

Premier League averages 4m12s per VAR delay — slowest in Europe, new 2025/26 data shows

Thursday 26 February, 2026

VAR overturns down 17.5%, but verified errors up 30% as BT4Y Data Lab tracks 47+ overturns and rising decision volatility

LONDON, UK — 26 February 2026

New analysis of the 2025/26 Premier League season reveals that England’s top flight now averages **4 minutes 12 seconds per VAR review**, the longest delay among Europe’s top five leagues.

The study, compiled by the sports data team at BettingTips4You.com, also shows that while total VAR overturns have fallen **17.5% season-on-season**, the number of **Key Match Incidents (KMI) Panel-verified errors has risen 30%**, increasing from 10 to 13.

The findings form part of the site’s ongoing **Ref & VAR Insights Data Lab project**, which tracks officiating volatility, overturn rates and club-level net impact across Gameweeks 1–27.

Europe Comparison: Average VAR Delay Per Review

- **Premier League** — 4m 12s (slowest)
- Serie A — 3m 05s
- La Liga — 2m 50s
- Bundesliga — 2m 15s
- Ligue 1 — 1m 55s

Premier League reviews are taking nearly double the time of those in Germany’s Bundesliga.

Premier League VAR Index (GW1–27)

According to the BT4Y Data Lab:

- **47+ total VAR overturns**
- **13+ official errors**
- **11 overturned penalties**
- **79.9% penalty conversion rate**
- Evidence of rising decision volatility

While Semi-Automated Offside Technology has improved speed in certain scenarios, red-card accuracy remains a primary error area for official panels.

Club-Level “Net Impact” (GW1–27)

The Data Lab tracks controversial VAR decisions for and against clubs to identify imbalance patterns.

Highest positive net balance:

- Bournemouth (+4)
- Chelsea (+3)

Media:



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Related Keywords:

Premier League :: VAR :: Video Assistant Referee :: Refereeing :: Officiating :: Football :: Football Data :: Sports Analytics :: Premier League VAR Delays :: VAR Error ::

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- Aston Villa (+3)
- Wolves (+3)

Most negative net balance:

- Manchester United (-3)
- Liverpool (-3)
- Brentford (-3)
- Crystal Palace (-3)

“Net Balance” reflects total controversial VAR decisions for vs against clubs (BT4Y tracking).

Recent Controversy Watch (Gameweek 27)

Recent fixtures have reinforced the volatility index:

- **Nottingham Forest 0–1 Liverpool:** Alexis Mac Allister goal disallowed for accidental handball. Under current law, any touch by the goalscorer results in reversal, regardless of intent.
- **Tottenham 1–4 Arsenal:** Randal Kolo Muani goal disallowed for a soft foul on Gabriel. The decision upheld the on-field ruling, illustrating the high “clear and obvious” threshold currently applied.

Accuracy vs Time: The Core Question

Despite longer review times:

- VAR overturns are down 17.5%
- Verified errors are up 30%
- Red-card judgement remains a key concern
- Decision volatility is increasing

The data raises a fundamental question:

Is increased review time improving accuracy — or simply extending disruption without eliminating controversy?

Quote

“Fans are now waiting over four minutes per VAR review in England — longer than any other major European league. At the same time, verified errors are rising. If the trade-off is time for accuracy, the current balance suggests the system is not delivering clarity.”

— BettingTips4You.com Data Lab

Full Reports & Data Hub

Full methodology, case log and league breakdown available at:

The VAR Black Hole Report:

<https://bettingtips4you.com/analysis/the-var-black-hole-premier-league-delays-data/>

Ref & VAR Insights Data Lab Hub:

<https://bettingtips4you.com/data-lab/ref-var/>

The Data Lab hub includes overturn tracking, penalty trends, referee patterns, club-level net impact and regularly updated matchday analysis.

Notes to Editors

Source & Methodology:

Data compiled by BT4Y analysts from leading professional sources across Gameweeks 1–27 of the 2025/26 Premier League season.

“KMI-verified errors” reflect official panel publications.

“Net Balance” reflects BT4Y tracking of controversial VAR decisions for vs against clubs.

Delay measured from stoppage to final confirmed decision.

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