

APPENDIX 7 - VAR PROTOCOL

The purpose of World Aquatics VAR protocol is to provide the integrity, transparency for all Water Polo games and eliminate the failure of the human factor with the assistance of modern technology.

1. PRINCIPLES

The final decision is always made by the referees. The referee can change his/her original decision based on facts from the VAR review.

Only the referee of the match can request a review. The Video Assistant Referee and the delegate can only alert the referee to conduct a review.

The referee will stop the match at an appropriate moment, as soon as possible.

During a VAR review the referee should remain visible throughout the process.

Accuracy is more important than speed, therefore there is no time pressure to review the decision quickly.

A match is not invalidated because of malfunction(s) of the VAR technology, wrong decision(s) involving the VAR, decision(s) not to review an incident or review(s) of a non-reviewable situation.

1.1 Appropriate moment definition

- Neither team has possession of the ball
- Interval time
- Corner throw
- Team in possession of the ball has no clear advantage
- At the latest, the review should be done after the first attack following a doubtful "GOAL / NO GOAL" situation.

2. SITUATIONS FOR REVIEW DURING THE MATCH

The use of VAR is limited to the following categories of decisions:

- Goal/ No goal.
- Goal scored at shot clock expiration or at the end of a period.
- Jury table errors and/or failures of the electronic system including time out buttons.
- When there is a shot taken at the end of a period and there is an excluded player.
- Review of a violent action situation.
- Interference with the taking of a penalty throw.

2.1 Goal/No goal situation

If the referee or VAR official has doubt about a goal/no goal situation, the referee should review the situation to assess if the ball fully crossed the goal line.

E.2.1.1 If a goal has been awarded:

- One of the referees of the match shall signal that the goal must be reviewed.
- One of the referees takes the ball out of the water.
- One referee, closest to the VAR monitor, reviews the situation and takes the decision to allow or disallow the goal.
- If the goal is cancelled, the former defending goalkeeper will restart the game with a free throw. The players shall be allowed to take any position in the field of play as after a timeout.
- If the goal is allowed, the game restarts according to VI.6.4

2.1.2 If a goal was not awarded:

The Referees of the match must find an appropriate moment, as quickly as possible after the situation, to review it. It should happen soon after the end of the first attack following the doubtful “GOAL / NO GOAL” situation.

After reviewing if a goal is awarded:

the game restarts according to VI.6.4 the time is reset to the moment when the goal was scored, all goals and personal fouls are nullified but all yellow and red cards, acts of violence and misconduct will remain on the match protocol.

After reviewing if a goal is not awarded:

the game restarts with a free throw taken by the team which last had possession, the time is not reset, and the players are allowed to take any position in the field of play as after a time out.

2.2 A Goal scored at the expiration of the shot clock or at the end of a period.

When a goal was scored very close to shot clock time expiration, or during the time expiration at the end of a period, the referee should check if the ball left the hand of the attacker before the time expired.

The video review will only be done immediately after a goal was scored from this shot.

If the result of the shot was a corner throw or rebound, no video review shall be done.

If this situation happens at the end of a period or end of the game, the period or the game will not be ended. After the referee has done a VAR review and made the decision public, the referees will end the period or game.

2.3 An excluded player at the end of a period

When a player is excluded at the end of a period, and at the expiration of time the attacking team shoots at the goal, the VAR equipment must be used to assess if there was a change of possession in order to determine if the following period of the match will be restarted with both teams even, or with one player still excluded.

No other situations other than mentioned in 2.2 and 2.3 can be considered for VAR review after time expires.

2.4 Technical errors by jury table officials and / or malfunctioning of electronic equipment (game clock, shot clock, time-out devices)

In situations when technical errors of the table officials or malfunctioning of electronic equipment occurs, the referee may use the VAR system to determine the correct solution for the situation.

Determining and resolving the situation shall be made before the match is restarted.

2.5 Suspicion of an incident of violence

If the referee or VAR referee or delegate suspect that a violent action may have occurred, the referees may use VAR to review the situation.

If the game is stopped at the moment of suspicion of violence:

- if a violent action was determined, the referees will sanction the incident according to the rules and the game should recommence from the time of the incident.
- If a violent action was not determined, the game will proceed according to the rules.

If the game was stopped at an appropriate moment and violent action was determined, all goals and personal fouls between the time of the incident and time of stoppage are then nullified, but all yellow and red cards, acts of violence and misconduct, will remain on the match protocol.

2.6 Interference during the taking of a penalty throw

In situations when the referees or VAR referee suspect interference during the taking of a penalty throw, the referees can use the VAR equipment to check the situation.

Based on the decision, the game continues from the appropriate moment as described in the rules.

3. REVIEW PROCESS

Step 1

- A. The referee informs the VAR that a decision/incident should be reviewed (check).
- B. The VAR official or delegate recommends to the referees that a decision/incident should be reviewed (check).

Step 2

The referees, if necessary, decide to stop the game to review the video at an appropriate moment (see 1.1).

Step 3

Reviewing the doubtful situation on the VAR monitor.

Step 4

The referee communicates the final decision by going to the centre of the field of play and clearly indicating the decision and how the match will continue.

The Public Announcer must announce both the stoppage of the game to review the situation as well as the referee's decision after the review. A message may be displayed on the scoreboard as well.

Step 5

Restart of the game after the final decision.

