

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Annan Athletic

on behalf of

Keith Watson.

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Thursday 14th August 2025 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 73rd minute of the KDM Evolution Trophy League Phase fixture between Kelty Hearts FC and Annan Athletic FC on Tuesday 12th August 2025, the player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for A1 - 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 (both in real time and slow motion) 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 played the ball before making contact with an opposition player. It was further submitted that the tackle was not high and that the player did not leave the ground.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was Serious Foul Play. The Referee's position was that the player lunged into the challenge in an uncontrolled manner, with studs showing, and at pace. The Referee stated that the player caught his opponent above the ankle, endangered the opponent's safety, and made minimal contact with the ball.
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 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. On balance, the Fast Track Tribunal determined that there was insufficient evidence to decide that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred.
9. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be dismissed and the sending off offence and original sanction should be re-imposed.

10. 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 merit the imposition of an additional match suspension.
11. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.