

## WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



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

**Rangers FC**

**on behalf of**

**Jose Cifuentes.**

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Tuesday 12th December 2023 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 45th minute of the Scottish Premiership fixture between Rangers FC and Dundee FC on Saturday 9th December 2023, 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 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 Claimant's submission was that the player was attempting to win the ball. The player made a genuine attempt to win the ball, however due to the wet surface the opponent got to the ball quicker than the player had anticipated, and made contact with the opponent. The player's motion was sideways rather than downward, and was a missed timed tackle that was not made with any force or intent.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was A1 - Serious Foul Play occurred when the player extended his leg in a downward motion in an attempt to play the ball. He made no contact with the ball. Instead, the boot/studs of the player made clear contact with the opponent's leg – specifically an area on the upper calf/below the knee. In the Referee's opinion, this was a tackle or challenge by the player which 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. It also considered the definition from Laws of the Game in relation to A1 - Serious Foul Play.
8. Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimants had unsuccessfully demonstrated that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred. The video evidence viewed by the Fast Track Tribunal supported the Referee's interpretation of the challenge as the player made clear contact with the opponent's leg on the upper calf/below the knee, and this was a tackle or challenge by the player which endangered the safety of his opponent, and met the criteria, as laid down in the Laws of the Game for A1 - Serious Foul Play.
9. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be dismissed and the sending off offence and original sanction should be re-imposed.

Jose Cifuentes, Rangers FC

10. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.