

## PAPER DETAILS

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by Q Method

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## Examination of Football Referees' Attitudes Towards Video Assistant Referee System (VAR) by Q Method

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### Research Article

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### Abstract

The referees play a crucial role by bearing tremendous responsibility in football. Referees not only manage the football match, but they are also the people who are psychologically affected by the atmosphere of the match and are held responsible for any mistake. This responsibility for the referees seems to have eased somewhat with the development of technology. Yet, unless an evaluation is made from the point of the referees, this situation will remain a mystery. This study aims to evaluate the attitudes of football referees towards the VAR system with the Q method. The methodological model of the study was the Q method, which includes qualitative and quantitative research methods. 25 referees included in the study with the snowball sampling method constitute the study group. The study data were analyzed using the PQMethod 2.35 program, which was developed for Q method studies. The principal component analysis method was used in the analysis of the data. After the analyzes made in the Q method, the data were divided into factors. As a result of principal component analysis and hand rotation afterward, it was seen that the opinions of the participants were gathered under two factors. The questions that the participants gathered under two different factors got higher scores were indicated by their Z scores. The reasons behind it were examined by interviewing the scores obtained from the quantitative data regarding the statements that the participants agreed and did not agree with. As a result, while there is a decrease in the sense of confidence in the referees' VAR system, in themselves and the profession, it is among the results obtained from the opinions that the elimination of injustice is a practice that allows the deserving to win.

**Keywords:** Football Referee, Video Assistant Referee System, Q method

## Futbol Hakemlerinin Video Hakem Sistemine (VAR) Yönelik Tutumlarının Q Metot Yolu ile İncelenmesi

### Öz

Futbolda en zor görevlerden birisi hakemlere aittir. Hakemler sadece futbol maçını yönetmekle kalmaz maçın atmosferinden psikolojik olarak etkilenen ve herhangi bir yanlışlıkta sorumlu tutulan kişi konumundadır. Hakemlere ilişkin bu sorumluluk teknolojinin gelişmesi ile birlikte bir nebze olsun hafiflemiş gibi görünmektedir. Fakat hakemler açısından bir değerlendirme yapılmadıkça bu durum muamma konumunda kalacaktır. Bu çalışmanın amacı futbol hakemlerinin var sistemine yönelik tutumlarının Q metot yöntemi ile değerlendirilmesidir. Araştırmanın yöntemsel modeli nitel ve nicel araştırma yöntemini içinde barındıran Q metot kullanılmıştır. Araştırmaya kartopu örnekleme yöntemi ile dâhil edilen 25 hakem araştırmanın çalışma grubunu oluşturmaktadır. Araştırma verileri Q metot araştırmaları için geliştirilmiş olan PQMethod 2.35 programı kullanılarak analiz edilmiştir. Verilerin çözümlenmesi sürecinde temel bileşenler analizi yöntemi kullanılmıştır. Q metodunda yapılan analizlerden sonra veriler faktörlere ayrılmıştır. Temel bileşen analizi ve ardından el rotasyonu sonucunda katılımcıların görüşlerinin iki faktör altında toplandığı görülmüştür. İki farklı faktör altında toplanan katılımcıların hangi sorulardan daha yüksek puan aldıkları Z skorları ile belirtilmiştir. Katılımcıların katıldıkları ve katılmadıkları ifadelerle ilişkin nicel verilerden elde edilen puanlara yönelik olarak görüşme yapılarak ardında yatan sebepler incelenmiştir. Sonuç olarak, hakemlerin var sistemine yönelik kendilerine ve mesleğe karşı güven duygularında azalma görülürken, olumlu olarak adaletsizliğin ortadan kalkması hak edenin kazanmasını sağlayan bir uygulama olduğu görüşlerden elde edilen sonuçlar arasındadır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Futbol Hakemi, Video Hakem sistemi, Q metot

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## INTRODUCTION

Football referees have to deal with difficulties, such as dealing with many players as well as making multiple calls in the game (Lex et al., 2015). Recently, with the development of technology, high-tech auxiliary equipment has been used to facilitate this difficult task in football matches and to help referees manage football matches (Han et al., 2020). The purpose of using this equipment is to remove the pressure on the referee of the factors that affect the referees' decisions. In football, there are many factors that affect the decision-making process of the referees and put pressure on the referees. These factors can be listed as environmental and cognitive factors, referee's experience, player and spectator reactions, concentration status, crowd, noise, situation of the match (Lane et al., 2006; Riedl et al., 2015; Unkelbach and Memmert, 2010). It is aimed to eliminate the negative effect created by these elements with the video assistant referee (VAR) system, which is a technology-based application. In this system, it is recommended that the referee change the decision if it reveals that the referees or assistant referees have made an obvious mistake (Spitz et al., 2021). In addition, the VAR system provides the evaluation of events in the match from different perspectives to help the referee make real-time decisions (Flores, 2018).

