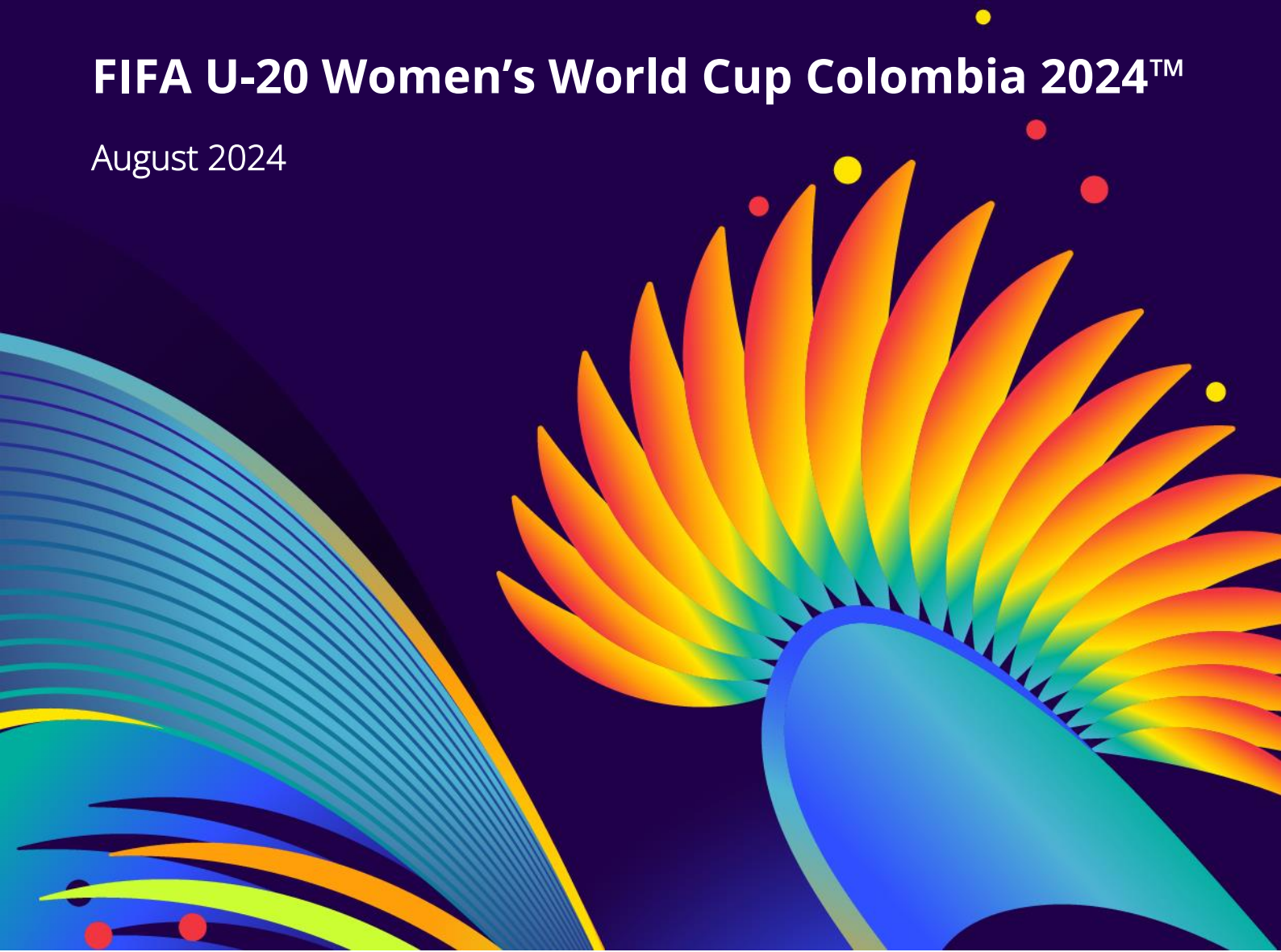




FOOTBALL VIDEO SUPPORT PROTOCOL

FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Colombia 2024™

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Introduction

At its 137th Annual General Meeting in March 2023, The IFAB approved the testing of a new approach to the use of replay technology to support referees during matches. This development is a natural extension of the previous introduction of video assistant referees (VARs) and is in line with FIFA's goal of giving all member associations the chance to provide technical support to their referees, as set out in the **Strategic Objectives for the Global Game: 2023-2027**.

