

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Whitehill Welfare FC

on behalf of

Marc Forsyth.

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Tuesday 20th February 2024 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 28th minute of the East of Scotland First Division fixture between Whitehill Welfare FC and Dunipace FC on Saturday 17th February 2024, the player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee 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 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 opposition an obvious goal scoring opportunity as the opponent did not have the ball under control and, in the time it would have taken to do so, the other Whitehill Welfare FC defender (number four) would have been in a position to make a challenge.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was A4 – Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity as defined by Law 12, took place when a ball was played over the top with the player being the only defender between the opponent and the goal. The player slipped and caught the opponent, blocking and slowing his forward momentum. The Referee was of the view that this denied the opponent a goal scoring opportunity.
7. The Fast Track Tribunal viewed the video footage of the incident and carefully considered the written submissions from the Claimants. It also 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 had been unsuccessful in demonstrating that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred, and were satisfied that had the player not impeded the opponent, he would have had a clear run 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 were of the view that

this Claim did not fall to be dealt with in terms of paragraph 13.21.8.1 of the Judicial Panel Protocol

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