The video referee system is an autonomous form of assistance given to referees (Lago-Peñas et al., 2019). In addition, the VAR system, which supports the referees' decision-making views, still does not replace the referees' decisions (Kolbinger and Lames, 2017). This system is based on factors such as the successful implementation of the VAR system in football, the accuracy of the reviewed decisions, the number and duration of the reviews, and the effect of the reviews on the match (Vučkov and Babić, 2021). Discussions about the VAR system, which is used to have a positive effect on the decision-making process of the referees, are dominated by negative opinions as well as the positive opinions of the fans, football players, and referees. Considering the current studies in the literature, there are many studies on football referees and video referee system (Carlos et al., 2019; Chen and Davidson, 2022; Çağdaş et al., 2021; Errekagorri et al., 2020; Hamsund and Scelles, 2021; Holder et al., 2019; Kayhan et al., 2020; Kiuchi, 2022; Kubayi et al., 2021; Lago-Peñas et al., 2021; Scanlon et al., 2022; Ugondo and Tsokwa, 2019; Van den Berg and Surujlal, 2020; Zglinski, 2020).

The studies on the video referee system are generally carried out with the purpose of evaluating the opinions of the fans and viewers towards this system and introducing the VAR system. This study is important in terms of the evaluation of the attitudes of football referees toward the VAR system that will be examined with the Q method, which combines qualitative and quantitative research methods, revealing the positive and negative opinions of the referees about the VAR system; Also, a research will be carried out to reveal the reasons behind these opinions. This study aims to evaluate the opinions of individuals who are active football referees on the video referee system.

## **METHODS**

### **Research Model**

In this study, in which the attitudes of football referees towards the video referee system are evaluated, the Q method, which combines qualitative and quantitative research features, was used. Q methodology is known as a type of research that has the performative feature of individuals on a particular subject (Brown et al., 2008). Q method is a method that provides subjective and systematic measurement and systematic presentation of people's perspectives, ideas, behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs in the scientific research process (Demir and Kul, 2011). In addition, this method allows to examine the diversity of perspectives of a group of people on a subject (Zabala, 2014). Before proceeding to the data collection process for the Q method, the study can only continue by creating questions as a result of the information in the literature. While this research method is called structural design in the Q method, the researcher's continuing research by creating questions using the data collected from similar participants in addition to the literature information that was considered as non-structural design (Demir and Kul, 2011). This study is based on an unstructured design, which includes the researcher starting the study by collecting data from similar target groups in the light of the existing literature to determine the attitudes of football referees towards the video assistant referee system.

### **Study Group**

The study group of this study, which evaluates the attitudes of football referees towards the video referee system, consists of 25 referees who voluntarily participated in the study. The referees participating in the study are in the B and C classification groups. The snowball sampling method, which is one of the purposeful sampling methods, was used to determine the study group of the study. In this sampling method, it is aimed to reach other people through a selected person. According to the references of the people, reaching the people who have the most information about the subject is aimed (Flick et al., 2004).

### **Data Collection Tools**

In the study, the personal information form and the Q string created in the forced distribution model were used as the data collection tool to evaluate the opinions of the participants about the VAR system. The questions created with the compulsory distribution are asked to be scored by the participants in order of importance using certain intervals.

### **Data Collection Tool for the Qualitative Dimension of the Study**

In the qualitative aspect of the study, a semi-structured interview form developed by the researcher was used as a data collection tool. Before determining the questions to be included in the interview form, a literature review was conducted on the subject. Studies on video referee system in football have been evaluated. As a result of the evaluation, an interview form consisting of four open-ended questions was created. The created interview form was presented to the opinion of four referees who are active, and unnecessary questions were checked in terms of content

### Data Collection Tool for the Quantitative Dimension of Study

Q string was used as a data collection tool in the quantitative dimension of the study. In the Q string research process, using the literature review and qualitative interview findings, a total of 16 items were written, 8 positive and 8 negative, which would be appropriate for the subject, and which evaluated the VAR system in 6 dimensions from different perspectives. Items are randomly numbered from 1 to 16.

