



INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING SPORT FEDERATION

MANUAL FOR VAR (VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE)

Date: October, 2026

VAR (VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE) – PROCEDURES FOR USE (Version 0.5)

(Separate Document to ISSF Rules but referred and directed to in Rules. Some points for further discussion and advice. Black text existing rules in ISSF 2026 Rules and Regulations. Green text document new wording or amendment to future rules.)

1. For major ISSF shotgun championships, a Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system will be deployed. This decision rests with ISSF in conjunction with its contracted VAR provider and supplier. Once this decision is taken, the VAR supplier will liaise and coordinate the technical installation and logistic organisation of the system with the applicable Organising Committee (OC). ISSF and the event TD remain on hand to provide support and sporting advice as to its positioning and employment whilst at the event. Leading up to LA 2028, it is mandatory that VAR must be installed for use in ISSF World Championships and all World Cups where Olympic Quota places are allocated. It is encouraged that it is also made available for Continental Championships and other major competitions, especially where Olympic Quota places are available.

2. The VAR system consists of a unique and bespoke camera imagery system mounted on the FOP, linked to a VAR monitor and control box positioned on a table to one side and to the rear of the FOP. Precise positioning of this table and monitor will depend on local arrangements and any determination by the event TD. The technical system is supported by at least one VAR operator, provided by the VAR supplier. The VAR operator manages and controls the system and its imagery but must take no action or role in adjudicating VAR judgements, nor influencing sporting outcomes on the FOP. The VAR table must be under cover, providing protection from sun and rain, and if necessary, have a hood or cover attached to provide clear viewing, free of sun or light distortion.



Side Camera.



Main Unit.



Skeet side camera.



Operator Booth and Control.



Hit on Screen



Control.

3. The VAR system is used to assist referees in primarily assessing whether a target has been HIT or MISSED. Furthermore, on rare occasions VAR can be used if required to assist referees in assessing any challenges to NO TARGET judgements.
4. Except for the additional LOST target rules applicable to Skeet Doubles (9.9.5.7), or a NO TARGET Decision, there is no provision under VAR rules for a REPEAT Target(s). In other words, any VAR decision is either HIT or MISS/LOST. No other

outcome, under normal circumstances and as provided for in the ISSF Shotgun Rules, is allowable.

5. VAR challenges and decisions are adjudicated and taken by the referee in charge of the final. The Referee in Charge is assisted and supported by the Jury member in charge of the final. The primary role of the jury member in charge is to support the referee, by ensuring that the correct procedures are followed. It is not the function of the Jury member in charge to make or influence VAR decisions. The final decision on any VAR challenge rests with the referee in charge of the final.

6. The VAR system and its effective use is to be rehearsed at the start of any major event. This rehearsal is to include all officials likely to be involved in the conduct of shotgun finals and is to be overseen by the event TD, or delegated to the Shotgun Jury Chairperson.

7. Prior to the start of any final, the Jury member in charge of the final must ensure that all athlete coaches are issued with a VAR card. This card is to be provided by the event OC in accordance with ISSF Rules for the conduct of shotgun event finals. In addition, the jury member in charge must revise and remind athletes and coaches of applicable VAR procedures during their briefing, prior to the start of every final.



Sample VAR Card.

All referees and jury members conducting officials are to follow VAR Rules as quoted in Section 9 of ISSF Rules and Regulations 2026; for ease of reference:

9.17.8.1 When an athlete disagrees with a Referee's decision regarding a "LOST TARGET/S", before the next athlete fires, he/she must act immediately by raising an arm, saying "VAR" and requesting the use of VAR to resolve the protest.

9.17.8.2 Likewise, a coach (who is assigned a seat in the FOP), can initiate a VAR protest before the next athlete fires, by drawing the attention of the Jury in Charge and showing the "VAR" card, which will be given to all coaches inside the FOP before the start of the final. The Jury in Charge must then attract the attention of the Referee and initiate a VAR protest.

9.17.8.3 After a VAR protest has been initiated, the Referee must immediately command "STOP" and temporarily interrupt the shooting. The referee must ensure that the athletes empty their Shotguns, face the spectator's area, and form a rectangle outline, indicating a video screen, to show that the protest must be verified using VAR.

9.17.8.4 The Referee and the Jury in charge will then proceed to the VAR Station, where the display screen is located, to review the recorded video. The VAR must be reviewed by both the Jury member and the Referee in charge. They will jointly examine the slow-motion footage to resolve the protest, with the assistance of the VAR System specialist (either a Technician or a Special Jury member) if available. The final decision, after reviewing the video in slow motion, rests with the Referee.

9.17.8.5 An athlete or a coach may submit a VAR protest only for himself or on behalf of his own Athletes, not for any other participant in the final.

9.17.8.6 The Referee must then announce openly the decision saying "HIT" or "LOST" or "NO TARGET", facing the spectator's area and make the outline of a rectangle and using the appropriate hand signal for "HIT" or "LOST" or "REPEAT".



9.17.8.7 In case the first "VAR" protest is accepted (meaning that the original decision of the Referee has been changed), then the second "VAR" protest can be requested without any additional conditions. A MAXIMUM OF TWO VAR REQUESTS ARE ALLOWED FOR EACH ATHLETE.

9.17.8.8 In case the first "VAR" protest is denied (meaning that the decision of the Referee has not been changed) the Athlete, Coach, or Team official cannot ask for any other VAR protest, the VAR card will not be given back to the coach/ team official.

9.17.8.9 The use of VAR can also be requested by the Referee individually, in cases where he/she has doubts whether a target was "HIT," or "LOST", or "NO TARGET" for unlimited times.

9.17.9 The decision on a VAR protest is final and cannot be appealed.

9.17.9.1 The rules apply to each Athlete.

ADDITIONAL RULES AND GUIDELINES (These are to be incorporated in the next future Rule Book Edition.

9.17.8 VAR (VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE). Leading up to LA 2028, it is mandatory that VAR must be installed for use in ISSF World Championships and all World Cups where Olympic Quota places are allocated. It is encouraged that it is also made available for Continental Championships and other major competitions, especially where Olympic Quota places are available.

9.17.9.2 Finals referees and conducting officials are to note the following additional and supporting rules and clarification, in addition to those stipulated and quoted above for VAR in Section 9 ISSF Rules.

9.17.9.3 The referee in the case of a Skeet VAR request, must ascertain from the athlete and coach which target is being challenged, **High or Low House of the double, or both targets if judged by the referee as a double MISS/LOSS.**

9.17.9.4 For all VAR referrals challenging a LOST/MISS target, the referee decision must be clear and unequivocal, as either HIT or MISS. Unless there is clear evidence that a MISSED target has in fact been HIT, then the original on-field decision of the referee stands. There must be demonstratable VAR footage showing a HIT target, to overturn the original on-field decision of a MISSED/LOST target(s). If any doubt still remains after a VAR review, as to whether a target has been hit or not, then the original on-field decision of MISS/LOST must be upheld. There is to be no REPEAT target.

9.17.9.5 In the case of VAR Skeet challenges, the referee must announce the VAR adjudication outcome and confirm which target(s) are HIT or MISS/LOST, from the original on-field decision. The Referee is to ensure that the official score keeper and scoreboard reflect the correct VAR decision and score before proceeding with the final.

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