

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Name of Club (the Club) Hamilton Academical FC

on behalf of

Name of Player (the Player) Jamie Hamilton

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal, which convened on Wednesday 19 February to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 21st minute of the SPFL Premiership League match between Heart of Midlothian v Hamilton Academical Football Club on 15th February 2020 the Player was sent off for denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by handling the ball.
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 or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by handling the ball.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was a sending off offence.
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 handling the ball and that of denial of an obvious goal scoring opportunity which states that the panel must consider:
 - a. distance between the offence and the goal;
 - b. general direction of the play;
 - c. likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball; and
 - d. location and number of defenders.
8. Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimant had successfully demonstrated that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred. The Tribunal was satisfied that the referee's decision was incorrect. The definition of an Obvious Refereeing error requires that an error be clear or self-evident or easily perceived and that was established by the video evidence.
9. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be upheld and the sending off offence be rescinded.
10. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.