



The KMI Panel Explained

Purpose

The Panel has been created to deliver an assessment of key match incidents (KMIs) occurring in matches played in the Scottish Professional Football League (SPFL) Premiership, League Cup and Scottish Gas Scottish Cup where VAR is operational to key stakeholders, including the Scottish FA, the SPFL, SPFL Premiership clubs and coaches. The Panel votes to determine whether the on-field decision and any subsequent VAR intervention were correct.

Each KMI Panel consists of five members: three independent panel members with established careers within Scottish football – such as coaches, former players and members of the Scottish football media – one representative from the Scottish FA and one representative from SPFL clubs.

The role of the Panel is to provide its opinion as to whether:

- a) a KMI is believed to have been judged correctly on-field; and
- b) The difficulty of the decision; and
- c) a VAR intervention or non-intervention was believed to be correct or incorrect.

Who is on The Panel?

The Panel shall comprise three members selected from the list of independent panel members maintained by the Scottish FA, one representative from the Scottish FA and one representative from SPFL clubs.

The Panel is encouraged to have open and confidential discussions without fear of judgement or interference.

Decisions of the Panel shall be taken by a majority of the members of the Panel. Decisions must be carefully thought-through and articulated, as well as justifiable within the relevant LOTG.

Decision making principles

1. Each panellist can decide whether they think each incident reaches the threshold for a KMI.
2. Each panellist will decide if the on-field decision is correct or incorrect using the set principles for each type of incident and will consider its difficult rating.
3. Each panellist will decide if the on-field decision is a clear and obvious error or not (aligned to the high threshold for VAR interventions).
4. Healthy debate is encouraged at all times, although the order of voting is randomised in order to ensure equal distribution of first and last votes across the Panel members.

Difficulty Levels

1. A simple decision that all officials should get correct.
2. A fairly simple decision for a select group official, though with more factors to consider.
3. A more complex decision with a greater degree of subjectivity and/or more factors to consider, that a select group official should nonetheless call correctly.
4. A difficult decision for officials with a high degree of subjectivity or challenging considerations to identify. One that needs deliberation. A 50/50 call.
5. A particularly tough decision that all referees would struggle with. The type of judgement where technology is needed to support officials.

KMI Main principles for consideration

Referee

1. KMI Goal awarded/disallowed (VAR)
2. Sending off, dismissal given/not given (VAR)
3. 2nd caution dismissal given/not given (No VAR)
4. Denial of a goal scoring opportunity given/not given (VAR)
5. Penalty awarded/not awarded (VAR)
6. Major inaccurate application of the law (No VAR)
7. Technical area removal (VAR)
8. Other (No VAR)

Assistant Referee

1. KMI Goal awarded/disallowed (VAR)
2. Assisting referee re: Sending off/dismissal given/not given (VAR)
3. Assisting referee re: 2nd caution dismissal given/not given (No VAR)
4. Assisting referee re: DOGSO given/not given (VAR)
5. Assisting referee re: Penalties awarded/not awarded (VAR)
6. Offside judgement to deny/permit a goal scoring opportunity (No VAR)
7. Other (No VAR)

Fourth Official

1. Assisting referee re: Sending off/dismissal given/not given (VAR)
2. Assisting referee re: Technical Area removal (VAR)
3. Other (No VAR)