

## WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



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

**Airdrieonians FC (the Club)**

**on behalf of**

**Scott Robertson (the Player)**

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal, which convened on 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug 2018 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 12th minute of the fixture between Stenhousemuir FC v Airdrieonians FC on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018, 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 a goal scoring opportunity. They claimed that Scott Robertson got his foot to the ball in a focussed attempt to win the ball. They also claimed that No. 4 Jonathon Page was in line with play, 10-12 yards from the ball and making a direct run into the box.
6. The Referee provided a Referee Statement explaining the act which he decided was Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious 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:

Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity which states: Where a player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a deliberate handball offence the player is sent off wherever the offence occurs.

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.

A player, sent off player, substitute or substituted player who enters the field of play without the required referee's permission and interferes with play or an opponent and denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity is guilty of a sending-off offence.

The following must be considered:

- distance between the offence and the goal
  - general direction of the play
  - likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball
8. Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimants had unsuccessfully demonstrated that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred.

The Fast Track Tribunal was not convinced that the Referee had made an Obvious Refereeing Error in concluding that the challenge on the Stenhousemuir No. 11 by Scott Robertson was one where the Stenhousemuir No. 11 was denied an obvious goal scoring opportunity.

To support this Determination, the Fast Track Tribunal reviewed the single angle video footage supplied by the Claimant in real time and in slow motion. It noted that the direction of the ball did not change when the No. 11 was challenged by Mr Robertson. The No. 11 did not get an opportunity to run in on goal having been ahead of Mr Robertson with the ball under his control, at the point of being challenged. The Referee was well placed to see the offence. The footage provided was insufficient to demonstrate an Obvious Refereeing Error, which is the test that must be passed, for the Fast Track Tribunal to uphold the Claim. Furthermore, the Fast Track Tribunal did not accept that the Airdrieonians No.4 who was 10-12 yards from the challenge at point of contact was sufficiently close to prevent the no 11 attacking the goal from fashioning a goal scoring opportunity, had he been unhindered in his run on goal.

9. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be Dismissed and the sending off offence and mandatory sanction should be reimposed.
10. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.