



WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL

IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Montrose FC

on behalf of

Blair Lyons

1. These are the written reasons for the determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Wednesday 23rd February 2022 to determine this Claim.
2. In the 80th minute of the Scottish League One fixture between Montrose FC and Clyde FC. on Saturday 19th February 2022, the player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for the offence A2 Violent Conduct, as defined by IFAB Laws of the Game.
3. The Claimant submitted a claim of Wrongful Dismissal on behalf of the player. In support of the Claim, the Claimant submitted video footage showing the incident in question as well as a written submission which included a statement from the player.
4. In summary, the Claimant's submission was that after the player tackled his immediate opponent, the latter fell to the ground, held the player's left leg with his left arm, and caused the player to lose balance and unintentionally step on him.
5. The Referee provided a statement confirming the act which he decided was Violent Conduct. The Referee stated that he dismissed the player for Violent Conduct because the player stepped onto and stamped down on a felled opponent player's upper leg/hip area, using brutality.
6. In order for a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal to be upheld the Fast Track Tribunal must be satisfied, on a balance of probabilities, that the Referee made an Obvious Refereeing Error in dismissing the player.
7. An Obvious Refereeing Error, as stated in Annexe F to the Judicial Panel Protocol 2021/22, is defined as being an error at a match by a Referee or a Match Official which is clear or self-evident, or easily perceived.
8. In IFAB Laws of the Game, Violent Conduct is defined as follows:-

"Violent Conduct is when a player uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball, or against a team-mate, team official, Match Official, spectator or any other person, regardless of whether contact is made.

In addition, a player who, when not challenging for the ball, deliberately strikes an opponent or any other person on the head or face with the hand or arm, is guilty of violent conduct unless the force used was negligible."

9. The Fast Track Tribunal considered all of the available evidence. The Fast Track Tribunal viewed the video footage and carefully considered the Claimant's written submission and the statements of the Referee and the player. Having done so, the Fast Track Tribunal found, on a balance of probabilities, that the player, after his challenge on his opponent, and following the opponent's fall to the ground, stepped on his opponent and, in doing so used brutality towards his opponent.
10. The Fast Track Tribunal further found that the Referee was well positioned to see the challenge and make his decision.
11. Accordingly, the Fast Track Tribunal determined that the Referee had not made an obvious refereeing error in concluding that the player's actions constituted Violent Conduct. The Referee's conclusion and decision to dismiss the player was not a clear, self-evident or easily perceived error.
12. Therefore, the Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be dismissed and that the sending off offence, and mandatory sanction, be re-imposed.
13. The determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all parties and is not subject to appeal.