

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Celtic FC

on behalf of

Hyun-Jun Yang.

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Tuesday 5th March 2024 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 16th minute of the Scottish Premiership fixture between Heart of Midlothian FC v Celtic FC on Sunday 3rd March 2024, the player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for A1 - Serious Foul Play.
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 written submissions.
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's conduct commences before the opponent initiated his movement, and does not constitute Serious Foul Play as described in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game. The player's conduct was neither a tackle, nor a challenge, nor a lunge from the front, from the side, or from behind using one or both legs. It was a genuine attempt, whilst in possession, to play the ball. The Claimant accepted that the player's foot was high, but that it was in the circumstances with what was required to maintain control of the ball. The Claimant submitted that the player's actions did not endanger the safety of an opponent, and noted that the opponent was not in fact injured and required no medical treatment, and continued to play the remainder of the match. The Claimant accepts that the challenge may have been considered careless or reckless, as the player did not give full regard to the potential danger to, or consequences for the opponent. The Claimant in their submission accepted the initial on-field decision of a caution was the correct decision.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was A1 - Serious Foul Play occurred after he was requested by the Video Assistant Referee to undertake an On-Field Review for a challenge by the player, and for which the Referee had issued a yellow card. Having viewed a number of images and video replays on the screen from various angles, the Referee observed the player lift his foot to head height to challenge his opponent who had run from in front of the player to head the ball. There was clear contact between the sole/studs of the players boot to his opponents face. The Referee adjudged that the player had endangered the safety of his opponent.
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 A1 - Serious Foul Play.

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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 height of the player's boot and proximity to the opponent's head and face met the criteria for the Referee to have sanctioned this as A1 - Serious Foul Play.
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 Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.