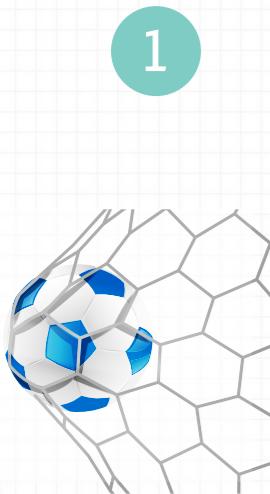




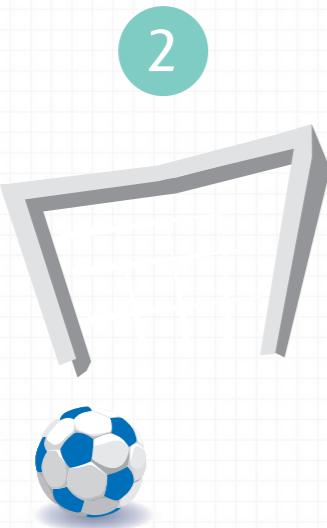
VAR in the UEFA Champions League

After successful technological testing and the training of referees over the last few months, Video Assistant Referees (VAR) will be in use from now on in the UEFA Champions League this season.

A VAR team at the stadium will constantly check for clear and obvious errors related to the following four match-changing situations:



GOALS



INCIDENTS IN THE PENALTY AREA



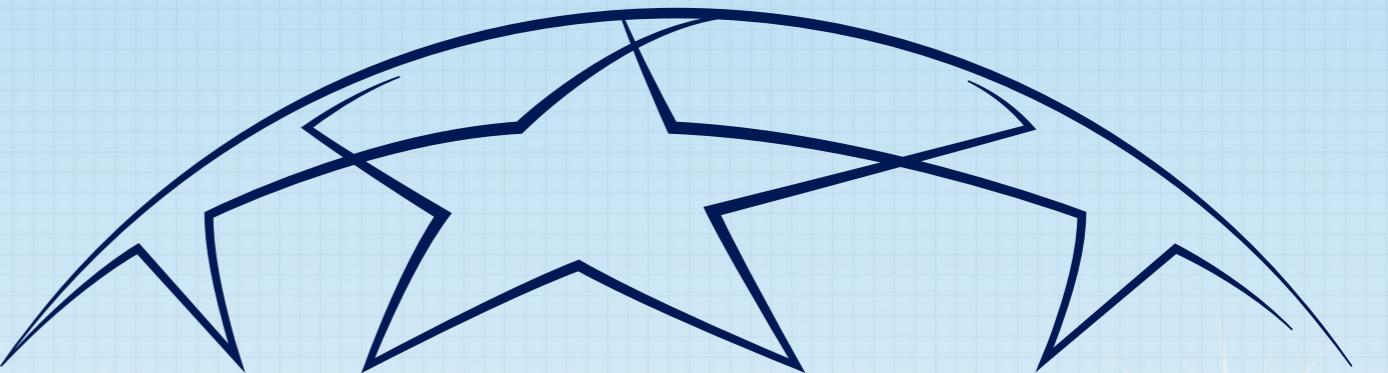
RED CARDS



MISTAKEN IDENTITY

What's the process?

- The VAR team will check all match-changing situations, but will only intervene for clear and obvious mistakes. The referee can hold up play while a decision is being reviewed.
- If the VAR review provides clear evidence for a serious mistake in one of the game-changing situations, the VAR can then ask the referee to conduct an on-field review. The final decision can only be taken by the referee.
- The VAR is also able to take into account any infringement that could have taken place in the immediate build-up to the incident (the attacking phase of play).
- For 'factual' decisions (e.g. offsides, fouls in or outside the penalty area), the VAR can simply inform the referee of those facts and the on-field view screen isn't needed, but it is always the referee who takes the final decision.
- The on-field review process will be communicated within the stadium using either the stadium screens or the public announcement system.



Roberto Rosetti on VAR

UEFA chief refereeing officer

Former top match official Roberto Rosetti has led the project for the introduction of VAR in the UEFA Champions League. Here's his take on how it will be implemented.

Q: VAR has been introduced for the knockout phase of the UEFA Champions League. Can you explain us the main reason for this?

We are convinced that it will be beneficial as it will provide valuable help to match officials and will help reduce incorrect decisions.

Q: How have the referees reacted to these developments?

Very positively. We held various courses over the last few months with our top referees and they welcome any steps to ensure that, ultimately, the correct decision is made.

Q: How have you prepared for this?

We had successful technological testing and, as mentioned, we trained the referees over the last few months. We have then tested VAR at selected matches and finalised preparations on all operational aspects. Now we are ready to implement VAR in the UEFA Champions League.



Q: So when exactly and how does the VAR team intervene and communicate with the referee?

The protocol on when and how to use VAR has been defined by the International Football Association Board, which also defines the Laws of the Game. Our guidelines for UEFA matches on how to apply this protocol are very clear.

The Video Assistant Referee will only intervene when they have the evidence for a clear and obvious mistake in four match-changing situations: goals and offences leading up to a goal, penalty decisions and offences leading up to a penalty, direct red card incidents, and mistaken identity. This includes goals scored after a foul during the attacking phase, or from an offside position.

The latest 3D technology will help the Video Assistant Referee to determine whether an offside position has occurred.

The Video Assistant Referee will also intervene when there is evidence of serious foul play, which must be sanctioned with a direct red card in line with the Laws of the Game.

Q: When does VAR intervene during penalty area incidents?

Again, the Video Assistant Referee intervenes only if there is clear evidence: clear foul play in the penalty area to give a penalty or clear evidence there was no infringement to rule out a penalty award. For example, in the case of handball, the Video Assistant Referee must intervene when there is clear evidence of a deliberate act of a player making contact with the ball with the hand or arm. The movement, distance, and position of the arm or hand are taken into consideration by the VAR team to judge if the contact was punishable, and an on-field review should be made by the referee.

Q: In which situations will the Video Assistant Referee not intervene?
The Video Assistant Referee will not intervene when there is no clear evidence to justify a review.

Q: How will VAR interventions be communicated to the fans?

During the on-field review process TV viewers will be informed by commentators and broadcasters by graphics and there will also be graphics shown on stadium screens for fans to understand what decision has been taken.

Q: How long do the reviews take?

VAR is not perfect but it will help referees to take correct decisions. Accuracy is definitely more important than speed. Nevertheless, time matters and we want to make reviews as efficient as possible.