



## **WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL**

### **IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:**

**Ayr United FC**

**on behalf of**

**Daire O'Connor**

1. These are the written reasons for the determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 to determine this Claim.
2. In the 28<sup>th</sup> minute of the Scottish Championship Fixture between Ayr United FC and Inverness Caledonian Thistle FC on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for the offence of Serious Foul Play, as defined by the Laws of the Game.
3. The Claimant submitted a claim of Wrongful Dismissal on behalf of the player. In support of the Claim, the Claimant supplied video footage showing the incident in question, as well as a written submission.
4. In summary, the Claimant's submission was that the player's actions, in challenging for the ball with his opponent, did not meet the criteria for the offence: Serious Foul Play.
5. The Referee provided a written statement confirming the act which he decided was Serious Foul Play. The Referee stated that he dismissed the player for Serious Foul Play because the player had lunged at speed towards his opponent, and made contact with the latter's ankle, and endangered his opponent's safety in doing so. The Referee also stated that he was 6 yards from the incident and had a clear view of it.
6. In order for a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal to be upheld, the Fast Track Tribunal must be satisfied, on a balance of probabilities, that the Referee made an Obvious Refereeing Error in dismissing the player.
7. An Obvious Refereeing Error, as stated in Annexe F to the Judicial Panel Protocol 2022/23, is defined as being an error at a match by a Referee or a Match Official which is clear or self-evident, or easily perceived.
8. In IFAB Laws of the Game, Serious Foul Play is defined as follows:-  
  
"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."
9. The Fast Track Tribunal viewed the video footage of the incident, supplied by the Claimant, and carefully considered the Claimant's written submission and the statement of the Referee. Having

done so, the Fast Track Tribunal found, on a balance of probabilities, that the player made his challenge at speed, with his straight leg off the ground and his studs showing, and made contact with his opponent player's ankle. The Fast Track Tribunal further found that the nature of the tackle endangered the safety of his opponent. The Fast Track Tribunal also found that the Referee was well positioned to see the challenge and make his decision.

10. Accordingly, having considered all of the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal found, on a balance of probabilities, that the Referee had not made an Obvious Refereeing Error in concluding that the player's challenge on his opponent constituted Serious Foul Play. The Referee's decision to dismiss the player for Serious Foul Play was not a clear, self-evident, or easily perceived error.
11. Therefore, the Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be dismissed and that the sending-off offence, and mandatory sanction, be re-imposed.
12. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to appeal.