

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Peterhead FC

on behalf of

Paul Dixon

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Wednesday 20th July 2022 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 45th minute of the Premier Sports League Cup fixture between Peterhead FC and Dumbarton FC on Saturday 16th July 2022, the player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for denying an opponent a goal scoring opportunity as defined in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game.
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 opponent a goal scoring opportunity as there was another Peterhead FC player within close proximity who would have been in a position to stop the opponent having an attempt at goal. These submissions were by way of three still photographs of the incident with measurements superimposed thereon.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was denying a goalscoring opportunity occurred when the Peterhead FC player lost possession to the Dumbarton FC player who was then running directly towards the Peterhead FC goal with the ball under control, when he was illegally tackled by the Peterhead FC player, Paul Dixon. The Referee was of the opinion that the nearest Peterhead FC player to the incident would not have been close enough to the Dumbarton FC player to stop the attack.
7. The Fast Track Tribunal viewed the video footage of the incident and carefully considered the submissions from the Claimants. It also considered the definition from Laws of the Game in relation to denying an opponent a goalscoring opportunity
8. Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimants had been unsuccessful in demonstrating that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred, as the opponent was running directly at goal when fouled, and that it was not clear that the defender was close enough, prior to the illegal challenge, to prevent the opponent from having an attempt on goal.
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. The Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claim was not frivolous and did not fall to be dealt with under Paragraph 13.21.8.1.

Paul Dixon, Peterhead FC

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