takes control of the ball with his hands, he takes more than 4 steps in any direction whilst holding, bouncing or throwing the ball in the air and catching it again, without releasing it into play, or

(b) having released the ball into play before, during or after the 4 steps, he touches it again with his hands, before it has been touched or played by a player of the opposing team either inside or outside the penalty area, or by a player of the same team outside the penalty area, subject to the overriding conditions of 5(c), or

(c) touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate, or

(d) indulges in tactics, which in the opinion of the referee, are designed to hold up the game and thus waste time and so give an unfair advantage to his own team,

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, subject to the overriding conditions imposed in Law XIII.

Proposed New Text:

A player committing any of the five following offences:

(k) playing in a manner considered by the referee to be dangerous;

(l) charging fairly, i.e. with the shoulder, when the ball is not within playing distance of the players concerned and they are definitely not trying to play it;

(m) when not playing the ball, impeding the progress of an opponent, i.e. running between the opponent and the ball, or interposing the body so as to form an obstacle to an opponent;

(n) charging the goalkeeper except when he -

(1) is holding the ball;

(2) is obstructing an opponent;

(3) has passed outside his goal area

(o) when playing as a goalkeeper and within his own penalty area:

(1) from the moment he takes control of the ball with his hands, he takes more than 4 steps in any direction whilst holding, bouncing or throwing the ball in the air and catching it again, without releasing it into play, or

(2) having released the ball into play before, during or after the 4 steps, he touches it again with his hands, before it has been touched or played by a player of the opposing team either inside or outside the penalty area, or by a player of the same team outside the penalty area, subject to the overriding conditions of (o) (3), or

(3) touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team mate, or

(4) indulges in tactics which, in the opinion of the referee, are designed to hold up the game and thus waste time and so give an unfair advantage to his own team,

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, subject to the overriding conditions imposed in Law XIII.

DECISION

LAW XII – FOULS & MISCONDUCT (continued)

(Submitted by The Football Association)

Present Text

A player shall be cautioned and shown the yellow card if:

(j) he enters or re-enters the field of play to join or rejoin 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, subject to the overriding conditions imposed in Law XIII.

If, however, the offending player has committed a more serious offence, he shall be penalised according to that section of the law he infringed.

(k) he persistently infringes the Laws of the Game;

(l) he shows, by word or action, dissent from any decision given by the referee;

(m) he is guilty of ungentlemanly conduct.

For any of these last three 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, subject to the overriding conditions imposed in Law XIII, unless a more serious infringement of the Laws of the Game was committed.

A player shall be sent off the field of play and shown the red card, if, in the opinion of the referee, he:

(n) is guilty of violent conduct;

(o) is guilty of serious foul play;

(p) uses foul or abusive language;

(q) is guilty of a second cautionable offence after having received a caution.

If play is 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, subject to the overriding conditions imposed in Law XIII.

Proposed New Text:

A player shall be cautioned and shown the yellow card if:

(p) he enters or re-enters the field of play to join or rejoin 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, subject to the overriding conditions imposed in Law XIII.

If, however, the offending player has committed a more serious offence, he shall be penalised according to that section of the Law he infringed;

(q) he persistently infringes the Laws of the Game;

(r) he shows by word or action dissent from any decision given by the referee;

(s) he is guilty of ungentlemanly conduct.

For any of these last three offences, in addition to the caution, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing side from the place where the offence occurred, subject to the overriding conditions imposed in Law XIII, unless a more serious infringement of the Laws of the Game was committed.

A player shall be sent off the field of play and shown the red card, if, in the opinion of the referee, he:

(t) is guilty of violent conduct;

(u) is guilty of serious foul play;

(v) uses foul or abusive language;

(w) is guilty of a second cautionable offence after having received a caution.

If play is 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 means of an indirect free kick awarded to the opposing side from the place where the infringement occurred, subject to the overriding conditions imposed in Law XIII.

DECISION

The amendment submitted by the F.A. of Wales was withdrawn.

Amendment to Proposed New Text

(Submitted by the F.A. of Wales)

Agree with the lettering/renumbering of paragraphs, however, would suggest for ease of reading that the numbered paragraphs following the new paragraphs (n) and (o) should be indented.

LAW XII – FOULS & MISCONDUCT (continued)

(DECISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL F.A. BOARD)

**Proposed amendments to the present text;
consequent on the amended text proposed
for Law XII being accepted:**

- (5) Replace reference to “Law XII par. 3” with “Law XII par. (m)”.
- (7) Replace reference to “Law XII par. 5(a)” with “Law XII par. (o)(1)”.
- (11) Replace reference to “section (n) of Law XII” with “paragraph (t) of Law XII”.
- (13) Replace “Law XII (o)” with “Law XII par. (u)”.
- (14) Replace “Law XII (o)” with “Law XII par. (u)”.
- (15) Replace “Law XII 5(a)” with “Law XII par. (o)(1)”.
- (16) Replace “article 5(c) of Law XII” with “paragraph (o)(3) of Law XII”.

