

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Dumbarton FC

on behalf of

Brett Long

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on the evening of Tuesday 17th September 2024 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 8th minute of the Scottish League One fixture between Annan Athletic FC and Dumbarton FC on Saturday 14th September 2024, the player was sent off for A4 - Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or 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 and a written submission from the club.
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 not committed a foul in the incident leading to his dismissal. They contended that the opponent's touch pre-challenge had taken the ball towards the corner flag and away from the goal, there were covering defenders able to get back to cover should he have been able to retrieve the ball, and therefore the challenge did not deny a goal scoring opportunity.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining his reasoning for the dismissal. He submitted that the player had rushed out from his goal and without his challenge the opponent had a clear goal scoring opportunity. He believed there to be a clear opportunity to collect the ball and score into an empty net for the opponent.
7. The Fast Track Tribunal viewed video footage in real time of the incident leading to the dismissal. They also carefully considered the written submission from the Claimant.

Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimants were successful in demonstrating that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred.

Having reviewed the video evidence submitted by the Claimant, the Fast Track Tribunal were able to agree with the Claimant that a Refereeing Error had occurred. The touch from the attacking opponent immediately preceding the infringement by the player took the ball away from goal, and there was ample opportunity for a defender to cover this should he have been able to recover possession.

Brett Long, Dumbarton FC

The Fast Track Tribunal were provided with video evidence which gave a single angle view of the incident from distance.

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*).

The video footage supplied was clear that the touch from opponent took the ball well away from the goal, and it therefore did not present itself as a clear goal scoring opportunity.

Based on the above, the Fast Track Tribunal were unanimous that the Claimant demonstrated in their submission that the Referee had made an Obvious Error resulting in the wrongful dismissal of the player, and rescinded the red card and disciplinary sanction.

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