

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Arniston Rangers F.C. (the Club)

on behalf of

Ben McManus (the Player)

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on 4 December 2024 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 40 minute of the East of Scotland League First Division 2024-25 fixture between Bo'ness Athletic FC v Arniston Rangers F.C. on 1 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 Claimant's submission was that the Player chased a through ball with the intention of competing fairly. The Player recognised that the onrushing goalkeeper was in a better position to claim it. Realising this the Player pulled out of the challenge by withdrawing his foot and turning his body away to avoid any unnecessary contact.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was Serious foul play occurred when the Player endangered the safety of the opponent with a high tackle, at speed, and studs showing with the sole of the Player's boot landing on the goalkeeper's chest, with the goalkeeper in an upright position.
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
8. Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimants had UNSUCCESSFULLY demonstrated that an Obvious Refereeing Error had OCCURRED. Whilst the video evidence did not support the fact that the Player's boot landed on the goalkeeper's chest this was a dangerous challenge at speed which endangered the safety of the 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.
10. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.