

## WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



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

**Dundee FC (the Claimant)**

**on behalf of**

**Nathanael Ralph (the Player)**

1. These are the Reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal, which convened on 12 December 2018 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 20th minute of the SPFL Premiership fixture Dundee FC v Rangers FC on 9 December 2018, the Player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for the A4 offence - Denying the opposing team or opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity.
3. The Claimant submitted a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal on behalf of the Player. In support of this Claim, the Claimant 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 the evidence submitted and upon the balance of probabilities, that the Referee made an Obvious Refereeing Error in dismissing the Player.
5. In brief summary, the Claimant's submission was that an obvious goalscoring opportunity did not exist due to the proximity of another Dundee FC player. It was also claimed that the other Dundee FC defender was closer to the Rangers FC player who was fouled than the Referee had thought, and that the referee's vision of that player had been obscured. It was claimed that the Rangers FC player would have been unlikely to have reached the ball. The Claimant's submission was that those factors meant that there had been no obvious goalscoring opportunity and that therefore an obvious refereeing error had occurred.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the circumstances, which he decided justified the sending off offence recorded. The report stated that the Player had been dismissed as he intentionally slid in making contact with the Rangers FC player's ankle and at no stage making contact with the ball. In the Referee's opinion the Rangers FC player would have reached the ball first and would therefore have had an obvious goalscoring opportunity with the other Dundee FC player 2-3 yards away.
7. The Fast Track Tribunal viewed the video footage of the incident and carefully considered the written submissions from the Claimant and it also considered the definition of Obvious Refereeing Error. Having considered all evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal was unanimous in its Determination that the Claimant had failed to demonstrate that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred. The video footage confirmed the Referee's statement that he was well

Nathanael Ralph, Dundee FC

sighted at the incident. An Obvious Refereeing Error is described as being clear, self-evident or easily perceived. The Tribunal was of the view that none of those criteria had been shown and the Referee had been entitled to reach the decision that he had.

8. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is that the Claim is dismissed and the original sanction is reapplied.
9. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.