Disagree			Neutral	Agree		
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3

**Figure 1.** Q string used in the study

The Q string in Figure 1 represents the data collection tool that will be placed depending on the order of importance of the questions created for the VAR system gathered under 8 factors.

### Research Ethics

The ethics committee approval of this study was obtained from Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University Non-Invasive Clinical Research Ethics Committee with the decision number GO 2022/522.

### Data Analysis

The analysis of the data was conducted with the “PQMethod 2.35” program, which was specially developed for the Q method (Schmolck and Atkinson, 2013). The Principal component analysis method was used in the analysis of the data. The data collected through the Q string were transferred to the PQMethod program. The Principal components analysis was used in the analysis of the data, and then the varimax rotation, resulting in the opinions of the participants gathering under two factors. After the varimax rotation, significant values within the same factor are marked with an X. It was accepted that the opinions of the participants whose opinions were collected under the same factor were similar (Danielson, 2009). The formula  $(=2.58 \times (1 \div \sqrt{n}))$  was used to calculate the significance values of the participants gathered under the same factor (Demir and Kul, 2011). The significance value found in this study is 0.64.

## RESULTS

**Table 1.** Factors used in the study

Factor	Items
Pressure	The VAR system reduces the pressure on me. (1) The VAR system has no significant effect on the pressure on me. (16)
Confidence	The VAR system increases my self-confidence. (2) The VAR system negatively affects my self-confidence. (6)
Satisfaction	I am satisfied with the way the VAR system is used and the system. (3) The VAR system creates difficulties in terms of use. (10)
Justice	I do not think that the atmosphere of justice or controversial events in football has decreased with the VAR system. (4) With the VAR system, the justice in football has been secured and the controversial positions have decreased. (7)
Viewing Pleasure	The VAR system reduces the viewing pleasure and fluency of football. (8) The VAR system does not affect the viewing pleasure of football matches and the fluency of the game. (14)
The Future of Football	The VAR system should be terminated for the future of football (9). The VAR system should continue with different applications for the future of football. (11)
Information	I think that club managers and football fans have enough information about the VAR system. (5) I think that club managers and football fans do not know enough about the VAR system Club managers and football fans do not know enough about the VAR system. (13)
Anxiety	The development of the VAR system creates a professional concern for the future. (12) The use of the VAR system does not cause any professional anxiety for me (15).

In this study, interviews were conducted with football referees to evaluate the attitudes of football referees towards the video assistant referee system. Football referees were asked about their positive and negative opinions about the video assistant referee system. In the next process, the answers given by the referees were subjected to thematic coding and a total of eight factors and sixteen questions were obtained in different themes. The questions formed as a result of thematic coding have taken their place among the factors as positive and negative questions, due to the design of the Q method. The referees placed the statements from they disagreed with to the statements they most agreed with in the Q series according to their agreeing or disagreeing.

**Table 2.** Factor distributions

Participant No	Participant Code	Factor 1	Factor 2
1	Referee1	<b>0.9294X</b>	0.0239
2	Referee2	<b>0.9460X</b>	-0.0086
3	Referee3	0.4383	0.0799
4	Referee4	0.1004	0.0956
5	Referee5	<b>0.9460X</b>	-0.0086
6	Referee6	<b>0.7507X</b>	-0.4444
7	Referee7	0.0061	<b>0.6404X</b>
8	Referee8	-0.3947	<b>0.8367X</b>
9	Referee9	0.0721	0.4155
10	Referee10	0.5097	0.4323
11	Referee11	-0.3248	<b>0.8300X</b>
12	Referee12	0.4672	0.1770
13	Referee13	0.5905	0.2781
14	Referee14	<b>0.7121X</b>	0.0571
15	Referee15	<b>0.8205X</b>	-0.3779
16	Referee16	0.4441	0.5004
17	Referee17	-0.0159	0.2436
18	Referee18	0.3051	0.4914
19	Referee19	<b>0.7089X</b>	-0.5438
20	Referee20	0.2821	-0.3108
21	Referee21	0.2711	-0.0206
22	Referee22	0.1203	-0.3272
23	Referee23	0.4267	<b>0.6604X</b>
24	Referee24	0.4267	<b>0.6604X</b>
25	Referee25	0.4267	<b>0.6604X</b>

In Table 2, it is seen that 7 participants gathered in the 1st factor, 6 participants in the second factor, while 12 participants did not gather under any factor. These participants could not be included in any factor in terms of the referees' views on the video assistant referee system (VAR).

