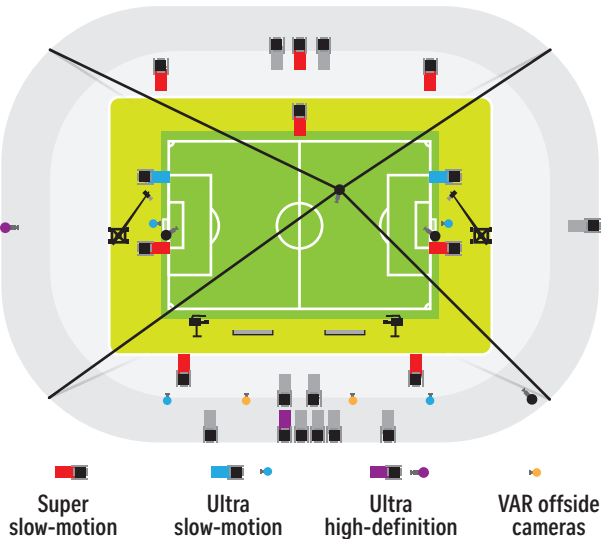


VAR at the 2018 World Cup

Like it, loathe it or are indifferent to it, the video assistant referee is part of football's future and will be introduced for the first time at the Russia World Cup. The Straits Times looks into how the system works and when it will be called into action.

THE CAMERAS



- The video assistant referee team has access to
- 33 broadcast cameras: Eight are super slow-motion and four, ultra slow-motion.
- Two offside cameras, available only to the VAR team.
- For the knockout phase, there will be two additional ultra slow-motion cameras, one behind each goal.

VAR IN RUSSIA

- The video assistant referee team
- Supports match officials during all 64 matches.
- Is located in a centralised video operation room in Moscow.

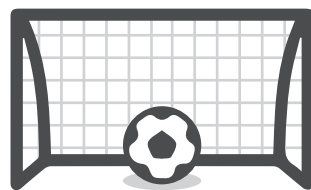


- VAR does not make any decisions; final decision can be made only by the referee.
- After the decision, replays will be shown on giant screens inside the stadiums accompanied by a written explanation. Someone in the ops room will listen in to the decisions and communicate them to both TV commentators and personnel operating the screens.

WHEN IS VAR USED?

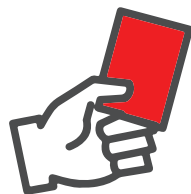
GOALS

- To assist the referee to determine whether there was an infringement that means a goal should not be awarded.
- As the ball has crossed the line, play is interrupted so there is no direct impact on the game.



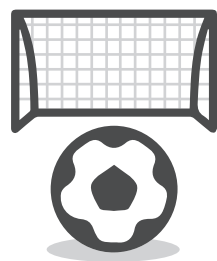
DIRECT RED CARD INCIDENTS

Ensure no clear wrong decisions whether a player is sent off or not.



PENALTY DECISIONS

Ensure no clear wrong decisions are made when a spot kick is awarded or not.



MISTAKEN IDENTITY

To inform the referee, when he is wrong or unsure, so that the correct player can be disciplined.



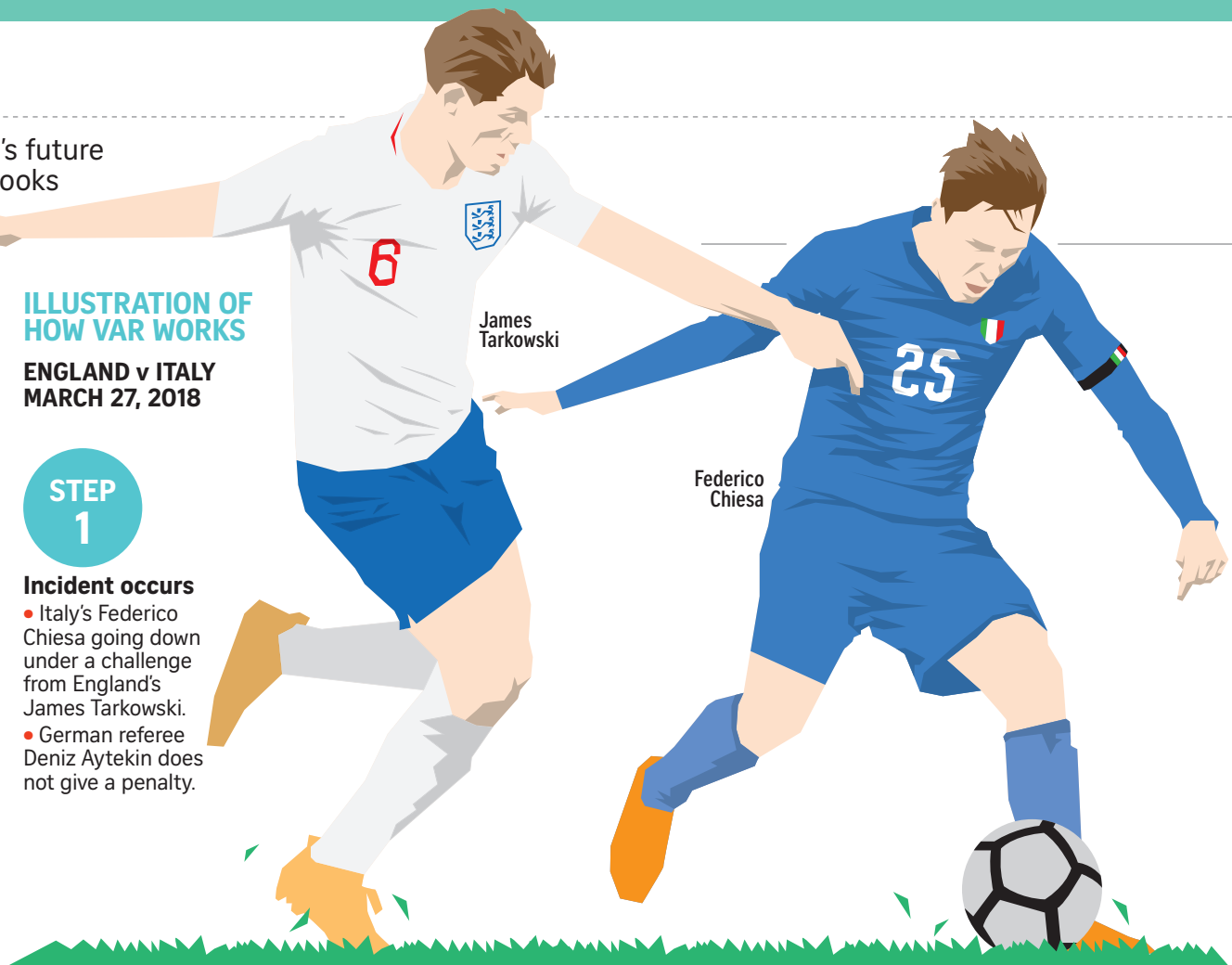
ILLUSTRATION OF HOW VAR WORKS

ENGLAND v ITALY
MARCH 27, 2018

STEP 1

Incident occurs

- Italy's Federico Chiesa going down under a challenge from England's James Tarkowski.
- German referee Deniz Aytekin does not give a penalty.



STEP 2

Review and advice by the VAR

- But it is not a "very clear" error. So VAR asks the referee to do an on-field review, used for subjective decisions like fouls.
- Referee watches the incident on a monitor on the side of the pitch.



STEP 3

Decision or action is taken

- Replay shows Tarkowski stepped on Chiesa's foot.



BEEEEEP!

- Referee overturns his decision and awards the penalty to Italy.