



WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL

IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Rutherglen Glencairn FC

on behalf of

Thomas Miller

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Wednesday 11th May 2022 to determine this Claim.
2. In the 11th minute of the West of Scotland Premier Division fixture between Rutherglen Glencairn FC and Kirkintilloch Rob Roy FC, on Saturday 7th May 2022, 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 of IFAB Laws of the Game.
3. The Claimant submitted a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal on behalf of the player. In support of this Claim, the Claimant submitted video footage of the incident in question as well as statements of the player and witnesses.
4. In order for a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal to be upheld, the Fast Track Tribunal must be satisfied, on 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 tried to tuck his hands in when making an attempt to block an opponent players shot at goal.
6. The Referee provided a written statement confirming the act which he decided was the offence of Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by handball. In particular the Referee stated that the player moved his arms from his body to create a barrier between himself and his team's goal and made his body unnaturally bigger in doing so. The Referee stated that the player's movement resulted in the ball striking his arm and being stopped from going into the Claimant's goal.
7. The Fast Track Tribunal considered the meaning of "Obvious Refereeing Error", as stated in Annex F to the Judicial Panel Protocol 2021-22, being an error at a match by a Referee or a Match Official which is clear or self-evident, or easily perceived.
8. The Fast Track Tribunal also considered the definition from IFAB Laws of the Game in relation to Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity, as follows:
 - 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

Thomas Miller, Rutherglen Glencairn FC

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.
9. The Fast Track Tribunal carefully considered the video footage of the incident, as well as the various statements supplied by the Claimant and the Referee. Having done so, the Fast Track Tribunal found, on the balance of probabilities, that the player had moved his body and left arm in a way which made his body unnaturally bigger, as a result of which the opponent player's shot at goal struck the player's arm and was blocked from going into the Claimant's goal.
 10. The Fast Track Tribunal further found, on the balance of probabilities, that the Referee had not made an Obvious Referring Error in concluding that the player had denied the Claimant's opponent an obvious goal scoring opportunity and in, thereafter, dismissing the player.
 11. Therefore, the Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be dismissed and that the sending off offence, and mandatory sanction, be re-imposed.
 12. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to appeal.