

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

St Roch's FC

on behalf of

Callum Shields.

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on the morning of Wednesday 18th December 2024 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the West of Scotland First Division fixture between Kilbirnie Ladeside FC and St Rochs FC on Saturday 14th December 2024, the player was dismissed from the field of play in the 90th 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.
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 there was no excessive force or brutality in the challenge and that the players action was either careless or reckless at worst.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was violent conduct. He stated that the opponent had already played the ball, and the player had kicked the opponent on the back of his leg/achilles area. There was no attempt to play the ball he felt.
7. The Fast Track Tribunal viewed video footage 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.

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.

Having reviewed the video evidence submitted by the Claimants it was clear to the Fast Track Tribunal that the Claimants submission supported their view that the Referee made a clear and obvious error.

It was clear to the Fast Track Tribunal from the video submitted that there was no excessive force or brutality in the challenge, and that though the players challenge may have been after the ball had been

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played by his opponent, it merely impeded the opponent. The challenge was indeed a foul under B1a - Impedes an opponent with contact, but not a red card or sending off offence.

For a claim to be successful as per the Judicial Panel Protocol, 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'.

Based on this the Fast Track Tribunal were unanimous that the Claimant had partially demonstrated that the Referee made an obvious error.

The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be partially upheld, the sending off offence be rescinded, and be replaced with a yellow card on the players record for B1a.

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