

## WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



### IN THE MATTER OF A (WRONGFUL DISMISSAL) CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

**Alloa Athletic FC**

**on behalf of**

**Neil Parry**

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal, which convened on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 53<sup>rd</sup> minute of the Scottish Championship fixture, Alloa Athletic FC v Raith Rovers FC on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021, the Player was sent off 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 of the incident in question, a written submission and a statement from the Player.
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 had made a genuine attempt to defend his goal (as the goalkeeper) with his feet, in preference to diving at the foot of the opposition attacking player. They accepted, at the point of contact, the ball had passed the claimant.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining his reasoning for the dismissal. He submitted that the attacking Raith Rovers FC player took the ball around the goalkeeper, and is then tripped by the goalkeeper as he went to pass the ball into the net. The Referee submitted that he felt that the goalkeeper had not made a genuine attempt to play the ball hence his dismissal. He further elaborated that the goalkeeper had slightly, but clearly, lifted his leg and tripped the attacker whilst at the point of contact the ball was past the goalkeeper.
7. The Fast Track Tribunal viewed the video footage in both real time and slow motion of the incident and carefully considered the written submissions from the Claimant. It 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 were partially successful in demonstrating that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred.
9. The Fast Track Tribunal determined that the Referee had made an obvious refereeing error in concluding that Neil Parry of Alloa Athletic FC had tripped the opponent and denied an obvious goalscoring opportunity, thereby ordering his dismissal. It was clear to the Fast Track Tribunal that Neil Parry had made a genuine attempt to play the ball. They noted that in so doing he had impeded his opponent with the contact, albeit committing a foul which results in a penalty kick.

Neil Parry, Alloa Athletic FC

This is a cautionable offence rather than a sending off as there was a clear attempt to play the ball.

10. To support this determination the Fast Track Tribunal reviewed the video footage supplied by the claimant in real time and in slow motion. It was clear that Neil Parry had made an attempt to play the ball with his feet but his tackle was mistimed and simply impeded his opponent's progress. This did not meet the defined criteria for a sending off related to denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity as outlined in the IFAB Laws of the game and where the referee awarded a penalty kick:

*Where a player commits an offence against an opponent within their own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, the offender is cautioned if the offence was an attempt to play the ball; in all other circumstances (e.g. holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball etc.) the offending player must be sent off.*

11. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be partially upheld, with the red card rescinded and a caution to be recorded on the Player's records, for B1a Impedes an opponent with contact.
12. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.