

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Glenvale AFC

on behalf of

Luke Ross.

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on the evening of Tuesday 13th January 2026 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the West of Scotland Third Division fixture between Glenvale AFC and Lugar Boswell Thistle FC played on Saturday 10th January 2026, the player was dismissed from the field of play in the 34th minute 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 and a written statement.
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 not opinion, 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 commit an act of Serious Foul Play. They noted he made no contact with the opponent, his studs were down close to the ground, there was no lunging, raised foot, nor use of force. They submitted that his action was controlled, he was grounded, and there was a genuine attempt to play the ball. They disputed that there was excessive force in the challenge.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was Serious Foul Play. He stated that the player slid at the opponents leg to try to get the ball. He made no contact with the ball, challenged with excessive force which endangered the safety of the opponent, and he sent him off for Serious Foul Play.
7. The Fast Track Tribunal viewed video footage from a single angle of the incident and carefully considered the written submissions from the Claimant. It also considered the definition from Laws of the Game in relation to serious foul play: (*ref IFAB Laws of the Game Glossary 2. Football Terms*)

A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of the 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, side or behind, using one or both legs, with excessive force or endangers the safety of the opponent is guilty of serious foul play.

Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimants were successful in demonstrating that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred.

Having reviewed the video evidence submitted by the Claimants it was clear to the Fast Track Tribunal that the Claimants submission supported their view that the Referee made a clear and obvious error.

In reviewing the footage provided by the Claimant it confirmed that the player made no contact with his opponent in the challenge. His feet were both planted on the ground and there was no excessive force, nor lunge in the challenge. The opponent jumped over the players leg and his momentum caused him to fall.

For a claim to be successful as per the JPP Annex K, section 10.10.4 the Fast Track Tribunal must be satisfied that it is more likely than not, in all of the circumstances of the Case, that an obvious refereeing error has occurred. That is the error is 'clear, self evident or easily perceived' (*glossary JPP*).

Based on this the Fast Track Tribunal were unanimous that the Claimant had demonstrated that the Referee made an obvious error.

The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be upheld and the sending off offence be rescinded.

The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.