4. POSITION OF THE PLAYERS DURING A VAR REVIEW

Players must remain in their respective halves of the field of play during the VAR review.

During any Video Review, no substitution is allowed from any of the re-entry areas before the referee communicates the decision after the Video Review.

The referee who is not reviewing VAR should control the players of both teams so that they can take up the correct positions in the field.

5. NO REASON FOR PROTEST

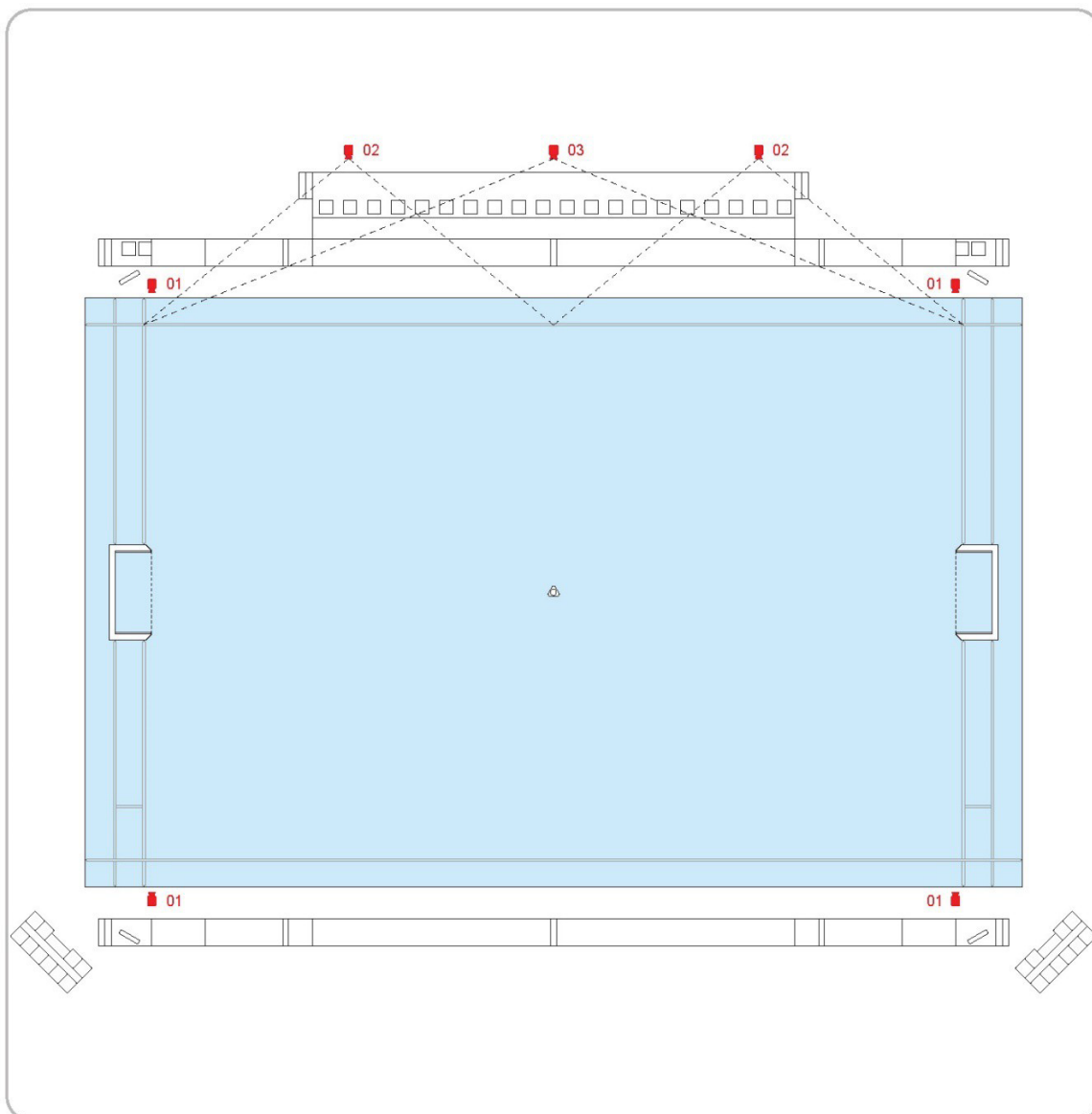
The result of a match should not be invalidated because of malfunction(s) of the VAR technology, wrong decision(s) involving the VAR, decision(s) not to review an incident or review(s) of a non-reviewable situation.

6. VIDEO REVIEW REQUEST

Post-match reviews will only be accepted on the request form provided by World Aquatics no later than 30 minutes after the game in which the incident occurred.

The TWPC does not review any incident if there is no official request from a team.

After the match a team, which was involved in the game may request a Video Review. This request may be done under the same conditions as filing a protest form after the match.



Cameras

1. Four cameras on the goal lines, two per goal. The location of the cameras should be at the edge of the pool or under referee's catwalk at about 1 m above the water level
2. Two cameras shall be fixed on the same side of the jury table. Each camera should film each a half of the field of play accordingly. The location of the cameras shall be that provide the best quality of video recording.
3. One camera is located at the side of the pool opposite to the benches. This camera shall film the entire field of play including both benches. This camera shall be capable to shoot at biggest possible angle (160 degrees is maximum today) with minimum resolution 2K pixels.