The VAR and VAR light systems involve qualified video match officials (VMOs) watching live and replay footage throughout a match and automatically checking every potentially reviewable decision/incident. If a potential clear and obvious error or serious missed incident in one of the reviewable categories is identified, the VAR informs the referee, and this is the starting point for a review. As everything is automatically checked, there is no need for teams to ask for a decision to be reviewed.

The new replay-technology system – known as football video support (FVS) – is designed for competitions where very few cameras are used and resources (human and financial) are limited. As its name suggests, FVS is fundamentally different from the VAR system: since there are no VMOs and decisions/incidents are therefore not automatically checked,¹ a team's head coach (or, in their absence, the senior team official present in the technical area) is responsible for requesting a review of a decision/incident.² However, as the team's head coach might be very far from the location where a relevant incident occurs, any player or substitute may recommend that their head coach request a review.

The FVS system involves the head coach requesting a review by twirling their finger in the air and then handing a review request card to the fourth official. This card must be submitted immediately after the incident to avoid unnecessary delays and to conform with the Laws of the Game, which do not allow a decision to be changed once play has restarted.

Once the review request card is handed over to the fourth official, the referee will be informed and, if play has stopped (and not restarted) since the incident, the referee will go to the referee review area (RRA) to review the replay footage. If play has continued since the incident, the referee will stop play when the ball is in a neutral zone and go to the RRA to review the replay footage. The referee will be assisted by a qualified replay operator, who will show replay footage (from various angles, at different speeds, etc.) as requested by the referee.

¹ Except for checks by the fourth official when a goal has been scored and during penalties (penalty shoot-out), as outlined in the protocol.

² All references to the head coach herein apply to the senior team official present in the technical area if the head coach is absent (i.e. the stand-in head coach).

In addition, after a goal has been scored, the fourth official will check the replay footage on the monitor and inform the referee if a clear and obvious offence was committed by the attacking team in the attacking phase of play that led directly to the goal. Unless the decision is factual, the referee will review the replay footage and then make the final decision.

As with the VAR system, there are four categories of reviewable decisions/incidents:

- Goal/no goal
- Penalty/no penalty
- Direct red cards (not second yellow cards)
- Mistaken identity (when the referee cautions or sends off the wrong player of the offending team)

Football Video Support Protocol

The football video support (FVS) system and this protocol³, as far as possible, conform to the principles and philosophy of the Laws of the Game.

Principles

1. The FVS system is used only in the event of a clear and obvious error or serious missed incident in relation to:
 - a. Goal/no goal
 - b. Penalty/no penalty
 - c. Direct red cards (not second yellow cards)
 - d. Mistaken identity (when the referee cautions or sends off the wrong player of the offending team)
2. The referee must always make an initial decision. A decision to allow play to continue after an alleged offence can be reviewed only if a team makes a review request (except as outlined in point 6 below). The fourth official will inform the referee of the review request and play will be stopped when the ball is in a neutral zone.
3. The original decision made by the referee will not be changed unless the replay footage shows clear evidence that the decision was a clear and obvious error or a serious missed incident occurred. As the FVS system involves a small number of cameras, the replay footage will often be inconclusive and thus the original decision may not be changed.
4. Only a team's head coach (or, in their absence, the senior team official present in the technical area) can make a review request,⁴ which must be made immediately after the incident, by twirling their finger in the air and then giving a review request card to the fourth official. However, any player is entitled to ask their team's head coach to make a review request. The referee must be informed by the player, who will be given the time to communicate with the team's head coach.
5. The review request must be made immediately to:
 - conform to the Laws of the Game requirement that a decision cannot be changed once play has restarted after a stoppage; and
 - prevent unnecessary delays to the game while the head coach considers whether to make a review request.
6. After a goal has been scored, the fourth official will check the replay footage on the monitor in the referee review area (RRA) and inform the referee if a clear and obvious offence was committed by the attacking team in the attacking phase of play (APP) that led directly to the goal. For factual decisions, the fourth official will inform the referee of the offence and the

³ If there is any divergence in the wording of this protocol in other languages, the English text is authoritative.

⁴ All references to the head coach herein apply to the senior team official present in the technical area if the head coach is absent (i.e. the stand-in head coach).

recommended restart/outcome and the referee will make the final decision. For subjective decisions, the referee will review the incident and make the final decision. If the fourth official does not notice a clear and obvious offence committed by the attacking team in the APP, either team's head coach is still allowed to make a review request.

