

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Thornton Hibs FC

on behalf of

Stuart Drummond

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on the morning of 12th November 2025 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the East of Scotland Football League 1st Division fixture between Thornton Hibs FC v Easthouse Lilys FC played on 8th November 2025 the Player was dismissed from the field of play in the 52nd minute by the Referee for A1: Serious Foul Play- endangering safety of 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 a written statement from the Club.
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 Serious Foul Play. They noted he was focused on playing the ball and whilst his opponent headed it first, he did not make contact with his opponents face with his foot, nor was there reason for the opponent to fall to the ground holding his face.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was Serious Foul Play. He stated that the ball was in the air and that the Opponent got his head to the ball first, with the player kicking his opponent in the face as he challenged for the ball. He was 10 yards from the incident.
7. The Fast Track Tribunal viewed video footage from a single angle of the incident and carefully considered the written submissions from the Claimant. It also considered the definition from Laws of the Game in relation to serious foul play: (*ref IFAB Laws of the Game Glossary 2. Football Terms*)

A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of the opponent or uses excessive force or brutality must be sanctioned as serious foul play.
Any player who lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, side or behind, using one or both legs, with excessive force or endangers the safety of the opponent is guilty of serious foul play.
8. 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 supported their view that the referee made a clear and obvious error.

9. In reviewing the footage provided by the Claimant it confirmed that the Player clearly made contact with the side of his opponent causing him to fall. It was clear that he did not kick his opponent in the face as reported by the referee. The challenge was indeed a foul under B1c - recklessly tackles or challenges opponent, but not a red card or sending off offence.
10. 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 Tribunal were unanimous that the claimant had demonstrated that the referee made an obvious error.
11. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be upheld in part and the sending off offence be rescinded and be replaced with a yellow card on the player's record for B1c.
12. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.