



ELGIN MIDDLESEX SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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Video Assisted Review (VAR) Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the permitted use of Video Assisted Review (VAR) footage within the competition framework, ensuring consistency, fairness, and transparency while preserving the authority of match officials. This policy applies to all matches conducted under EMSA's jurisdiction.

2. Use of VAR During Matches

- VAR will not be used to change, overturn, or amend decisions made by match officials during a match.
- VAR will not be used to identify or issue missed calls.
- VAR will not be used to alter or influence the official result of a match once concluded.

3. Use of VAR in Disciplinary Proceedings

- VAR footage may be used in support of a formal disciplinary hearing.
 - Such footage may be submitted, subject to the operational procedures governing disciplinary submissions, by either the complainant or the accused party.
- VAR footage may be considered as supplementary evidence and does not automatically determine outcomes.
- Please note Ontario Soccer's policy regarding the use of video footage in hearings: *Video tape evidence is acceptable provided it substantiates verbal evidence given by any party. Video tape evidence that simply seeks to show errors made by a Match Official should be ruled out of order and not considered. Video tape evidence that shows possible errors in identification by the Match Official should be allowed.*

4. Educational and Developmental Use

- VAR footage may be submitted to EMSA to be forwarded to the District Referee Coordinator for:
 - educational purposes, and
 - the training and development of match officials.
- Footage used for these purposes will not be employed to retrospectively sanction match officials or alter match outcomes.

5. General Principles

- The authority and finality of on-field match official decisions are upheld.
- VAR is intended as a support and learning tool, not a decision-making mechanism for live or completed matches.

Effective Date

This policy takes effect as of **April 1, 2026** and remains in force until amended by the EMSA Board of Directors.