

Inglés. Comprensión de textos 1

Goal Line Technology

The International Football Association Board (IFAB) has given its approval to the use of goal line technology in competitions. The organisation is responsible for overseeing any changes to the official Laws of the Game.



Aims

In this article, you will:

- Read about a two new systems that are set to be used in competitive matches
- Learn some useful vocabulary
- Guess the meaning of words from context.

Introduction

Have you ever watched a game where the referee's decision seemed unfair? Have you ever seen a match where the slow-motion replays on TV show that a goal should have been awarded, but wasn't? Watching your team play an important match is too stressful for so much to rest on the ability of the referees to see whether or not the ball crosses the goal line. Now, IFAB have approved some modern technology which should make players and fans feel a little more confident.

Before you read

This vocabulary exercise will help you understand the article.

1. represented	2. spinning	3. count	4. disallowed
5. impartial	6. scrutinized	7. questionable	8. heart-wrenching
9. approval	10. trial	11. intersect	12. reassured

- when two areas cross over each other
- making people very sad
- to refuse something because of the rules
- to take part in a competition for a country or club
- fair and unbiased (not supporting one side or the other)
- a positive response from an official – a 'yes'
- to test something in action
- to be made to feel more confident
- turning around and around very quickly
- to be accepted or allowed
- uncertain, not sure
- watched very closely



Goal Line Technology

During the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, Chelsea midfielder Frank Lampard represented his country playing in the English squad in a match against Germany. England were 2-1 down in the first half when Lampard had a shot on goal that bounced off the crossbar and over the line. The ball was spinning so fast that it bounced off the pitch and back out of the goal. For a goal to count, the whole ball must be over the line. For millions of fans watching the replay on TV, it was clear that this had happened, but for the referee and assistant referee it wasn't. Frank Lampard and millions on English fans watched in dismay as the goal was disallowed and England were still behind. As a result of that match, they went out of the championship.

There have been many other examples of times when TV footage seems to show that the ball crossed the line and a goal wasn't awarded. In the past, football officials argued that this is an aspect of the game that relies on the judgment of referees. Referees are only human, but if they are impartial, these mistakes will even themselves out. Sometimes they will hurt a team and sometimes they will help a team. Almost to prove that point, during the Euro 2012 championship, Ukrainian striker Marko Devic burst through the England defense and struck the ball against the crossbar. Again, it bounced downwards and into the goal. John Terry kicked the ball clear, but not before many believed that the ball had crossed the line. The goal was not allowed and Ukraine were out.

Modern TV cameras are now so fast and clear that the viewers at home get a better view of the goal line than the referees have on the pitch. This means that during important matches the referees' decisions are scrutinized by millions of fans. In the past, when the technology was not so clear, it was easier for fans to accept questionable decisions. However, modern technology means that fans have to experience every referee decision in heart wrenching slow motion.

On the 5th of July, the International Football Association Board reviewed the arguments and



gave its approval to the use of a special type of camera called Hawk-eye. This is actually a system of cameras that watch the goal and can detect whether or not the ball has crossed the line. The Premier League has been involved in the development of this technology since 2006, when it helped trial the system at Fulham's Craven Cottage and at Reading.

The system had its first trial in competition earlier this year at Southampton's St Mary's Stadium during the Hampshire Senior Cup final between AFC Totton and Eastleigh FC.

A second system that may be employed in Premier League matches in the future is called GoalRef. This system uses magnets around the goal line and in the ball. When the magnetic fields intersect, a message is sent to the referee. GoalRef has been tested in the Danish SuperLiga.

This announcement will be welcome news to many supporters who have been calling for goal-line technology. The Premier League issued a statement declaring:

"The Premier League has been a long-term advocate of goal-line technology".

FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke announced that these technologies will be used at the 2012 FIFA Club World Cup in December. Chelsea will be among the teams competing because they won the UEFA Champions League. Frank Lampard will be reassured to know that if his shots cross the line, Hawk-eye and GoalRef will be there to help the referee make the right decision.



Inglés. Comprensión de textos 1

True or false

Are the following statements about the article true or false?

1. Chelsea's Frank Lampard scored a goal against Germany in the 2010 World Cup.
2. For a goal to be allowed, the whole ball has to cross the goal line.
3. Marko Devic scored a goal against England in the Euro 2012 championship.
4. The International Football Association Board has refused to allow the use of technology to help referees.
5. The Premier League helped develop this technology.
6. The first trial of the technology during a competitive match was at Fulham.
7. The technology will be used at the 2012 FIFA World Club Cup.

Answers

Before you read: 1 – d, 2 – i, 3 – j, 4 – c, 5 – e, 6 – l, 7 – k, 8 – b, 9 – f, 10 – g, 11 – a, 12 – h
True or false: 1 – false, 2 – true, 3 – false, 4 – false, 5 – true, 6 – false, 7 – true