

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Port Glasgow Juniors FC

on behalf of

Ronnie Wilson

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on the morning of 12th November 2025 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the West of Scotland Football League 3rd Division fixture between Girvan FC v Port Glasgow JFC played on 8th November 2025 the Player was dismissed from the field of play in the 79th minute by the Referee for A2: Violent Conduct.
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 from the Club and 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 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 violent conduct. They argued that the Player did not use his elbow at any point during the incident, had went shoulder to back on opponent and that the referees positioning was up-field of the incident and that he only turned round when opponent was on the ground.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was violent conduct. He stated that the Player had been running to catch up with play and threw his elbow with excessive force in an act of violent conduct and brutality, connecting with his opponents face and causing the opponent to fall to the ground.
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 violent conduct: (*ref IFAB Laws of the Game Glossary 2. Football Terms*)

Violent Conduct is an action, which is not a challenge for the ball, which uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent, or when a player deliberately strikes someone on the head or face unless the force used is negligible.

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. Having reviewed the video evidence submitted by the Claimants it was clear to the Fast Track Tribunal that the Claimants submission partially 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 clearly made contact with the back of his opponent causing him to fall. It was clear that he did not elbow the opponent as reported by the referee. The challenge was indeed a foul under B1c- recklessly tackles or challenges opponent, but not a red card or sending off offence.
10. 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 Tribunal were unanimous that the claimant had demonstrated that the referee made an obvious error.
11. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be upheld in part and the sending off offence be rescinded and be replaced with a yellow card on the player's record for B1c.
12. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.