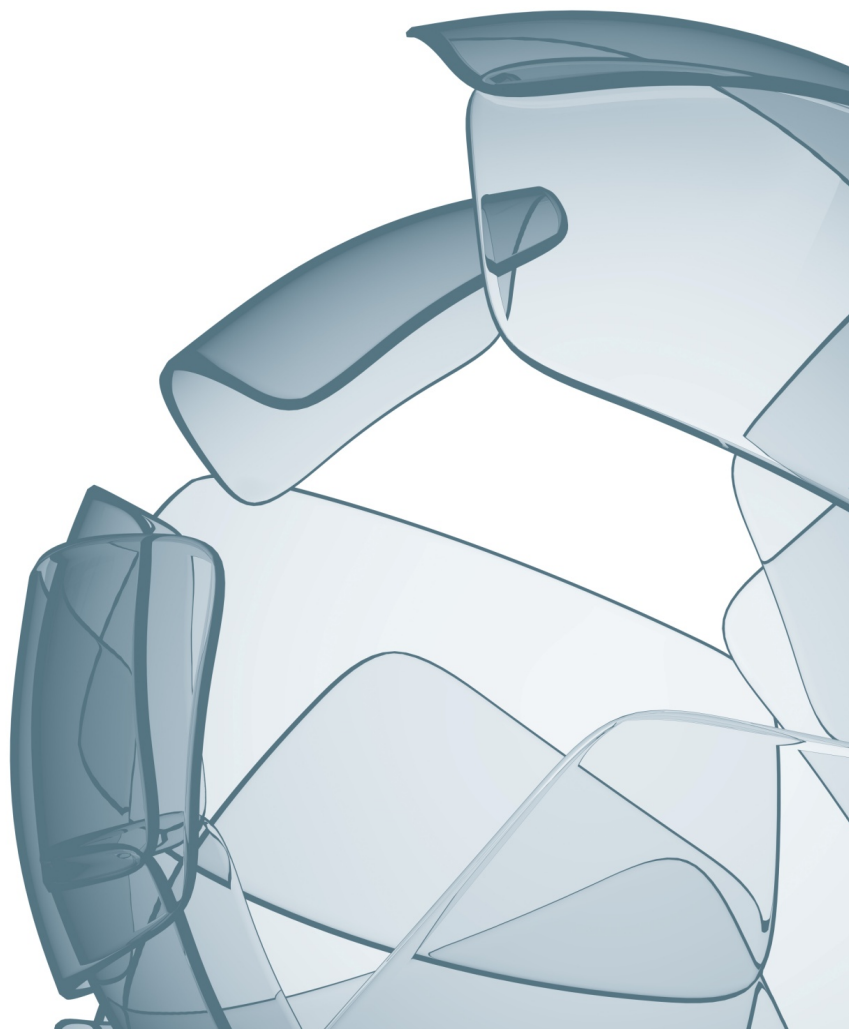


# Minutes

## 130<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of The International Football Association Board

The St. David's Hotel- Cardiff, Wales  
5 March 2016, 09h00



## PARTICIPANTS

### **FA of Wales (chair)**

David Griffiths  
Jonathan Ford  
David Alun Jones  
Kieran O'Connor  
Stephen Williams  
Ray Ellingham  
Paul Evans  
Sarah Bate

### **FIFA**

Gianni Infantino  
Ángel María Villar Llona  
Alejandro Dominguez  
Tashima Kohzo  
Markus Kattner  
Jean-Paul Brigger  
Massimo Busacca

### **The Football Association**

Greg Dyke  
Martin Glenn  
David Elleray  
Darren Bailey  
Neale Barry  
Greg Demetriou

### **Scottish FA**

Alan McRae  
Stewart Regan  
Rod Petrie  
Andrew Waddell  
Andrew McKinlay  
John Fleming

### **Irish FA**

Jim Shaw  
Patrick Nelson  
David Martin  
Jack Grundie  
William Campbell

### **The IFAB**

Lukas Brud  
Boudien Broekhuis

### **FIFA Administration**

Nicolas Maingot  
Johannes Holzmüller  
Priscilla Duncan  
Edward Brown  
Beatrix Hammer

### **Other Delegates**

Mattias Grafström  
Shimizu Kazumi  
Nelson Sanabria

## **I. Welcome**

The president of the FA of Wales, David Griffiths, chairman of the 130<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM), opened the meeting by welcoming the other members of The International Football Association Board (IFAB), namely the delegations from FIFA, the Scottish FA (SFA), The Football Association (The FA), and the Irish FA (IFA).

