

## WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



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

**Name of Club (the Club) Livingston F C**

**on behalf of**

**Name of Player (the Player) Jack Fitzwater**

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on 17th February 2021 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 61st minute of the SPFL Premiership fixture between Dundee United FC and Livingston FC on 13th February 2021, the Player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for denying an opponent 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 Claimants submission was that the Player should not have received a red card; it was a harsh decision; there were other players who could have covered.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was denying an opponent an obvious goal scoring opportunity. In summary, he stated that the offence took place just outside the penalty area with only a short distance to the goal, making it an obvious goal scoring opportunity; the opponent had control of the ball and was heading towards goal and at the point of contact with the opponent there were no other defenders between the opponent and the goal or in a position to challenge him.
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 as defined by law 12.
8. Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimants had been unsuccessful in demonstrating that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred, the referee having clearly outlined the reasons for his decision, which accorded with the view of the Tribunal following viewings of the video footage.
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. The Tribunal did not consider the Claim to fall to be dealt under paragraph 13.13.8.1.

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