



## **Press Information**

**INTERNATIONAL RUGBY FOOTBALL BOARD**

**INTERIM MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**NOVEMBER 1991**

**STATEMENT FOR THE PRESS**

Meetings of the Committees and the Interim Meeting of the Executive Council of the International Rugby Football Board were held in London from 3rd to 6th November 1991. Representatives were present from twelve Member Unions, that is to say, England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, France, Argentina, Canada, Italy and Japan.

This was the first meeting of the newly constituted Council and was chaired by Dr. I. R. Vanderfield, OBE, (Australia).

### **AMATEURISM**

The Council reviewed the operation of the revised Regulations Relating to Amateurism which were put in place at the time of the Annual Meeting in March 1991. It noted that all the Foundation Unions have appointed their Regulations Officers and have taken or are taking steps to establish effective systems of management and control. These include the distribution of lists of communication and other activities indicating those which are permitted or not permitted under the new Regulations.

The Council has decided to ask Unions to supply details of all schemes within Regulations 4 and 5 which are being operated or proposed within their respective jurisdictions. The Rugby Football Union has already submitted its proposal for a ruling by the Board's Standing Committee on Amateurism.

## Ineligibility and Reinstatement

The Council has approved, under the terms of Regulation 7.4, the reinstatement as amateurs of the following Persons:

South Africa:	C. M. Greenwood
New Zealand:	G. N. K. Mourie and B. G. Fraser
Wales:	P. C. Davies, J. C. Bevan and S. Bayliss
England:	K. E. Fairbrother, C. M. North, G. Paul J. Phillips, and W. R. Singleton

## BOARD POLICY ISSUES

### Membership

The Council confirmed the following Unions as Members:

Andorra  
Hungary  
Luxembourg  
Latvia  
Chile

### Committees

Two new Committees, namely a Technical Committee and Youth and Schools Committee are to be formed.

## LAWS OF THE GAME

Unions have submitted their comments and suggestions on previous recommendations for Law changes. The Laws Committee of the Board has now made recommendations which, if approved, will become operative after the Annual Meeting in 1992. These are that:

- The number of replacements be increased to 4
- Coaches be allowed on the field at half time in Under 19 and Schools Rugby
- After a side has scored, the game be re-started by a drop kick
- If the ball is kicked into the opposing in goal from a kick off and becomes dead a scrum be formed at half way

- A try be increased to 5 points and a dropped goal be reduced to 2 points with a penalty and conversion remaining the same
- A player making a fair catch need not be stationary
- A player who has carried the ball into his own 22 cannot gain ground by kicking directly into touch
- A team taking a quick throw in may do so anywhere between where the ball crossed the touch line and their own goal line and the ball may be thrown in any direction provided it is not forward.
- A player of the team winning the ball from scrum may be penalised if he takes action to convey to his opponents that the ball is out before it has emerged.

It is not recommended that a third form of differential penalty be introduced or that penalties for foul play be awarded on the opponents 22 metre line.

A number of other proposals have now been received, which following consultation with Unions, will be considered at the next Annual Meeting in 1992.

## **MEDICAL**

The Council received a report from its Medical Advisory Committee. Previous directives relating to concussion, its diagnosis and treatment are re-affirmed and the Council wishes to ensure that Unions continue to provide the proper advice and treatment to players. To assist this campaign it is proposed that a series of posters be produced for distribution to Clubs.

The Medical Advisory Committee is further considering the subject of the use of drugs and the prohibition of doping practices. Certain amendments will be made to the guidelines for consideration by the Council at the 1992 Annual Meeting. It is pleasing to note the highly satisfactory results from drug testing programmes carried out by Unions and the drug testing Authorities.

The Council agreed to amend Resolution 1.4 concerning the replacement of injured players in an international match. The team doctor may now take responsibility for determining the replacement of an injured player and this may be done on the field of play. Should another opinion be required, this will be provided by the nominated doctor to the match. This change will be implemented from this date.

## TOURS

### International Tours Schedule

Because of the changed structure of the Council and other factors, consideration was given to the form and presentation of the schedule. It was agreed that the format of the schedule should be continued in order to retain a balance of tours by Unions. The schedule was amended to include all Unions of the Executive Council and it will be updated at the annual meeting of the Tours Committee.

The Council is pleased to learn of the positive progress made towards unification of the two main rugby bodies in South Africa. It also acknowledges the South African Rugby Union's support of the South African Rugby Board's application to host a future Rugby World Cup.

### Rota of International Referees

The Rota of International Referees will remain in its present form and will continue to be the responsibility of the Tours Committee. A new rota has been established to cover the period between the 1991 and 1995 Rugby World Cup Tournaments.

The Council decided that a Union's International Panel should include up to three referees of international standard listed in order of merit. A Union may alter the order or if necessary change the personnel during the course of a season. The principle that the best referees should be nominated by appointing Unions for international matches on the rota was again confirmed.

## ADMINISTRATION

In April 1992 the New Zealand Rugby Football Union is celebrating its Centenary. The Annual Meeting of the Council will be held in Wellington, New Zealand from 13th to 16th April 1992 and not in London from 23rd to 27th March 1992 as previously announced.

The General Meeting of the reconstituted International Rugby Football Board, now comprising fifty one countries, will be held on 19th to 20th November 1992.

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