

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Nairn County FC

on behalf of

Fraser Dingwall.

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Tuesday 5th March 2024 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 39th minute of the Highland Football League fixture between Nairn County FC and Clachnacuddin FC on Saturday 2nd March 2024, the player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for A4 - Denying the opposing team or an 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's team-mate (shirt number 3) was covering in a central position, and in a position where he could have moved to between the attacking player and the ball to prevent an obvious goal scoring opportunity arising, had the attacking player not been fouled. The attacking player's final touch of the ball was also heavy, took him away from goal, and if the foul had not been committed, the attacking player would not have kept possession.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was the sending off offence of A4 - Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity as defined by Law 12, occurred when the player challenged an opponent on the edge of the club's defensive penalty area, and did not make contact with the ball. The player was the only outfield player between the ball and the goal. The attacking player's next touch took the ball in the direction of the goal, and the likelihood was that he could keep possession as there were no covering defenders close enough to challenge the attacker.
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 A4 - Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity as defined by Law 12.
8. Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimants had been partially successful in demonstrating that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred. Whilst the player was advancing his position on the field of play, and control of the ball meant that whilst the player committed an illegal act against the opponent, it did not meet the threshold for A4 -

Fraser Dingwall, Nairn County FC

Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity as defined by Law 12.

9. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be partially upheld, and the sending off offence and original sanction should be rescinded, with the lesser sanction of a caution for offence for B1g - Commits an offence which interferes with or stops a promising attack outwith the penalty area, be imposed.
10. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.