

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Elgin City FC

on behalf of

Russell Dingwall.

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Tuesday 16th December 2025 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 67th minute of the Scottish League Two fixture between Elgin City FC and Stranraer FC on Saturday 13th December 2025, the player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for A1 - Serious Foul Play.
3. The Claimants submitted a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal on behalf of the Player. In support of this Claim, the Club submitted video footage showing the incident in question, a still image of the challenge, and written submissions.
4. In order for a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal to be upheld, the Fast Track Tribunal must be satisfied, by way of evidence submitted and upon the balance of probabilities, that the Referee made an Obvious Refereeing Error in dismissing the Player.
5. In summary, the Claimants' submission was that the player's sole intention was to challenge for the ball, and there was no intent to do anything other than win the ball. Their submission went on to explain that the player did not challenge for the ball with a straight leg, and did not enter the challenge with his studs showing. The Claimants argued that the player won the ball, that the point of contact was not above his opponent's ankle, and that he did not endanger the safety of his opponent.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was A1 - Serious Foul Play. The Referee reported that the player lunged into a tackle with a straight leg, had his studs showing, and made no contact with the ball. The Referee submitted that contact was made above the opponent's ankle, and that the player endangered the safety of his opponent.
7. The Fast Track Tribunal viewed the video footage of the incident, and carefully considered the written submissions from the Claimants. The Fast Track Tribunal did not consider that the still image assisted its deliberations. It also considered the definition from Laws of the Game in relation to Serious Foul Play as follows:

A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality must be sanctioned as serious foul play.

Any player who lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side or from behind using one or both legs, with excessive force or endangers the safety of an opponent is guilty of serious foul play.

8. Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimants had been partially successful in demonstrating that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred. The Fast Track Tribunal concluded that the reverse angle footage of the tackle showed that the player won the ball with his challenge. In doing so, his leg was not straight and the challenge was not a “studs up” challenge that endangered his opponent’s safety. The Fast Track Tribunal also did not consider that contact was made above the opponent’s ankle. The Fast Track Tribunal accepted that the player had committed the foul, but considered it to be a reckless challenge and not one that met the definition of Serious Foul Play.
9. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be partially upheld, the sending off offence and original sanction should be rescinded, and that a caution for B1(c) – Recklessly tackles or challenges an opponent – be imposed.
10. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.