## **II. Chairman's remarks**

The chairman expressed his pleasure at chairing the meeting on behalf of the FA of Wales. He thanked the IFA for being the perfect hosts in 2015 in Northern Ireland and extended congratulations to all members of the Advisory Panels of The IFAB for their valuable work. The work of the Technical Subcommittee (TSC) of The IFAB was highlighted, in particular the most comprehensive revision of the Laws of the Game undertaken in the 130 year history of The IFAB.

The chairman reported that the reform process of The IFAB had been completed resulting in, among other matters, its own corporate identity which will increase the visibility and accessibility of The IFAB within the football community.

On behalf of everyone present, the chairman warmly welcomed and congratulated the newly elected President of FIFA, Gianni Infantino.

## **III. Roll call**

The chairman asked the head of each delegation to introduce their members (see "Participants", p.2).

## **IV. Approval of the agenda**

The members unanimously approved the agenda for this meeting.

## **V. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting**

All members approved the minutes of the 129<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, held in Belfast, Northern Ireland on Saturday 28 February 2015.

## **VI. Agenda containing the items to be discussed and enclosures**

### **Items for Decision**

#### **1. Revision of the Laws of the Game**

David Elleray (DE), in his capacity as the member of the TSC of The IFAB leading the revision, gave some historical context to the changes to the Laws of the Game (LoG). He emphasised that The IFAB has a fundamental duty to ensure that the Laws are ‘fit for purpose’ and, in particular, that they promote ‘fair play’. He emphasised that the majority of issues with the LoG have arisen because past changes were not necessarily put in the whole Law context. Since the LoG have not always kept up with the evolution of the game, players and teams can now benefit from breaking the Laws. In addition, the phrase “the spirit of the game” has been introduced into the LoG because too many referees apply the Law too strictly and without any feeling or sensitivity for football; the ultimate goal of the Laws of their application must be promoting and rewarding fair play.

DE explained that punishment is a key part of the LoG and that the main purpose of punishment is its deterrent effect, to stop players from committing the offence in future. There are two types of punishment in football: the team punishment (free kick and penalty kick) and the individual punishment (yellow or red card). Over time, the individual player punishments have generally kept pace with

modern football, but the team punishments have not always kept pace and, in some cases, the restart puts the offending team in a better position than if they had not committed the offence, i.e. they benefit from breaking the Law. Therefore, much attention during the revision was on the team punishment.

As part of the revision, a number of areas have been improved / introduced to make the Laws 'fit for purpose', easily understood by everyone, and appropriate to the modern game:

- A more simple structure: Law and Interpretation have been combined so that all information for each Law is in the same place;
- Updated titles: some of the Laws have been renamed to reflect the modern game;
- Language and phraseology: redundant words have been removed and the vocabulary reduced so that there is a consistent use of words and phrases, which will assist translation, and reduce confusion and misunderstandings;
- Updated content: some changes reflect the need for the Laws to be relevant to modern football.

DE illustrated his explanation with video clips to emphasise the changes and improvements, and to show situations where the referee's decision will be different in the future.

DE concluded by saying that the extensive revision of the LoG would bring the world of football an accessible, modern, clear, and concise (10, 000 fewer words) Law book which will promote a consistent application and interpretation of the LoG worldwide.

## Feedback from members

The SFA emphasised the need for clear communication of the changes, as while some are relatively cosmetic, others are fundamental, including changes to the location of the free kick for offside.

The IFA stressed the importance of referees at all levels of the game being aware of the changes to ensure a consistent application.

Regarding communicating the changes, DE responded that forthcoming major tournaments (e.g. EURO finals) should provide excellent communication and education opportunities as the ‘new’ Laws will be used in these competitions.

All members expressed their delight with the revision work and unanimously accepted all the proposed Law changes and the new layout of the LoG book.

