# Wolves push for scrapping VAR amidst concerns of player safety and match duration



Wolverhampton Wanderers (Wolves) have circulated a six-page document among Premier League clubs, arguing for the scrapping of VAR (Video Assistant Referee) by the next season. This document, sent on May 20, details concerns about VAR’s impact on player safety and match duration, and is intended to spark a debate on the system's efficacy.

Wolves' key arguments include assertions that VAR delays extend matches beyond 100 minutes, increasing players' risk of injury due to prolonged playing time. They also state that the system’s involvement of multiple referees in decision-making processes heightens suspicions of potential corruption, although they did not directly claim that corruption currently exists.

Premier League clubs are set to vote on the continuation of VAR at a shareholders' meeting on June 6, requiring a 70% majority for any change. Despite Wolves' efforts, the proposed removal of VAR is unlikely to pass, but it aims to initiate broader discussions about improving the technology.

Parallel to this, VAR's usage is under scrutiny for Euro 2024. A Dutch tech firm, Ballinno, has filed a lawsuit against UEFA and technology company Kinexon, claiming they infringed on its patented offside detection technology. A court hearing set for June 3 may result in the suspension of VAR for the tournament, pending the court's decision.

The Premier League has recently endorsed the use of semi-automated offside technology (SAOT), designed to reduce decision time and improve accuracy, and it is expected to be introduced in the second half of the 2024-25 season. This endorsement follows the positive reception of SAOT's debut at the 2022 World Cup.

Next month's vote occurs against a backdrop of continued debate over VAR's implementation, balancing technological improvements against the traditional aspects of the sport.