

## WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL

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



**Airdrieonians FC**

**on behalf of**

**Adam Frizzell**

1. These are the written reasons for the determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to determine this Claim.
2. In the 41st minute of the Scottish League One fixture between Airdrieonians FC and Dumbarton FC on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2022, the player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for the offence A1 Serious Foul Play, as defined by the Laws of the Game. The dismissal resulted from a challenge for the ball between the player and a Dumbarton FC opponent player.
3. The Claimant lodged a claim of Wrongful Dismissal on behalf of the player. In support of the Claim, the Claimant submitted a written statement, a written statement of the player, video footage, and photographs of the challenge.
4. In summary, the Claimant's submission was that the player challenged an opponent player for the ball, leading with the side of his left foot, pulled out of the challenge when he realised that he would not reach the ball before his opponent, and did not strike his opponent high on the leg or with undue force.
5. The Referee provided a statement confirming the act which he decided was Serious Foul Play. The Referee stated that he dismissed the player for Serious Foul Play because he was very well positioned and saw the player make a late challenge, fail to make any contact with the ball, strike his opponent's ankle with his studs, and endanger the safety of his opponent.
6. In order for a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal to be upheld, the Fast Track Tribunal must be satisfied, on a balance of probabilities, that the Referee made an Obvious Refereeing Error in dismissing the layer.
7. An Obvious Refereeing Error, as stated in Annexe F to the Judicial Panel Protocol 2021/22, is defined as being an error at a match by a Referee or a Match Official which is clear or self-evident, or easily perceived.
8. In IFAB Laws of the Game, Serious Foul Play is defined as follows:  
  
"Any *player* who lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side or from behind using one or both legs, with excessive force or endangers the safety of an opponent, is guilty of *serious foul play*."
9. The Fast Track Tribunal considered all of the available evidence. The Fast Track Tribunal carefully viewed the video footage and photographs of the challenge, and considered the written statements of the Referee, the Claimant, and the player. Having done so, the Fast Track Tribunal

Adam Frizzell, Airdrieonians FC

found, on a balance of probabilities, that the Referee was well positioned to view the challenge and make his decision, and the player had lunged for the ball from the side and struck his opponent's ankle with force, and in doing so, had endangered the safety of his opponent. The Fast Track Tribunal, on the basis of the available evidence, did not find that the player had tried to pull out of the challenge.

10. Accordingly, the Fast Track Tribunal also found, on a balance of probabilities, that the Referee had not made an Obvious Refereeing Error in deciding that the player had committed the offence A1 Serious Foul Play. The Referee's decision to dismiss the player for Serious Foul Play was not a clear, self-evident, or easily perceived error.
11. Therefore, the Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be dismissed, and that the sending off offence, and mandatory sanction, be re-imposed.
12. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all parties and is not subject to appeal.