



# UNITED FANS NEAR-UNANIMOUS IN CALL FOR CHANGE ON VAR

- **16,226 FANS RESPONDED TO SURVEY - FEWER THAN 1% BACK KEEPING VAR AS IT IS**
- **JUST OVER HALF BACK COMPLETE ABOLITION**
- **MUST CALL FOR THE CLUBS AND LEAGUE TO LISTEN TO FANS BEFORE 6 JUNE VOTE**

A new survey conducted by MUST of 16,226 supporters has near-unanimously (99.4%) called for change on VAR with fewer than 1% supporting keeping the current system. The survey has been carried out in advance of the vote on 6 June on whether to keep VAR in the Premier League.

The full results were as follows:

Q: What is your preferred course of action regarding the use of Video Assistant Referee (VAR) by the Premier League?	Total
<b>Keep VAR as it is:</b> Maintain the current implementation of VAR without any changes.	0.6%
<b>Improve VAR:</b> Continue using VAR but implement specific changes to address existing issues (e.g., time limits for decisions, better communication with fans, etc.)	48.8%
<b>Abolish VAR:</b> Completely remove the use of VAR from the Premier League.	50.6%
<b>NET</b>	100%
	16226

Other findings from this mega-poll include:

- Match-going fans more strongly want the abolition of VAR than non-match-going supporters, with 51% of match-going fans wanting the system completely gone, against 37% of TV viewers
- Season ticket holders want abolition most strongly of all, with 52% backing abolition against 45% of occasional match-goers

- Those under 65 want VAR's abolition more strongly than those over 65, with 53% backing abolition versus 41% for the older group

Those who want the reform, rather than abolition, of VAR were also asked how they would like it to change. The two most prominent improvements requested were around better communication so supporters in the stadium can understand the decisions being made alongside faster decisions, followed by VAR only being used to confirm 'clear & obvious errors'.

The full results in this section were as follows:

	%
Better information for fans/more communication (live audio with ref/see what ref sees on screen etc)	35%
Faster decisions/speed it up	23%
Should only be used to confirm 'clear and obvious' errors	21%
Fixed time for decisions/time limit	18%
Automated decisions/use AI	16%
Greater consistency	15%
Use for offside/only offside	12%
Be more like rugby/cricket	10%
Greater tolerance for offside	9%
Better/ better training for VAR officials/referees	8%
Clarification of the handball rule	6%
Referee to have final decision	6%

Base Coded Responses (999): Those above 5% or more

The survey results are the product of an unprecedented cooperation between MUST and the Club, with the poll initially sent to MUST's 100k + membership, and then also distributed by the Club itself via email to all Full and Cup Season Ticket Holders and on its Matchday Twitter account, with its 96k followers.

Commenting on the results, a spokesperson for MUST said:

*"When Manchester United exercise their vote on VAR on 6 June, they need to take these results into account. Almost unanimously, football fans are sick to the back teeth of VAR. It has made the game worse, not better, and Premier League clubs have the opportunity do something about it in the upcoming vote.*

*"We're not surprised that the group most opposed to VAR are season ticket holders and other match-going fans. Again and again, the fan in the ground is left in the dark whilst lines are drawn on a screen in Stockley Park, destroying the atmosphere in the stadium. It's time to ditch the failed experiment of VAR, and either get rid of it entirely or make fundamental reforms."*

**ENDS**