

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A (WRONGFUL DISMISSAL) CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Linlithgow Rose FC

on behalf of

Liam Allison

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on the morning of Wednesday 7th December 2022 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 7th minute of the East of Scotland Football League Premier Division fixture; Lothian Thistle Hutchison Vale FC v Linlithgow Rose FC, played on Saturday 3rd December 2022, the player was sent off for A4: Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or goal scoring opportunity.
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 from the Club Secretary.
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 opponent in question appeared to lose control of the ball which passed across the players direction of travel resulting in a 'coming together' outside the box as the opponent cut across the player. They submitted that the opponent had mis-controlled the ball and was moving away from goal.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining his reasoning for the dismissal. He submitted that he had a clear and unobstructed view of the incident where the attacking opposition player was in control of the ball approximately 22 yards from goal. He believed that the player's challenge fouled the opponent who was bearing down on goal and who had a clear and obvious goal scoring opportunity. He noted that other Linlithgow Rose FC defenders were not close enough to play to apply any defence of the goal scoring opportunity and the attacker was close to the opposition goal with the ball under control.
7. The Fast Track Tribunal viewed video footage in real time and slow motion 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 unsuccessful in demonstrating that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred.

Having reviewed the video evidence submitted by the Claimant, the Fast Track Tribunal were unable to agree with the Claimant that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred.

From the angle presented, and after a number of viewings, both in real time and slow motion, it was clear that the player had fouled the opposing attacker. There was direct contact with the players arm grabbing at the opposing players shoulder, and the players legs catching his opponent in flight. They also noted

Liam Allison, Linlithgow Rose FC

that the Referee had a clear and direct view of the incident from a few yards away. The Fast Track Tribunal did not accept the Claimants view that the ball was mis-controlled before the foul has occurred.

The Fast Track Tribunal were provided with video evidence which gave a single angle view of the incident from distance.

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*).

The video footage supplied, after multiple reviews, showed a brief coming together of the player and attacker which was sufficient to tumble the attacking player. They did not at any point see the player take possession of the ball nor indeed attempt to play the ball. The Fast Track Tribunal noted that the Referee was close to the incident. He had a clear and unobstructed view to determine at the time that this was a foul and a red card offence.

Based on the above the Fast Track Tribunal were unanimous that the Claimant failed to demonstrate in their submission that the Referee had made an Obvious Error resulting in the wrongful dismissal of the player.

The Fast Track Tribunal did not believe this to be a frivolous claim, as considered under section 15.9 of the JPP, therefore no further sanction has been imposed.