

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL CAUTION CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Heart of Midlothian FC

on behalf of

Ben Woodburn

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Wednesday 22nd September 2021 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 41st minute of the SPFL Premiership fixture between Ross County FC and Heart of Midlothian FC on Saturday 18th September 2021 the player was cautioned by the Referee for offence B1k – Commits an act of simulation.
3. The Claimants submitted a Claim of Wrongful Caution 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 Caution 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 cautioning the player.
5. In summary, the Claimant's submission was that the player did not commit an act of simulation, that there was clear contact by his opponent with the back of the player's left leg, and that there was no exaggeration by the player.
6. The Referee provided no explanation of his decision beyond stating the definition of the act of simulation contained within the Laws of the Game.
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 offence B1k – Commits an act of simulation.
8. Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided unanimously that the Claimants had successfully demonstrated that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred. The Fast Track Tribunal were of the view that contact had been made with the back of the left leg of the player by his opponent, and that there was no initiation or exaggeration by the player in relation to this incident.
9. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be upheld and that the original sanction should be rescinded.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.