TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1322
Zurich, 25 October 2012
SG/bru

IFAB Annual Business Meeting, 2 October 2012 – decisions and directives

Dear Sir or Madam,

The International Football Association Board (IFAB) convened at the Mar Hall Hotel in Bishopton (Scotland) on 2 October 2012 for its Annual Business Meeting (ABM) under the chairmanship of the Scottish FA’s CEO, Stewart Regan.

With reference to Circular 1315 and the mandate given to the ABM by the Special Meeting on 5 July 2012 - as an exception to the approval process - the following amendments to the Laws of the Game were sanctioned and the various instructions and directives issued:

LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

1. Additional assistant referees (AARs)

Amendments to the Laws of the Game

The members discussed and approved a new section entitled “The Additional Assistant Referees” after the section “The Fourth Official and the Reserve Assistant Referee” (p. 57) as well as a section in the Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees. Furthermore, it was agreed that a protocol explaining the application of AARs is no longer required, as the new amendment is sufficient.

The above-mentioned new section is enclosed.

2. Law 4 – The Players’ Equipment (“headscarf”)

The design, colour and material to be permitted were discussed at the meeting, with the directive below to be used during the trial phase. Amendments to the Laws of the Game will be made on conclusion of the experiment in March 2014.
The headscarf must

- be of the same colour as the jersey
- be in keeping with the professional appearance of the player’s equipment
- not be attached to the jersey
- not pose any danger to the player wearing it or any other player (e.g. opening/closing mechanism around neck)
- only be worn by female players

Two samples (producers listed below) have been presented to both FIFA and the IFAB and are considered to be in accordance with these criteria.

Capsters BV: https://www.capsters.com/
ResportOn: http://resporton.com/

Other headscarves are also permitted provided the above criteria are met.

**Implementation**

The decisions of the IFAB concerning the Laws of the Game regarding AARs as well as the directive regarding the use of headscarves come into effect immediately.

Yours faithfully,

FIFA

[Signature]

Jerome Valcke
Secretary General

Enc: as mentioned

cc: FIFA Executive Committee
    FIFA Referees Committee
    Confederations
Additional assistant referees may be appointed under the competition rules. They must be active referees of the highest category available.

The competition rules must state the procedure to be followed when a referee is unable to continue, and whether:

1. the fourth official takes over as the referee, or
2. the senior additional assistant referee takes over as the referee, with the fourth official becoming an additional assistant referee

Duties

Where appointed, the additional assistant referees, subject to the decision of the referee, are to indicate:

- when the whole of the ball leaves the field of play over the goal line
- which team is entitled to a corner kick or goal kick
- when misconduct or any other incident occurs out of the view of the referee
- when offences have been committed whenever the additional assistant referees have a better view than the referee, particularly inside the penalty area
- whether, at penalty kicks, the goalkeeper moves off the goal line before the ball is kicked and if the ball crosses the line

Assistance

The additional assistant referees also help the referee to control the match in accordance with the Laws of the Game but the final decision will always be taken by the referee.

In the event of undue interference or improper conduct, the referee will relieve an additional assistant referee of his duties and make a report to the appropriate authorities.
INTERPRETATION OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME AND GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES

Duties and responsibilities

The additional assistant referees help the referee to control the match in accordance with the Laws of the Game. They also assist the referee in all other matters involving the running of the match at the request and direction of the referee. This commonly includes such matters as:

- inspecting the field, the balls used and players' equipment
- determining if problems with equipment or bleeding have been resolved
- maintaining back-up records of time, goals and misconduct

Positioning and teamwork

1. General positioning during the match

The additional assistant referees' position is behind the goal line.

The additional assistant referees are not allowed to enter the field of play unless there are exceptional circumstances.
2. Goal kick

The additional assistant referees must check if the ball is placed inside the goal area. If the ball is not placed correctly, the additional assistant referee must communicate this to the referee.

3. Penalty kick

The additional assistant referee must be positioned at the intersection of the goal line and the goal area, and the assistant referee should take up a position in line with the second last defender.

4. Kicks from the penalty mark

The additional assistant referees must be positioned at each intersection of the goal line and the goal area, to the right and left of the goal respectively. The additional assistant referees are responsible for indication to the referee when the whole of the ball has passed over the goal-line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar.

5. “Goal – no goal” situations

The additional assistant referee must communicate to the referee when a goal has been scored.

Signalling system for the additional assistant referees

The additional assistant referees will use a radio communication system only and not flags to communicate decisions to the referee.

In the event of a breakdown of the radio communication system, the additional assistant referees will use an electronic signal beep flagstick to indicate their decisions.

As a general rule, the additional assistant referee must not give obvious hand signals. However, in some instances, a discreet hand signal may give valuable support to the referee. The hand signal should have a clear meaning. The meaning should have been discussed and agreed upon in the pre-match discussion.