### *Decisions / next steps*

- Revision of the Laws of the Game **approved**; the new text comes into force on 1 June 2016

## 2. **Modifications:** “Sin bins”

Lukas Brud (LB) outlined the progress made regarding the sin bin experiment run by UEFA in youth development tournaments. In this second year of experimentation, the sin bin time had changed to 8 minutes (previously 10 minutes) and applied only to offences that would have been cautioned. Most sin bins were for unsporting behaviour, such as stopping a quick free kick and simulation. The

total number of sin bins had decreased, compared to the previous year, which could be linked to the educational impact on players' behaviour; feedback from the national associations was more positive and supportive.

UEFA would like to continue the experiment for another year at youth level, and refine the concept. They will provide The IFAB with terms of reference and obtain more information and data for accurate evaluation. At the next AGM, in 2017, UEFA will present a final report with recommendations for consideration.

### Feedback from members

FIFA was supportive of continuation for educational purposes and suggested widening the experiment as sin bins are being used in other youth competitions and their input could be valuable in the overall assessment.

Given that UEFA would provide clearer terms of reference and factors to measure against at the end of the experimentation phase, all members supported the sin bin experiment continuing for one more year.

#### *Decisions / next steps*

- Continuation sin bin experiment until AGM 2017 **approved**

### 3. Law 3 – The Number of Players: 4<sup>th</sup> Substitution in Extra Time

Jonathan Ford (JF), chairman of the IFAB Advisory Panel meetings in 2015, introduced the topic of a possible 4<sup>th</sup> substitution in extra time. He mentioned that the potential use of a 4<sup>th</sup> substitution by

each team when a match goes to extra time, in tournaments with knockout stages, had been discussed before. The proposal had not been approved at the 2015 AGM, but assigned to the Advisory Panels for further consideration. During the meetings of the Advisory Panels in 2015, FIFPro had presented the results of a qualitative study showing that the majority of players and coaches favoured the proposal.

LB reminded the members that the possible introduction of a 4<sup>th</sup> substitution should be based on the following principles:

- A 4<sup>th</sup> substitution is only permitted if a match goes to extra time;
- The 4<sup>th</sup> substitute can be used whether or not the team has already used three substitutes.

The suggested way forward was to continue the research in a two-phase method study. Firstly, analysing matches that go into extra time. Secondly, conduct a survey among different stakeholders based on the outcome of the above analysis and draw final conclusions as to whether there would be any merit in introducing the 4<sup>th</sup> substitution in extra time.

### **Feedback from members**

All members were supportive of the continuation of research on condition that clear terms of reference for the experimentation would be defined and consideration would be given to possible implications, such as creating unwanted sporting advantages.



FIFA suggested going one step further and to start real-life testing in competitions going into extra time to provide concrete evidence on the impact on the game.

*Decisions / next steps*

- Continuation of desk research and real-time testing **approved**

**4. Law 4 – The Players` Equipment:** Electronic Performance & Tracking Systems (EPTS)

LB introduced the topic of Electronic Performance & Tracking Systems (EPTS) and reminded everyone that during the 2015 AGM, the members had approved the use of EPTS, subject to the agreement of the member association/competition organiser concerned, taking into account the following principles:

- Devices must not pose any danger to the players and/or match officials;
- Information and data transmitted from the devices/systems is not permitted to be received or used in the technical area during the match.

In addition, it was agreed that a quality programme should be established to categorise EPTS devices, to regulate their use and to ensure the validity and reliability of the collected data.

Johannes Holzmüller, Head of FIFA's Technology Innovation Department, updated members about the processes for developing global standards for EPTS. He emphasised that the research did not, as yet, show any evidence that transmission of live data to the

technical area could bring medical benefits, such as injury prevention.

## Feedback from members

All members unanimously supported the continuation of research into the use of EPTS.

In addition, it was agreed that The IFAB should develop its own IFAB standard in terms of minimum safety standards; any profit generated would be invested in football development.

### *Decisions / next steps*

- Continuation of research and development of IFAB standard **approved**

## 5. **Law 12 – Fouls and misconduct:** “Triple punishment”

JF informed members that following the decision taken at the last AGM, a proposal was made to the FIFA Executive Committee to reduce the number of punishments for the denial of an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) by removing the automatic one match suspension. This proposal was supported by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee and presented to the FIFA Executive Committee, following which The IFAB was informally informed that The IFAB should continue the debate and look at “alternative solutions”.