Reason:

The proposed new text, and consequential amendments to the International F.A. Board decisions, corrects and simplifies the wording and lettering of paragraphs and sections adopted in 1995.

DECISION

Proposed Text

Should a player of the attacking team intentionally commit one of the above offences within the penalty area, the referee shall be required to award a penalty kick.

Proposed Text

10. A player of the attacking team who is in the penalty area and is obstructing an opponent shall be penalised by a penalty kick.

11. The referee shall award a penalty kick.

Proposed Text

Should a player of the attacking team commit one of the above offences within the penalty area, the referee shall be required to award a penalty kick.

Reasons

The word "intentionally" is inconsistent with the new text of Law XII and should be deleted.

Proposed Amendment

A. Delete present text in its entirety.

Reasons

The Law states in (a) that charging an opponent in a manner which is careless, reckless or involving foul play is penalised by a direct free kick. This is inconsistent with the text of point 4 which penalises a player charging the goalkeeper by an indirect free kick.

(a) is holding the ball.

(b) is obstructing an opponent.

(c) has passed outside the goal area.

Furthermore, Point 4 of Law XII is no longer applicable to the modern game.

7. LAW XII – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

(Submitted by the Scottish F.A.)

Present Text

Should a player of the defending team intentionally commit one of the above ten offences within the penalty area, he shall be penalised by a penalty-kick.

Proposed New Text

Should a player of the defending team commit one of the above ten offences within the penalty area, he shall be penalised by a penalty-kick.

Reason:

The word “intentionally” is inconsistent with the new text of Law XII and should be deleted.

Present Text

4. charging the goalkeeper except when he
- (a) is holding the ball;
 - (b) is obstructing an opponent;
 - (c) has passed outside his goal-area.

Proposed Alteration

4. Delete present text in its entirety

Reason:

The Law states in (d) that charging an opponent in a manner which is careless, reckless or involving disproportionate force shall be punished by a direct free-kick. This is inconsistent with the text of point 4 which penalises a player charging the goalkeeper by an indirect free kick unless he:

- (a) is holding the ball
- (b) is obstructing an opponent
- (c) has passed outside his goal area.

Furthermore, Point 4 of Law XII is no longer applicable to the modern game.

DECISION

The proposal submitted by the Scottish Football Association was adopted.

The Scottish F.A. withdrew its proposal to delete the present text of Point 4 of the Law in view of the complete renewal of the Laws of the Game in 1997.

LAW XII – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT (continued)

(Submitted by the Scottish F.A.)

Present Text

5 (b) having released the ball into play before, during or after the 4 steps, he touches it again with his hands, before it has been touched or played by a player of the opposing team either inside or outside of the penalty area, or by a player of the same team outside the penalty area, subject to the overriding conditions of 5(c), or

Proposed New Text

5 (b) having released the ball into play before, during or after the 4 steps, he touches it again with his hands, before it has been touched or played by another player, subject to the overriding conditions of 5 (c), or

Reason:

The change in Law relating to the deliberate kicking of the ball to the goalkeeper makes some of the text in 5(b) unnecessary.

DECISION

The proposal submitted by the Scottish Football Association was withdrawn.

8. THE ROLE OF THE FOURTH OFFICIAL

(Submitted by the Scottish F.A.)

Proposed New Text

add:

8. The fourth official will submit to the appropriate authorities a report on any misconduct or other incident which has occurred outwith the vision of the referee and linesmen. The referee and linesmen will be informed of any such report at the appropriate opportunity, e.g. half time interval or at full time.

Reason:

The above text enhances the role of the fourth official as one of the refereeing team and facilitates the use of written evidence from the fourth official by the appropriate authorities.

DECISION

The proposal submitted by the Scottish F.A. was adopted with the following modification:

“After the match the fourth official will submit to the appropriate authorities, a report on any misconduct or other incident which has occurred out of the vision of the referee and assistant referees. The fourth official must advise the referee and the assistant referees of any report being made.”

The amendment submitted by the F.A. of Wales was withdrawn.

Amendment to the Proposed New Text

(Submitted by the F.A. of Wales)

“The fourth official will submit to the appropriate authorities a report on any misconduct or other incident which has occurred without the knowledge of the referee and linesmen. The referee . . .”

Reason:

Plain English i.e. a simplified expression making it easier to understand.

9. CHECKLIST FOR REFEREES

(Submitted by the Irish F.A.)

8. Where you have the assistance of neutral linesmen some of those duties may be taken by them, e.g. – a linesman at the centre circle would organise players coming to take the kicks while the other linesman would assist by indicating whether or not the ball has crossed the goal line BY RAISING HIS FLAG.

Reason:

In the case of kicks from the penalty mark a clear and uniform signal is needed to indicate to all in the stadium that a goal has been scored, as often the crowd is unsure, i.e. – the ball hits the back stanchion and rebounds out of the goal. It would seem appropriate that this can be done by the linesman.

10. RULES OF THE INTERNATIONAL F.A. BOARD

(Submitted by the Football Association)

Proposed amendment:

9. Decision of the Board

Add a third paragraph as follows:

The decisions of the Annual General Meeting of the Board regarding changes to the Laws of the Game shall be printed and circulated to Confederations and National Associations within 30 days of the meeting.

