

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A (WRONGFUL DISMISSAL) CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Gala Fairydean Rovers

on behalf of

Calan Ledingham

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on the morning of 5th February 2025 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 47th minute of the Lowland League Cup fixture Cowdenbeath FC v Gala Fairydean Rovers, played on 1st February 2025 the Player was sent off 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 written statements from both the club, Club Manager and Player and clips of video footage of the incident.
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 not opinion, that the Referee made an Obvious Refereeing Error in dismissing the Player.
5. In summary, the Claimant's submission was that the Player had not committed a serious foul play offence. They claimed that the Player had his left foot planted and made contact with the ball, making a clean clearance after which the Cowdenbeath player collided with him. They disputed that the challenge was out of control or that the Player had lunged at his opponent.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining his reasoning for the dismissal. He submitted that the Player lunged at his opponent while challenging for the ball, with his studs showing, at pace and with force. He made contact with his studs above his opponents ankle endangering the safety of his opponent and was shown a red card for serious foul play.
7. The Fast Track Tribunal viewed video footage in real time and slow motion of the incident leading to the dismissal from a single angle. They also carefully considered the written submission from the Claimant, Player and the referees report. They also considered the definition from Laws of the Game in relation to serious foul play: (*ref IFAB Laws of the Game 2024/25*)

*A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of the 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, side or behind, using one or both legs, with excessive force or endangers the safety of the opponent is guilty of serious foul play.

Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimants were SUCCESSFUL in demonstrating that an Obvious Refereeing Error had OCCURRED.

Calan Ledingham, Gala Fairydean Rovers

STATE REASON WHY IN BRIEF FOR THIS DETERMINATION.

Having reviewed the video evidence submitted by the Claimant the Fast Track Tribunal were able to agree with the Claimant that the Player had made a clean challenge to clear the ball ahead of his opponent colliding with him. There was no evidence of a lunge nor excessive force or brutality in the challenge.

STATE REASONS TO SUPPORT DETERMINATION.

For a claim to be successful as per the JPP Annex K, section 10.10.4 the FTT must be satisfied that it is more likely than not, in all of the circumstances of the Case, that an obvious refereeing error has occurred. That is the error is 'clear, self evident or easily perceived' (*glossary JPP*).

The Fast Track Tribunal were provided with video evidence which gave a single angled view of the incident in real time and slow motion and were unanimous that the claimant demonstrated in their submission that the referee had made an obvious error resulting in the wrongful dismissal of the player. It was clear there was no foul on the opponent and the Player cleanly cleared the ball with no evidence of a lunge or studs showing.

The JPP ruled that the red card offence be rescinded.

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