

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Falkirk FC

on behalf of

Luke Graham.

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 9th minute of the Scottish Championship fixture between Ayr United FC and Falkirk FC on Saturday 14th December 2024, the player was sent off 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 of the incident in question and a written submission.
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 had not committed a foul in the incident leading to his dismissal. They contended that the opponents arm had played the ball and taken it away from both the player and opponent. They felt that the Match Officials came under undue influence from the opposition bench.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining his reasoning for the dismissal. He submitted that the player deliberately touched the ball with his hand under pressure from the attacking player. This took the ball away and given that there was no covering defender, distance to goal was short, the attacking player was denied an obvious goal scoring opportunity.
7. The Fast Track Tribunal viewed video footage in real time and slow motion from different angles of the incident leading to the dismissal. They also carefully considered the written submission from the Claimant.

Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimants were successful in demonstrating that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred.

Having reviewed the video evidence submitted by the Claimant, the Fast Track Tribunal were able to agree with the Claimant that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred. The attacking opponent appeared to make contact with the ball with his hand, rather than the player himself directly catching it.

The Fast Track Tribunal were provided with video evidence which gave different views of the incident from distance.

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'.

Luke Graham, Falkirk FC

The video footage supplied was clear that the touch came from the opponent. The Fast Track Tribunal did not agree with the Claimants submission that the Match Officials came under undue influence from the opposition bench.

Based on the above, the Fast Track Tribunal were unanimous that the Claimant demonstrated in their submission that the Referee had made an obvious error resulting in the wrongful dismissal of the player, and rescinded the red card and disciplinary sanction.

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