

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Celtic FC

on behalf of

Auston Trusty.

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Tuesday 24th February 2026 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 74th minute of the Scottish Premiership fixture between Celtic FC and Hibernian FC on Sunday 22nd February 2026, the player was dismissed from the field of play 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, written submissions, and the Fast Track Tribunal were provided with the VAR review footage including audio.
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 an opponent can be seen placing his arm on the player, restricting his movement, pulling on his shirt, therefore fouling the player. The player attempts to move and pull away, and when is unsuccessful, then uses his right arm to push through on the arm of the opponent in attempt to break away. At no point does the player (i) punch or attempt to punch the opponent, or (ii) strike him on the head or face. There was no excessive force used. Notably, the opponent was not injured, required no medical treatment or intervention, and continued to play on for the remainder of the match
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was Violent Conduct occurred when the player used excessive force to strike the arm of his opponent who was holding him. The Referee having initially deemed there to be no offence worthy of sanction, was recommended for an On-Field Review by VAR.
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 Violent Conduct.
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 player raises his arm above his head and strikes down on the opponent's arm. The Fast Track Tribunal agreed with the Referee that the force used by the player was excessive.
9. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be dismissed, and the sending off offence and original sanction should be re-imposed.

10. The Club made a further submission that the VAR Protocol was not correctly implemented and invited the Fast Track Tribunal to determine that the Incident and the subsequent sending-off should therefore be rendered invalid insofar as the actions taken were beyond the permitted scope (i.e. it was ultra vires). The Fast Track Tribunal agree with the VAR that the Referee made a Clear and Obvious Error and there was a serious missed incident when he decided initially not to sanction the player. The Referee clearly communicates the decision of no sanction to the VAR who then recommends a review to the Referee. The Referee undertakes the review and issues the sanction which was the subject of this wrongful dismissal Claim. The club are reminded of the definition of Obvious Refereeing Error in Annex B Definitions of the Judicial Panel Protocol which is "*Means an error at a match by a referee or a match official which is clear or self-evident, or easily perceived*", and the Fast Track Tribunal are entirely satisfied there was no Obvious Refereeing Error in the implementation of the VAR Protocol, and consequently rejected this further submission.
11. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.