

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Darvel FC

on behalf of

Daryll Meggat

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Wednesday 12th October 2022 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 37th minute of the West of Scotland Football League fixture between Glenafton Athletic FC and Darvel FC on Friday 7th October 2022, the player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for A4 Denying the opposing team or opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity as defined by Law 12.
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 did not deny the opposing team a goal scoring opportunity as he made no contact with the opponent, and in any event there were four other Darvel FC players in a position to prevent the opponent from scoring.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was denying an opponent a goal scoring opportunity occurred when the player swiped at the opponent catching him on the left shin as the opponent was running towards goal in a central position, and the distance between the opponent and other defenders was such that the criteria for denying a goal scoring opportunity by a reckless challenge was met.
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 denying the opposition team or an opponent a goal scoring opportunity.
8. Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimants had successfully demonstrated that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred. The Fast Track Tribunal viewed the video footage and were unanimously of the view that little or no contact was made by the player on his opponent and that the opponent fell to the ground unaided, whether deliberately or in anticipation of contact, and accordingly the player had not denied his opponent a 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.