

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Motherwell FC

on behalf of

Kofi Balmer.

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Tuesday 8th April 2025 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 26th minute of the Scottish Premiership fixture between Kilmarnock FC and Motherwell FC on Saturday 5th April 2025, the player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for A1 - Serious Foul Play.
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 cleared the ball upfield with his left foot and as he was pressed by his opponent there was subsequent natural contact.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was Serious Foul Play was decided following an on-field review by VAR, in which the player having played the ball followed through excessively with a high, straight leg, catching his opponent above the right knee and endangering the safety of the opponent.
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 Serious Foul Play.
8. Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimants had successfully demonstrated that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred. The player in clearing the ball, undertook a natural football move. The consequential contact with the opponent occurred as the opponent was pressing to try to block the clearance. The clearance by the player did not endanger the safety of his opponent, nor was it made using excessive force or brutality.
9. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be upheld and the sending off offence and original sanction should be rescinded.
10. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.