

Future Today

HOW ISRAEL CONTRIBUTED TO MODERN FOOTBALL RULES

Yosef cursed. He had been standing in Tel Aviv's evening traffic for over an hour and feared that he would be late. He frantically searched for the radio program, but all that he found was inane noise or a conversation between two arguing politicians. Finally, he heard the commentator, but the static on the airwaves was so strong that he almost heard nothing. If the Mexican officials were on time (which he really hoped they weren't) the game would start in 10 minutes. He could only curse.

9 minutes later he turned into his street and ran into his house. His whole family, the neighbours and some club mates were waiting for him impatiently with Bamba snacks and drinks. "Where are you? You're going to miss the quarter-final", his uncle called out to him.

But no sooner had Yosef recovered than disaster struck. Shortly after kick-off, the favoured Bulgarians pushed the surprise team from Israel at the Olympic summer games of 1968 into their own half of the pitch while nobody seemed to see the Bulgarian defender **Georgi Christakiev** sneaking up. After only 5 minutes of play, the Bulgarians led 1-0 and Yosef was shocked. The Israelis fought back valiantly and the longer the game went on, the more the sun-ried players from Israel seemed to gain the upper hand. Then in the 89th minute, Yosef was saved. The young striker **Jehoshua Faigenbaum** from the Hapoel Tel Aviv football club rescued Yosef and his entire family and the game ended in a draw after 90 minutes. "What now? You can't have a draw in a quarter-final?" exclaimed his brother, but Yosef didn't know the answer either. The French referee also seemed confused. Suddenly, some officials brought a big Mexican sombrero and after some hesitation, both captains reached into the hat and took out a piece of paper. On that of Israel's captain Mordechai "Motaleh" Spiegel it stated only one word; **OUT!**

The Bulgarian captain had the luck of the draw on his side and Yosef started swearing again....

It took a while for Yosef, the secretary of the Israeli Football Association (IFA), to regain his composure. "**We can draw against the Olympic champion right away. It saves all the effort,**" he rumbled. Being eliminated in the quarter-final of an Olympic competition because of a lottery is painful he commented a few weeks later to his deputy chairman of the IFA **Michael Almog**. Both were preoccupied with their thoughts when Yosef suddenly remembered the first Swiss Watch Cup in 1962, where a tie was resolved by a penalty shoot-out. **Michael Almog was enthusiastic about such an option and wrote a short letter to the world football association FIFA, which arrived in Zurich on 24 July 1969.**

It had an amazing effect. As early as 20 February 1970, the responsible FIFA Committee approved the Israeli proposal. In the event of a draw outside of a group stage each team should have 5 penalties per team, taken by different players to decide the outcome. Only a few months later the new rules were adopted by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) on 27 June 1970 and these haven't changed right up to today. And when the world celebrates a new world champion in football on **18 December 2022**, it will also be thanks to the team effort and contribution of Yusef Dagan and Michael Almog of the Israel Football Association.

Clearly rules and their observance are not only important in football. Today's business life would be inconceivable without it, which is why the legislator regulates numerous important markets, including, of course, the **Trust** business.

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DRAWING-OF-LOTS AS DECISIVE IN FOOTBALL

has been until the
It is accepted ~~to~~ present that the system, in official football Tournaments - World Tournaments or Continental Tournaments, (anyway, FIFA Tournaments) - ~~the decisive system~~ ^{of deciding the winner, even after extension of time the two teams are still equal} for finals or qualification on the way to the Final, ~~in the case the winner is not decided even after extension of time~~ ^{if the} - is by tossing the coin or lot.

My opinion is that if the winner is decided by drawing lots, it is not a sportive way to win a competition.
I propose that a competent Committee, in the frame ^{work} of the FIFA, should decide to cancel this system in international tournaments (~~the~~ Olympic Games), ~~and~~ if FIFA will cancel this system, the Confederations will do so in their official tournaments (Cup Tournaments of Championship). The National Associations will be free to ~~decide~~ ^{use which method they think fit}.

In my opinion
I propose to stop this way of deciding the winner by drawing lots, ~~as an immoral and even cruel system, it is not fair for the loosing team and not honourable for the winner.~~ ^{is immoral} Therefore, I propose ~~to~~ ^{that} the matter be reconsidered ^{very seriously} ~~this matter and to decide as soon as possible about another system.~~ ^{and a decision reached as soon as possible for a new system.}

One of the alternatives for the change of this system ~~could be~~ ^{that in each case that at the end of the competition, including extension of time, the winner will not be decided (if the competition was played by eliminating the looser), another match will be held at least 24 hours after this match, and it will be played according to the same system (extension of time). If even then the winner will not be decided, 5 penalty kicks will be taken by each side, by different players (from the 11 who finished the match). If the winner will still not be decided, one penalty kick will be taken by each side until the winner will be decided.}

I am not suggesting that this system is the best one. I think it is better
~~I don't think that this system is the best one, but I suppose that its better than the system of drawing lots, its more sportive and more convincing for both sides participating in the Competition.~~



Michael Almog
Michael ALMOG

The well-preserved letter from M. Almog still exists - in rather basic English, with several mistakes and also corrections but not even retyped – and is on display today at the FIFA Museum in Zurich.



Beat H. Haering

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