

## WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



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

**Falkirk FC**

**on behalf of**

**Steven Hetherington**

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Wednesday 3rd November 2021 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 72nd minute of the SPFL League One fixture between Clyde FC and Falkirk FC on Saturday 30th October 2021, the player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for A4 Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or a 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 made no significant contact with the opponent and the opponent fell to the ground as a result of him stretching to try to make contact with the ball to steer it past the Falkirk goalkeeper.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided denied the opponent an obvious goal scoring opportunity. He stated that at the time he was of the view that the player raised his hand and made contact with the back of the opponent causing him to fall to the ground.
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 a goal scoring opportunity.
8. Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the claimants had been successful in demonstrating that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred. The Fast Track Tribunal were of the unanimous view that the player had made no contact with the opponent sufficient to cause him to fall to the ground, and thus did not deny the opponent an obvious goal scoring opportunity.
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of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be upheld and the sending off offence and original sanction should be rescinded.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.