

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Montrose FC (the Club)

on behalf of

Andrew Steeves (the Player); together “the Claimants”

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on 10 December 2024 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 74th minute of the William Hill League 1 fixture between Montrose FC and Inverness Caledonian Thistle FC on 7 December 2024, the Player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for 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 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 Claimants’ submission was that the Player and his counterpart both had a genuine ability to challenge for the ball, the Player changed direction and took only 1 stride before making the challenge, the Referee’s vision was blocked by other players on the field of play and that there was no excessive force in the challenge.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was Serious Foul Play. The Referee’s statement explained his view that the Player endangered the safety of an opponent by lunging towards an opponent with excessive force and intensity. The Referee deemed the level of force involved to have exceeded the level permissible in a fair contest for the ball. The Referee believed that the Player was not in control of his actions when making the challenge.
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 Serious Foul Play, which is as follows:

A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an 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, 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.

8. Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimants had UNSUCCESSFULLY demonstrated that an Obvious Refereeing Error had OCCURRED. Having

reviewed the video footage, the Fast Track Tribunal considered that the challenge was made by the Player with excessive force and endangered the safety of the Player's opponent.

9. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be DISMISSED and the sending off offence and original sanction should be REIMPOSED. With the Claim having been dismissed, the Fast Track Tribunal considered whether the Claim fell within the scope of Rules 11.9.37 and 11.9.38 of the Judicial Panel Protocol such that an additional match suspension should be imposed. The Fast Track Tribunal considered that the Claim DID NOT fall within the scope of these rules and, as such, an additional match suspension was NOT IMPOSED.
10. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.