

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Lochee United FC

on behalf of

Kerr Hay.

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on the evening of Tuesday 23rd December 2025 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the Midlands Premier Division League fixture between Dundee Downfield FC and Lochee United FC played on Saturday 20th December 2025, the player was dismissed from the field of play in the 87th minute by the Referee for A2: Violent Conduct - Headbutting/attempting to headbutt an opponent.
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 statements.
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 the player did not headbutt the opponent. They submitted that there was contact between the player and opponent, with the opponent walking towards the player. They alleged that there was verbal abuse from the opponent towards the player, and that the opponent tried to pull the player down before contact was made.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was Violent Conduct. He noted he had been alerted to an incident by his Assistant Referee (2). The statement submitted was from the AR2 in quotations as reported to the Referee. The AR2 described an incident around 30 yards from the goal-line that he had a clear and unobstructed view off. He noted that the player and his opponent were getting up from the ground from a previous challenge, and he saw the player commit an act of brutality, a headbutt upon his opponent. He alerted the Referee to this incident and the player was subsequently sent off for violent conduct. The Referee noted that he had not seen the incident as his back was to it.
7. The Fast Track Tribunal viewed video footage from a single angle on the opposite side of the park from 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 partially support their view that the Referee directed by the Assistant Referee, made a Clear and Obvious Error.

In reviewing the footage provided by the Claimant, it was noted that the footage quality from the Veo camera was poor around the incident, as the camera was some distance away. However the Fast Track Tribunal members saw no evidence of a headbutt on the opponent, though they did note the player barging into his opponent. This was a challenge that was indeed a foul under B11 – Commits any other offence(s) deemed by a match official to be unsporting behaviour, but it was not a red card or sending off offence.

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*).

Based on this the Fast Track Tribunal were unanimous that the Claimant had demonstrated that the Referee/Assistant 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 B11 – Commits any other offence(s) deemed by a match official to be unsporting behaviour.

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