

## WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



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

**Stenhousemuir FC**

**on behalf of**

**Ross Meechan.**

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Thursday 26th October 2023 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 41st minute of the Scottish League Two fixture between Elgin City FC and Stenhousemuir FC on Tuesday 24th October 2023, the player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for A4 - Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity as defined by law 12.
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 when the player commits the foul, the ball is near equidistant between the player and the goalkeeper of Stenhousemuir FC. The Elgin City FC player isn't in control of the ball when the foul is committed, and he was not going to get to the ball before the Stenhousemuir FC goalkeeper. Further, that Stenhousemuir FC had another two players near the incident who were in potential covering positions. One of those players was within two yards at the time of the foul, and was therefore potentially able to challenge the attacking player.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was A4 - Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity as defined by law 12, was perpetrated by the player impeding the Elgin City FC player approximately 35 yards from the Stenhousemuir FC goal to prevent the Elgin City FC player from accelerating towards the ball and maintaining control of the ball. There were no covering defenders in position to prevent the obvious goal scoring opportunity, and had the Elgin City FC player not been impeded, he would have had a one versus one chance with the goalkeeper.
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 A4 - 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 unsuccessfully demonstrated that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred, on the basis that the video evidence did not support the submission by the Club.

Ross Meechan, Stenhousemuir FC

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