**Table 3.** Correlation between factors

Factors	Factor 1	Factor 2
Factor 1	1.0000	-0.1287
Factor 2	-0.1287	1.0000

According to Table 3, there is a very weak negative correlation between the 1st factor and the 2nd factor. At this point, weak correlation provides information about the closeness or distance of the factors from each other. A weak correlation indicates that the factors differ from each other, while a strong correlation indicates that the factors are close to each other.

**Table 4.** Factor 1 item order of importance (Z scores)

Statements	Z-Score
The VAR system should continue with different applications for the future of football. (11)	<b>1.804</b>
With the VAR system, the justice in football has been secured and the controversial positions have decreased. (7)	<b>1.287</b>
The VAR system increases my self-confidence. (2)	<b>1.285</b>
I think that club managers and football fans do not know enough about the VAR system Club managers and football fans do not know enough about the VAR system. (13)	00.598
I am satisfied with the way the VAR system is used and the system. (3)	00.573
The VAR system makes difficulties in terms of use. (10)	00.358
The VAR system reduces the pressure on me. (1)	00.173
The VAR system does not affect the viewing pleasure of football matches and the fluency of the game. (14)	00.116
The development of the VAR system creates a professional concern for the future. (12)	-0.035
The VAR system has no significant effect on the pressure on me. (16)	-0.051
The use of the VAR system does not cause any professional anxiety on me. (15)	-0.398
The VAR system reduces the viewing pleasure and fluency of football. (8)	-0.603
I do not think that the atmosphere of justice or controversial events in football has decreased with the VAR system. (4)	-0.869
The VAR system negatively affects my self-confidence. (6)	<b>-1.164</b>
I think that club managers and football fans have enough information about the VAR system. (5)	<b>-1.205</b>
The VAR system should be terminated for the future of football. (9)	<b>-1.869</b>

In Table 4, the opinions of the referees regarding the VAR system in Factor 1 are listed under Z scores in order of importance. According to this, the statements most agreed by the referees regarding the VAR system gathered under the 1st factor are as follows; For the future of football, the VAR system should continue with different applications (11), justice has been ensured in football and controversial positions and controversial positions have been reduced. VAR system (7), VAR system increased my self-confidence (2). The most disagreed statements are as follows; The VAR system should be abolished for the future of football. (9), I think that club managers and football fans have sufficient knowledge about the VAR system (5), the VAR system negatively affects my self-confidence (6)

**Table 5.** Factor 2 item order of importance (Z scores)

Statements	Z-Score
I think that club managers and football fans do not know enough about the VAR system. (13)	<b>1.791</b>
I do not think that the atmosphere of justice or controversial events in football has decreased with the VAR system. (4)	<b>1.473</b>
I think that club managers and football fans have enough information about the VAR system. (5)	<b>0.992</b>
The VAR system should continue with different applications for the future of football. (11)	0.731
The VAR system makes difficulties in terms of use. (10)	0.674
The VAR system should be terminated for the future of football. (9)	0.222
The development of the VAR system creates a professional concern for the future. (12)	0.193
The VAR system has no significant effect on the pressure on me. (16)	0.126
The VAR system reduces the viewing pleasure and fluency of football. (8)	-0.020
The VAR system negatively affects my self-confidence. (6)	-0.125
The VAR system increases my self-confidence. (2)	-0.241
I am satisfied with the way the VAR system is used and the system. (3)	-0.761
With the VAR system, the justice in football has been secured and the controversial positions have decreased. (7)	-0.867
The use of the VAR system does not cause any professional anxiety on me. (15)	<b>-1.165</b>
The VAR system reduces the pressure on me. (1)	<b>-1.185</b>
The VAR system does not affect the viewing pleasure of football matches and the fluency of the game. (14)	<b>-1.839</b>

In Table 5, the statements of whether the referees agree or not in Factor 2 of the VAR system are shown below the Z scores. Accordingly, the expressions that the referees most agree with under the second factor regarding the VAR system are Club managers and football fans. The most agreed statements are as follows: I do not have enough information about the VAR system (13), I do not think that the atmosphere of justice or controversial events in football has decreased with the VAR system (4), I think that club managers and football fans have enough information about the VAR system (5). The statements they disagree with are as follows; The VAR system does not affect the pleasure of watching football matches and the fluency of the game (14), the VAR system reduces the pressure on me (1), the use of the VAR system does not cause professional anxiety and any negative effects on me (15).