LB stated that the discussion on this matter should consider different options.

Option one would be to ask the FIFA Executive Committee to reconsider the original proposal to remove the automatic suspension following a sending-off for a DOGSO offence and to provide The IFAB with official feedback.

Option two would be to conduct a global survey to verify if triple punishment is considered a worldwide issue or one limited to certain (European) countries.

Option three would be to start testing, through live, global experiments, the wording proposed by UEFA and to analyse if this wording would lead to a better solution.

DE elaborated on the UEFA proposal by clarifying its philosophy. He explained that when a DOGSO occurs in the penalty area, because the penalty kick restores the denied goal-scoring opportunity, the punishment of the player should only be a yellow card. The initial concern with this principle was that it could encourage unfair play, i.e. the goalkeeper preferring to bring down an attacker to denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity as the penalty could be missed. The original UEFA wording had been modified by The IFAB to differentiate between a genuine challenge or attempt to play the ball and one where there is no intention or attempt to play or challenge for the ball:

The proposed wording was:

*“Where a player commits an offence against an opponent within their own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, the offending player is cautioned unless:*

- *the offence is holding, pulling or pushing or;*
- *the offending player does not attempt to play the ball or there is no possibility for the player making the challenge to play the ball or;*
- *the offence is one, which is punishable by a red card wherever it occurs on the field of play (e.g. serious foul play, violent conduct etc.)*

*In all the above circumstances the player is sent off."*

JF concluded that a decision was needed as to whether proposed new wording was approved and, if so, whether it should be implemented globally immediately or first subject to a live, global testing phase.

### **Feedback members**

All members fully approved the new wording.

FIFA suggested implementing the new wording with immediate effect and on a global level which would show the world that The IFAB is listening seriously to what football wants and is applying common sense.

The FA stated that implementation of this new wording would be the most fundamental change in football for the past 40 years and raised concerns about the possible unintended consequences, such as an increase of fouls committed or tactical misuse by coaches. Therefore, they preferred a testing phase before bringing the new wording in permanently.

The SFA, the IFA, and the FAW agreed with The FA.

The chairman asked for a short break for each member association to consider whether or not there should be an immediate implementation of the new wording.

Following further debates, all members agreed on a compromise proposal from The FA that the new wording would be globally tested for two years, provided the right measurements were put in place and the change communicated clearly.

*Decisions / next steps*

- **Approval** of the new wording
- **Approval** of a two-year trial period for full implementation on a global basis with specific terms of reference for a final decision on implementation

## 6. Video assistance for match officials

JF introduced the topic of video assistance for match officials by saying that the opinions regarding this topic are many and varied, but everyone acknowledges that more information is needed to progress the discussion. JF informed members that firstly approval for video assistance testing was needed and then a decision was needed about how such testing should be conducted. The debate was not just about defining the specific areas for live experimentation but also about how video assistance could fundamentally change the game.

LB summarised that, following discussions within The IFAB bodies and having received substantial feedback from the football community, including requests by associations to conduct experiments, the debate had reached the stage of defining potential protocols for live experimentation. He stressed that everyone agreed that video assistance should only be used for clear errors in match changing situations and that there is no desire for every decision to be reviewed.

Over the previous months, The IFAB had analysed what decisions could be subject to assistance by video replays and had the following proposals:

- Goal scored: review of potential infringements of the Laws of the Game leading up to a goal being scored (e.g. offside, foul, or any other relevant infringements or offences)
- Penalty situation: review of potential infringements of the Laws of the Game within the penalty area, resulting in the award or non-award of a penalty kick
- Direct red card: review of potential direct red card (sending-off) offences

LB explained that one of the main reasons for proposing these areas was that all three were potentially “game changing” decisions. He added that a fourth area for video assistance was suggested by the Advisory Panels of The IFAB i.e. the mistaken identity of a player receiving a yellow or red card.

