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Video Review Efficiency & Standardization Policy

Big Ten Conference · Men's and Women's Soccer · Effective 2026–27 Season

Scope

Clear and obvious

Clear question

Best available angle

No new information, no more views

Make decision / restart

“Get the decision right, but do so efficiently.”

The fundamental principle of this policy · Governed by the NCAA Soccer Playing Rules and applicable NCAA video review regulations

Purpose

SECTION I

1

Consistency

Establish a consistent, efficient and time-conscious video review process for Big Ten soccer competitions using video review.

2

Assistance, not replacement

Review assists the referee in reaching the correct decision on a reviewable incident — it does not replace the referee's judgment.

3

Protect the match

Preserve the pace, flow and integrity of the match while the review is carried out.

DVSPORT ONLY

Approved Replay System

- DVSport is the Big Ten's designated replay provider for soccer. All reviews — conference and non-conference, coach- or official-initiated — shall be conducted using DVSport and only DVSport.
- No sideline tablet, mobile device, broadcaster monitor, coaching-staff video source or ancillary feed may be used to conduct, supplement or influence a review.
- Footage not accessible through DVSport shall not be considered by the crew during a review.

Video review is a tool to assist the referee — not a substitute for the referee's judgment.

Why efficiency matters

SECTION II · VIDEO REVIEW PHILOSOPHY

The effectiveness of video review can diminish as the duration of the review increases. An extended review can cause an official to:

1

Over-analyze an incident

2

Lose the context of the original play

3

Place excessive emphasis on isolated frames or angles

4

Search for information not necessary to resolve the question

5

Become influenced by repeated viewing of the incident

6

Ultimately change a correct decision to an incorrect one

Additional review time does not necessarily produce a better decision. Complex incidents may legitimately need longer — but once the referee has enough information to determine whether or not there is clear and obvious error, the review should end.

Review principles

SECTION III · ALL REVIEWS SHALL FOLLOW THESE

- 1 The referee remains the final decision-maker.
- 2 Only reviewable incidents may be considered.
- 3 The review addresses the specific question that initiated it.
- 4 Use the minimum amount of video necessary.
- 5 Avoid unnecessary repeated viewing of the same footage.
- 6 The video operator pulls up footage — no opinions or commentary.
- 7 Decide as soon as sufficient evidence is available.
- 8 If the evidence gives no proof of a clear and obvious error, the original decision stands.
- 9 Coaches, players and bench personnel shall not influence length or scope.
- 10 Create the least possible disruption to the match.

The referee remains the final decision-maker. Video review assists that decision — it does not replace it.

The “one question” standard

SECTION V

Every review should begin with one clearly defined question — and stay on it.

? Did the entire ball cross the goal line?

? Did the offense occur inside or outside the penalty area?

? Was the player in an offside position when the ball was played?

? Did the player commit an offense warranting a red card?

? Was the incorrect player identified?

Review discipline

Officials should not use video review to search for additional offenses or to reconsider unrelated elements of the play.

Once the review question has been answered, the review should conclude.

Sections VII & XII: repeated viewing of the same footage should not continue simply because the referee has not reached absolute certainty. More video does not mean more information.

Target review times

SECTION VI · REVIEW TIME MANAGEMENT

Review Type	Target Review Time
Goal-line determination	30 seconds or less
Simple factual review	45 seconds or less
Offside review	60 seconds or less
Penalty-area location	60 seconds or less
Penalty-kick review	90 seconds or less
Red-card review	90 seconds or less
Complex review	120 seconds or less

These are cues, not clocks

- Internal officiating-management cues only — not deadlines, not enforceable clocks, and not standards against which a review may be measured by coaches, players, media or anyone outside the crew.
- Correctness always takes precedence over the target. A rushed decision made to meet a target is itself a failure of the review process.
- Exceeding a cue does not, by itself, make a decision incorrect.

They exist solely to help the crew self-monitor whether a review is beginning to lengthen unnecessarily.

The prolonged review alert

SECTION VI · SECTION VII

90

SECONDS

When a review approaches roughly this long, consciously stop and evaluate.

1

What specific question am I trying to answer?

2

Have I already obtained sufficient evidence?

3

Is another angle likely to provide meaningful new information?

4

Am I reviewing because it provides new information, or because I am seeking additional certainty?

The “no new information” standard: if multiple views provide the same information, additional viewing is unlikely to improve the decision. If further viewing does not confirm a clear and obvious error has occurred, end the review and decide on the evidence already obtained.

Crew responsibilities

SECTION IV

1

Referee

- Determine whether a review is appropriate under NCAA rules
- Clearly identify the incident being reviewed
- Establish the specific question to be answered
- Communicate with the video operator
- Conduct the on-field review when required
- Make the final decision and restart efficiently

2

Fourth Official

- Assist communication between referee and video operator
- Maintain control of the technical areas during the review
- Prevent coaches and bench personnel from interfering
- Assist with match administration during the stoppage
- While the referee walks to the monitor, have the feed and angle prepared — but never conduct or influence the review

3

Video Operator

- Immediately locate the relevant incident
- Present the angles the referee requests
- Facilitate the review — do not advise on it
- No opinions, judgment, characterization or commentary
- Sole exception: alert officials that a new broadcast replay exists — without saying what it shows

The referee remains the final decision-maker throughout. Once the referee arrives at the monitor, the referee determines which video, angle, speed or sequence is viewed.

Communication and warning signs

SECTIONS X, XI & XII

Preferred referee-directed requests

“Show me the best angle.”

“Show me the incident at normal speed.”

“Show me the point of contact.”

“Show me another angle.”

“Freeze it there.”

“Take it back to normal speed.”

The referee directs; the video operator facilitates and displays. The operator shall not editorialize, speculate or advocate.

Warning signs of an unnecessarily prolonged review

- ✗ Repeated viewing of the same angle
- ✗ Multiple slow-motion replays showing the same information
- ✗ Switching between angles without obtaining new information
- ✗ Searching for an alternative interpretation after the question has been answered
- ✗ Reviewing increasingly remote portions of the play

View at normal speed first for context, then use slow motion for specific factual elements — not to prolong the review.

Accountability and the guiding standard

SECTIONS XVII, XVIII & XIX

Officials are evaluated on

Accuracy

Correct decision under the NCAA standard

Efficiency

Necessary information without unnecessary delay

Review Discipline

Stayed focused on the original question

Communication

Concise and effective across the crew

Decision-Making

Recognized when to terminate the review

The Conference maintains a review log — match, match time, review type, team, original and final decision, who initiated it, total duration, and whether the decision changed — reviewed periodically for trends in long reviews, unnecessary angle use, repeated reviews and decisions changed after prolonged review.

***“Review with purpose. Review efficiently. Don’t search for perfection.
Make the decision and restart the match.”***

A long review should not automatically be considered a thorough or successful review.



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