**Table 6.** Distinctive items

Statements	Factor 1 Q	Factor 1 Z	Factor 2 Q	Factor 2 Z
The VAR system should continue with different applications for the future of football. (11)	3	1.80*	1	0.73
With the VAR system, the justice in football has been secured and the controversial positions have decreased. (7)	2	1.29*	-1	-0.87
The VAR system increases my self-confidence. (2)	2	1.29*	-1	-0.24
I think that Club managers and football fans do not know enough about the VAR system. (13)	1	0.60*	3	1.79
I am satisfied with the way the VAR system is used and the system. (3).	1	0.57*	-1	-0.76
The VAR system reduces the pressure on me. (1)	0	0.17*	-2	-1.18
The VAR system does not affect the viewing pleasure of football matches and the fluency of the game. (14)	0	0.12*	-3	-1.84
The use of the VAR system does not cause any professional anxiety on me. (15)	-1	-0.40*	-2	-1.16
The VAR system reduces the viewing pleasure and fluency of football. (8)	-1	-0.60*	0	-0.02
I do not think that the atmosphere of justice or controversial events in football has decreased with the VAR system. (4)	-1	-0.87*	2	1.47
The VAR system negatively affects my self-confidence. (6)	-2	-1.16*	0	-0.12
I think that club managers and football fans have enough information about the VAR system. (5)	-3	-1.20*	2	0.99
The VAR system should be terminated for the future of football. (9)	-3	-1.87*	1	0.22

\*p<.05

When the distinctive items collected in the Factor are examined in Table 6, statements such as: The VAR system should continue with different applications for the future of football (11), with the VAR system, the justice in football has been secured and the controversial positions have decreased (7), the VAR system should be terminated for the future of football. (9), and I think that club managers and football fans have enough information about the VAR system (5) can be considered as important opinions of the referees regarding the VAR system.

### Qualitative data on the opinions of the referees on the VAR system

#### *Opinions of football referees on statements they disagreed with*

*No one reads or researches anything about the VAR system. Everyone defines the system as much as they watch on television and as much as they hear from others. That's why I don't think anyone knows about the VAR system. "Referee 30"*

*The referees are more relaxed now because they know that any wrong decision that can be taken about the competition will be returned as a result of the VAR system review and will*

*compensate for the mistake, therefore respect for the profession has remained inherently. "Referee 28"*

*It doesn't matter if the referees make mistakes anymore. Because with the VAR system, these are tried to be prevented and the referees are saved in this way. Referees are deprived of their authority to take initiative and make decisions on their own. "Referee 35"*

*The implementation and decision-making process of the VAR system in our country takes a lot of time. In this respect, there may be a concentration disorder for the referee, and the right of the audience to watch an exciting and enjoyable match is taken away. "Referee 25"*

*Football is like an art. Just as when something goes wrong in the most beautiful part of art, listeners and spectators are negatively affected, and this system, which harms the nature of football, causes the game to stop constantly, so football has no meaning for both the spectators and the referees who manage the match. "Referee 29"*

*Since there is a system now, what happens in the field is recorded. Unfortunately, I do not think that the refereeing profession has no meaning anymore. "Referee 38"*

#### ***Opinions of football referees on the statements they participated in***

*In the end, referees are human, and referees sometimes have psychological problems that cause them to make wrong decisions. Therefore, in cases that fall off the radar of the referees, it is ensured that the VAR system catches the incorrect decision, and that the referee's wrong decision is eliminated, as a result, no disrespect to anyone's work is done, and the existing system for justice produces positive results. "Referee 42"*

*Discussions about the matches in the sports community have decreased sufficiently. Because the VAR system, which comes into play when the referee is wrong, attracts less reaction from different parties in the match, this technology, which is created, prevents polarization between people. "Referee 40"*

*The days of vilification of referees and blamed referees when a scapegoat is sought in the match are over. Because with the elimination of the error factor, there is no one to blame. In this way, the psychological pressure on referees is eliminated and the refereeing profession will be made more comfortable. "Referee 46"*

*In fact, the VAR system does not negatively affect the fluency of the game as it is thought. It can be said that it is necessary for this system to work in order for the efforts to be concluded correctly in the competition. Improvements to be made in the VAR system will shorten the stopping of the game even more and football will continue to be enjoyable from where it left off. "Referee 35"*