Reason:

An agreed early date of circulation will assist National Associations and their Competitions in the changing of rules at Annual Meetings (normally held in April/May), where alterations to the laws necessitate a rule change or a new rule being added.

DECISION

The item raised by the Irish F.A. was withdrawn.

The proposed amendment submitted by the Football Association was adopted.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Additional Instructions Regarding the Laws of the Game

The Board agreed to the Scottish Football Association's proposal to update the text of this section because of recent changes in the Laws of the Game. It also underlined that the amendments decided upon in this meeting would require text adaptations. Finally the Board insisted on the fact that this section should include further instructions to the Referees to better protect the player against serious foul play, especially tackles from behind.

The Sub-Committee was mandated to carry out this work and report back to the Business Meeting.

2. Guidelines to Encourage an Increase in the Actual Playing Time

The Board agreed to the proposal submitted by the Scottish Football Association and decided that FIFA should issue instructions to encourage the actual playing time of matches by means of the Annual Circular Letter, as follows:

- a) placing additional balls around the edge of the field
- b) speeding up the substitution procedure
- c) speeding up the restart of the match following a goal being scored.

3. Support for an Alteration to Law I

The Board shared FIFA's view regarding the necessity of taking some steps to ensure that portable goals are safely used and anchored. It took note that the matter will be referred to the FIFA Fair Play and Security Committee and then forwarded to the FIFA Executive Committee.

4. Inventory of all Present Laws of the Game Experiments

The Board first took note of FIFA's decision not to experiment any more with the Laws in the final stages of its competitions, but would rather ask national associations of different continents possibly interested to do the same in some of their own leagues.

FIFA then reported on the experiments presently being undertaken, and the Board took the following decisions:

- a) kick-in (to replace optional throw-in): presently being tested for the 2nd season in the Belgian 2nd division – experiment to continue until the end of the present season.
- b) time-out: was tested in Sweden and in the Women's World Cup; as opinions are quite divergent, it will not be experimented further for the time being but should not be definitely abandoned.

5. Overturn of Match Results

In respect of the request submitted by FIFA that the rule according to which a referee's decision on a point of fact is irrefutable, reference was made to the recent case concerning the DFB. After being sanctioned, the original score was restored but this had been accepted with bad grace.

The Board formally confirmed that FIFA is right to protect and enforce the Laws of the Game and to lay emphasis on the fact that the referee's decision on a point of fact is irrefutable. This will be mentioned in the Annual Circular Letter, and Mr. David Will requested that the next Annual Business Meeting should again discuss the importance of underlining the fact that the referee's decision is final after 90 minutes.

6. Addition to the Items for Discussion – Law XIV

At the request of The Football Association, the Board discussed the practicability of suggestions, i.e. it is incumbent on the Board to realise the pressure under which the referees work, and that proposals which put extra pressure on the referees should not be endorsed. Due to pressure, the referees are not always strict enough in applying the Laws, which is resulting in discrepancies in the implementation thereof at international level. The Board agreed that this is an important point, and that it must be on the agenda of the next Annual Business Meeting.

V ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Sir Bert Millichip remarked on the many mistakes made by the assistant referees and suggested that this should be discussed in detail at a future meeting.


Dr. Havelange thanked the Board Members for their participation and added a special vote of thanks to the Irish Football Association for agreeing to hold the International F.A. Board Meeting in Rio de Janeiro. He thanked the FIFA staff for their assistance and wished everyone a pleasant time in Rio.

Mr. Dickie congratulated Dr. Havelange and thanked FIFA for its help.

Mr. Boyce thanked the FIFA President for his hospitality and extended a warm invitation to the members of the Board to the Annual General Meeting to be held in Northern Ireland next year.

VI 1997 MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD VENUE AND DATE

The 1997 Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board will take place in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on 1st March 1997.


1st March 1997



FIFA

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

**INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD
MEETING 1996 IN RIO DE JANEIRO (BRAZIL) 9 MARCH 1996**

List of Delegations:

ENGLAND

Sir Bert Millichip

Mr. G. Kelly

Mr. K. St.J. Wiseman

Mr. K. Ridden

Bert Millichip

G. Kelly

K. St. J. Wiseman

K. Ridden

SCOTLAND

Mr. C. Dickie

Mr. J.C. McGinn

Mr. J.Y. Craig

Mr. J. Farry

C. Dickie

J.C. McGinn

J.Y. Craig

J. Farry

WALES

Mr. B. Fear

Mr. D. Shanklin

Mr. D. Collins

B. Fear

D. Shanklin

D. Collins



FIFA

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. J. Boyce

Mr. D. Bowen

Mr. I. Marshall

Mr. E. Barry

J. Boyce
D. Bowen
I. Marshall
E. Barry

FIFA

Dr. J. Havelange

Mr. D. Will

Mr. I. Hayatou

Mr. J.S. Blatter

J. Havelange
D. Will
I. Hayatou