

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL BROUGHT BY:

Gartcairn FC (the Club)

on behalf of

Stewart Houston (the Player)

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on 30 July 2025 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 48th minute of the West of Scotland First Division fixture between Whitletts Victoria FC v Gartcairn FC on 26 July 2025 the Player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity.
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 did not commit a foul and does not trip his opponent. The Player and opponent make contact at shoulder height and the opponent throws himself to the ground.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity occurred when the opponent was running towards the penalty area and the Player was just in front of him so he went to go left of the Player to get past the Player and as he did so the Player put in the tackle not making no contact with the ball instead he caught the opponent's legs just outside the penalty area. If the opponent had not been brought down by the Player he would have entered the Penalty Area and had a clear shot on goal.
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: Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity.
8. Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimants had successfully demonstrated that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred. The Tribunal felt that the video evidence showed that there had been no trip and that the opponent had gone to ground under minimal contact which did not meet the threshold of a foul.
9. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be upheld and the sending off offence and original sanction should be rescinded.
10. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.