*As a referee, the most important advantage brought by the VAR system is regaining the trust and respect of the referees in themselves and their profession. Being a referee is a tough job. Because many factors such as fans, management, and football players create significant pressure on the referees and make it difficult for the referees to decide. Even if the referees make wrong decisions, they can be prevented, as a result of the replay they watch away from everyone, and at the end of the day, football is the winner. "Referee 48"*

## DISCUSSION

In this study, the opinions of the referees on the VAR system were examined through the Q method. Regarding the questions created in the study, the participants showed a distribution in two factors. As a result of ranking the participants by the scores they got from the questions created, the ranking was made according to their Z scores. As per this order, the first factor consists of these following statements: The VAR system should continue with different applications for the future of football (11), with the VAR system, the justice in football has been secured and the controversial positions have decreased (7), and the VAR system increases my self-confidence (2). The data obtained from the studies (Dufner et al., 2023; Fernández et al., 2020; Kolbinger and Lames, 2017; Kolbinger and Link, 2016; Pizzera et al., 2022; Samuel et al., 2020; Uluöz, 2020) supports the positive statements obtained in the current study. As a result, it can be deduced that the VAR system makes a positive contribution to the decision-making process of the referees and to the less erroneous decision-making process and the reduction of negativities during the match. On the other hand, the most disagreed statements are: The VAR system should be abolished for the future of football (9), I think club managers and football fans have enough information about the VAR system (5), and the VAR system affects my self-confidence negatively. (6) (Chen and Davidson, 2022; Samuel et al., 2020; Simon, 2020). In line with these results, it can be concluded that the VAR system reduces the decision-making process of the referee on his own and breaks the self-confidence of the referees. As a result of the results obtained from Factor 2: I think that club managers and football fans do not know enough about the VAR system (13), I do not think that the atmosphere of justice or controversial events in football has decreased with the VAR system (4), I think that club managers and football fans have enough information about the VAR system (5). (Çağdaş et al., 2021; Çankaya et al., 2020; Kayhan et al., 2020; Kolbinger and Lames, 2017; Samuel et al., 2020; Scanlon et al., 2022). It can be suggested as a result of the findings that the decrease in controversial positions provides a positive advantage for the development of football. The most disagreed statements about Factor 2 are: The VAR system does not affect the viewing pleasure of football matches and the fluency of the game (14), the VAR system reduces the pressure on me (1), the use of the VAR system does not cause any professional anxiety on me (15). While the mentioned expressions (Nlandu, 2012; Svantesson, 2014) provide both game fluency from the results obtained, (Samuel, et al., 2020) it has been determined that referees can be negatively affected as a matter of professional competence. Accordingly, while the VAR system has a positive effect on the speed and fluency of the game, it can be interpreted that it has a negative effect regarding referees' adaptation to this system and professional self-efficacy.

## CONCLUSION

The expressions that referees most agree with regarding the VAR system are expressions such as the VAR system reduces the pressure on the referees and does not make decisions on their own, paving the way for the formation of a fair football environment and gaining confidence. In addition, the most disagreeable statements about the VAR system are among the views that as a result of the formation of the VAR system, the profession of refereeing has lost its meaning and reputation, and the matches have lost their fluency and excitement by stopping constantly. As a result, while some of the referees have concerns and negative opinions about the VAR system, for some of them, it is about justice and removing the heavy

burden on the referee. Based on the results obtained, similarities with other studies in terms of literature were determined.

The statements given by the participants gathered under two factors differ within the factors. It is one of the participant opinions that the referee opinions system minimizes the controversial positions in football and therefore the responsibility on the referees is minimized with the help of technology and the match is managed more comfortably. In addition, it was said that the controversial positions in football matches disappeared with the var system and a fairer match management was achieved. It was concluded that the var system should continue for the future of football. Different opinions that emerged from some referee interviews were reflected in the results of the interviews.

The implementation of the VAR system in football is among the results of the interviews that will have a negative effect on the self-confidence of the referees. It is among the findings that the direct intervention of technological equipment in the decision-making process in football will completely eliminate the meaning of the work done by the referee. In addition, since the implementation of the var system takes a long time, it will eliminate all the viewing pleasure of the match, which will create negative results for the audience and will eliminate the excitement of football.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

In order to relieve the referees' anxiety about the VAR system, systemic changes and developments should be compensated in the form of continuous training in referees. In addition, the football community should be informed that the VAR system is an important application that supports the referee in order to eliminate the uncertainties in football, and prejudiced and negative opinions that may occur on the referees should be prevented.

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There is no conflict of interest in this article with any other author.

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### **Information on Ethics Committee Permission**

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