LB explained that in developing the proposed protocols for live experiments, The IFAB and the FIFA Quality Programme had looked at what had already been done in the offline tests run by the Dutch FA (KNVB), the feedback from the Advisory Panels of The IFAB and the continuing discussions in the football world. Four key questions were identified:

1. Who can request a review - only the referee or also the coaches?
2. What is the role of the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) -proactive or only reactive on a request from the referee?
3. When can the decision for review be taken - additional stoppages of the game or not?
4. How is the decision taken - will the referee be informed by the VAR or directly look at the replays on the side of the field of play?

Based on those questions, two types of experiments were developed.

#### Option one

Only the referee or VAR can request a review; decisions can be reviewed when play is stopped or if the referee stops the match when the ball is in 'neutral' position. The referee receives information directly from VAR and has the option to review the incident on the side of the field of play.

#### Option two

Team coaches can request a review (number of requests to be defined); decisions can only be taken when play is stopped; the referee receives the information directly from VAR and has the option to review the incident on the side of the field of play.

JF informed the members that they must decide whether or not to approve live experiments with video assistance and, if they approve, which protocol should be followed.

### **Feedback from members**

All members unanimously approved live experiments with video assistance but only for clear errors in match changing situations.

The FA, SFA, IFA, and the FAW supported protocol one and ruled out protocol two. In their opinion, protocol two could easily lead to tactical misuse and they did not see how coaches could have a better perspective from the technical area than the referee on the field of play or the VAR.

FIFA fully support protocol one, but would also consider protocol two for live experiments. The FIFA President questioned whether The IFAB should rule out requests by team coaches before having tested the scenario.

The SFA elaborated on their argument against protocol two. Stewart Regan (SR), on behalf of the SFA, said that introducing protocol one for live experiments would negate the need for protocol two since either the referee or VAR or both should detect clear incidents and therefore it would not be necessary for a coach to get involved.

LB provided more feedback regarding the practicalities around the live experiments. He said that it would be important to conduct the experiment in a controlled manner; distributing all relevant information to interested leagues and competition organisers through face-to-face meetings or workshops, and to outline all obligatory requirements in order to conduct live experiments.

FIFA inquired about the timeline and location for the experiments in anticipation of the significant media attention regarding this topic. It was agreed to announce that there would initially be an offline preparation phase to establish the various processes in a hermetically sealed competition. Only when the protocol,



practicalities and procedures were ready, and after in-depth consideration, would live experiments start, at the latest by season 2017/18.

*Decisions / next steps*

- Live experiments with video assistance for clear errors in match changing situations **approved**
- **Support for** further development of protocol one for live experiments

## VII. Any other business

### 7. Financial matters

LB informed the members about the delay in receiving the final audit report from KPMG and then gave an overview of The IFAB's income and expenses.

*Decisions / next steps*

- Budget of The IFAB **approved**

### 8. Business matters

LB informed the members about changes to the **Statutes of The IFAB**, notably the inclusion of the TSC as an official body of The IFAB and that changes to the Laws of the Game will come into force each year as of 1 June, instead of 1 July.

LB updated members on the development of the **website** of The IFAB and showed the different sections which have a strong focus on the Laws of the Game and The IFAB's rich history.

LB gave an **update about changes in the membership** of the Advisory Panels of The IFAB:

- Shamsul Maidin, has replaced Yoshimi Ogawa as the Head of Refereeing at AFC and had accepted his appointment to the Technical Advisory Panel with immediate effect.
- For the Football Advisory Panel, the respective confederations of Sir Alex Ferguson, Luis Hernandez, and Gabriel Calderon have been approached to propose replacement candidatures, because the above members had not been able to attend any of the meetings since the start in 2014.

LB concluded by informing members about The IFAB's **new offices** in the centre of Zürich.

#### *Decisions / next steps*

- Changes to the Statutes of The IFAB **approved**

### **VIII. Next meetings**

On behalf of The FA, the host of the next AGM in 2017, the chairman, Greg Dyke, informed members that the AGM would take place around the same time of the year in England.

As the host, the FAW, together with FIFA President Gianni Infantino, honoured two members for their dedicated 10 years of service to The IFAB, namely Mr Trefor Lloyd Hughes and Mr Philip Pritchard of the FAW.

The chairman thanked all members for their attendance and participation in what he believed had been an historic AGM and closed the meeting.

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Zurich, May 2016  
SEC/bbr

Lukas Brud  
Secretary of The IFAB