7. Once a review request card has been given to the fourth official, it is considered "used" and the request cannot be withdrawn.
8. Each team is allowed two review requests during a match. If a match goes to extra time, each team is given a third review request. Any unused review requests may be carried forward and used in extra time and penalties (penalty shoot-out).
9. The FVS system operates during penalties (penalty shoot-out) taken to determine the result of a match. The fourth official will check each penalty kick and inform the referee if a relevant offence is committed, such as goalkeeper encroachment that has an impact on the outcome of the kick, or illegal feinting or a double touch by the kicker. If the fourth official does not notice a clear and obvious offence committed by the goalkeeper or the kicker, either team's head coach is still allowed to make a review request.
10. If the review by the referee results in the original decision being changed, the team retains (does not lose) that review request and the review card is returned to the head coach.
11. Except for factual decisions following a routine check by the fourth official after a goal has been scored or during penalties (penalty shoot-out), the referee will always review the replay footage in the RRA before making the final decision.
12. There is no time limit for the review process as accuracy is more important than speed.
13. The players and team officials must not surround the referee, fourth official or replay operator, or attempt to influence the review process or the final decision.
14. The referee must remain "visible" during the review process to ensure transparency.
15. If play continues after an incident which is then reviewed, any disciplinary action taken/required during the post-incident period is not cancelled, even if the original decision is changed, except a caution/sending-off for stopping or interfering with a promising attack or denying an obvious goalscoring opportunity (DOGSO).
16. If play has stopped and been restarted, the referee may not undertake a review except for a case of mistaken identity or for a potential sending-off offence relating to violent conduct, spitting, biting or extremely offensive, insulting and/or abusive action(s).
17. The period of play before and after an incident that can be reviewed is determined by the Laws of the Game and the FVS Protocol.

Reviewable decisions/incidents

A team can make a review request in relation to four categories of match-changing decisions/incidents. In all situations, a review request can be made only after the referee has made a (first/original) decision (including allowing play to continue), or if a serious incident is missed/not seen by the match officials.

The referee's original decision will not be changed unless the video replay footage shows clear evidence that there was a clear and obvious error (this includes any decision made by the referee based on information from another match official, e.g. offside). As the FVS system involves a small number of cameras, the replay footage will often be inconclusive and thus the original decision may not be changed. The categories of decision/incident for which a review request may be made if a team believes that there has been a potential clear and obvious error or serious missed incident are:

a. Goal/no goal

- Attacking-team offence in the build-up to or scoring of a goal (e.g. handball, foul, offside, etc.)
- Ball out of play prior to the goal
- Goal/no goal situations
- Offence by the goalkeeper and/or kicker at the taking of a penalty kick or encroachment by an attacker or defender who becomes directly involved in play and creates/prevents a goalscoring opportunity after the penalty kick rebounds from the goalpost, crossbar or goalkeeper

b. Penalty kick/no penalty kick

- Attacking-team offence in the build-up to the penalty incident (e.g. handball, foul, offside, etc.)
- Ball out of play prior to the penalty incident
- Location of the offence (inside or outside the penalty area)
- Penalty kick incorrectly awarded
- Penalty-kick offence not penalised

c. Direct red cards (not second yellow cards)

- DOGSO (especially the location of the offence and positions of other players)
- Serious foul play (or reckless challenge)
- Violent conduct, biting or spitting at another person
- Using offensive, insulting or abusive action(s)

d. Mistaken identity (red or yellow card)

- If the referee penalises an offence and then gives the wrong player from the offending (penalised) team a yellow or red card, the identity of the offender can be reviewed; the offence itself cannot be reviewed unless it relates to a goal, penalty incident or direct red card.

Practicalities

The use of the FVS system involves the following practical arrangements:

1. There must be a fourth official, as a review request is made by a team's head coach (or, in their absence, the senior team official present in the technical area) twirling their finger in the air and giving a review request card to the fourth official, who then informs the referee and the other team's head coach.
2. The referee and the fourth official must be equipped with a communication system.
3. The finger must be twirled and the review request card must be handed over to the fourth official immediately after the incident to which the review request relates.
4. When making the review request, the team head coach must also inform the fourth official of the category (goal, penalty, red card or mistaken identity) and the specific incident to which the review request relates.
5. Once a review request card is handed over to the fourth official, that review request is considered "used" and the request cannot be withdrawn.
6. Any player or substitute may recommend that their team's head coach request a review. If the ball is in play, the player must twirl their finger in the air. If the ball is out of play, the player must inform the referee and be given the time to communicate with the head coach.
7. Except for factual decisions following a routine check by the fourth official after a goal has been scored or during penalties (penalty shoot-out), the referee reviews the replay footage in the referee review area (RRA), which must be clearly identified and located close to the field of play, with the referee remaining visible throughout the review process.
8. The referee is assisted by a replay operator (RO), who is connected to the match officials via push-to-talk communication and must be qualified, having completed specific training, including familiarisation with the Laws of the Game.
9. One monitor must be available in the RRA, where the RO shows the replay footage as requested by the referee (e.g. different camera angles, split-screen views, adjusting the replay speed, etc.).
10. As the RO must be qualified, an RO who is unable to start or continue a match may only be replaced by another qualified RO. If no qualified replacement can be found, the match must be played/continue without FVS. The head coach and captain of each team must be informed immediately.
11. If the technology malfunctions, the match must be played/continue without FVS; the head coach and the captain of each team must be informed immediately. A technology malfunction does not invalidate the outcome of a match.

Procedure

Initial decision

The referee must always make an initial decision (including taking any disciplinary action needed) as if there were no FVS system (except for serious missed incidents).

Review request

The Laws of the Game do not allow restart decisions to be changed if play has restarted.

A team's head coach (or, in their absence, the senior team official present in the technical area) must make the review request immediately after the decision/incident to be reviewed by:

- twirling their finger in the air;
- giving the fourth official a review request card; and
- informing the fourth official of the category (goal, penalty, red card or mistaken identity) and the specific incident to be reviewed.

Any player or substitute may recommend that their head coach request a review. If the ball is in play, the player must twirl their finger in the air. If the ball is out of play, the player must inform the referee and the latter must give the player the time to communicate with their head coach before allowing play to restart.

Once the head coach has twirled their finger in the air, the fourth official will immediately inform the referee (using the communication system) that a review is going to be requested.

Once the review request card has been given to the fourth official, the fourth official will immediately inform the referee (using the communication system) that the review request has been made. The other team's head coach will also be informed.

Review

If play has already stopped, the referee will delay the restart to undertake the review.

If play has not already stopped, the referee will stop play to undertake the review when the ball is next in a neutral zone/situation.

The referee will indicate a review by clearly showing the “TV signal” (outline of a TV screen).

Except for factual decisions following a routine check by the fourth official after a goal has been scored or during penalties (penalty shoot-out), the referee goes to the RRA to view the replay footage.

The fourth official will explain the details of the review request to the referee, in particular which incident the review has been requested for.

The fourth official can help the referee to identify the incident on the footage, including by accompanying the referee to/joining the referee in the RRA if necessary.

The referee can ask the RO to provide different replay angles and speeds. In general, slow-motion replays should only be used for facts, e.g. the position of an offence or of one or more players, the point of contact for physical offences or handball, or whether the ball was out of play (including in goal/no goal situations). Normal speed should be used for the intensity of an offence or to decide whether a handball offence has been committed.

During the review, the other match officials will supervise what is happening on the field of play and in the technical areas.

Players, substitutes, substituted players and team officials must not try to influence the review or the final decision. A player/substitute/substituted player/team official who enters the RRA will be cautioned (yellow card).

For decisions/incidents relating to goals, penalties and red cards for DOGSO, it may be necessary to review the APP that led directly to the decision/incident; this may include how the attacking team gained possession of the ball in open play.

For other red-card incidents (serious foul play, violent conduct, etc.) and mistaken identity, only the incident is reviewed.

The review process should be completed as efficiently as possible, but the accuracy of the final decision is more important than speed. For this reason, and because some situations are complex, with several reviewable decisions/incidents, there is no time limit for the review process.

Final decision and restart of play

Except for factual decisions following a routine check by the fourth official after a goal has been scored or during penalties (penalty shoot-out), the referee always takes the final decision after reviewing the replay footage in the referee review area (RRA).

After a goal has been scored and during penalties (penalty shoot-out), the fourth official will inform the referee of any relevant offence and the recommended restart/outcome and the referee will make the final decision. For subjective decisions, the referee will review the incident and then make the final decision.

When a review is complete or a factual offence has been identified during a routine check by the fourth official after a goal has been scored or during penalties (penalty shoot-out), the referee must show the TV signal, communicate the final decision and, if necessary, inform both teams' head coaches.

The referee will then take/change/rescind any disciplinary action (where appropriate) and restart play in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

If the initial decision is overturned, or a serious missed incident is identified, play will restart according to the Laws of the Game.

If the initial decision is not overturned, play will restart:

- according to the original restart decision (before the restart was delayed for the review) if play had already stopped; or
- with a dropped ball if the referee stopped play for the review.

Match validity

In principle, a match is not invalidated because of one or more:

- malfunctions of the technology;
- wrong decisions related to the use of the FVS system;
- decisions not to undertake a review (including because a request was not made immediately after the decision/incident); and/or
- reviews of a non-reviewable decision/incident.