

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A FAST TRACK NOTICE OF COMPLAINT

Rangers FC ("Club)

Ryan Kent ("Player)

1. These are the Written Reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal, which convened on 4 April 2019.
2. A Fast Track Notice of Complaint was issued by the Compliance Officer to the Alleged Party in Breach on 2 April 2019. It alleged a breach of Disciplinary Rule 200 said to have occurred during the Scottish Premiership match between Celtic FC and Rangers FC on Sunday 31 March 2019.
3. It was alleged in the Fast Track Notice of Complaint that the Alleged Party's breach in behaviour were his actions in or around the 87th minute which were said to amount to Violent Conduct.
4. Evidence was put forward by the Compliance Officer, including the Fast Track Notice of Complaint: Statements of the referee and assistant referees, statements of 3 former match officials, player discipline report, written submissions by Compliance Officer and video clip.
5. The Breach was denied by the Alleged Party. Written submissions and video evidence were submitted on behalf of the Alleged Party.
6. A hearing took place at Hampden Park on 4 April 2019 at 3.00 pm.
7. The Alleged Party in Breach attended in person accompanied by Club representatives.
8. The Alleged Party in Breach, through his representatives, took issue with the competency of the Notice of Complaint averring that the charge as narrated specifying "striking on the head and/or face" was not supported by the video footage as required by the Judicial Panel Protocol 13.2.2. They also argued that the referral to match officials and former officials was also predicated on that erroneous specification in the complaint. That was rejected by the Compliance Officer who narrated that the Notice clearly specified a breach of Disciplinary Rule 200 and that the guidance in the Protocol was met. The Compliance Officer also argued that references to the match and former officials allowed for them to reject or interpret in any manner they so wished. She also argued that the Fast Track Tribunal similarly had authority to delete or amend in terms of Judicial Panel Protocol.10.8.4. Accordingly, she argued that sufficient evidence of a breach of Disciplinary Rule 200 through excessive force being used had been made.
9. The Fast Track Tribunal, having viewed the available footage of the incident and having considered the submissions from both parties decided that the Fast Track Notice of Complaint was competent. The Fast Track Tribunal accepted the Compliance Officer's submission that the breach was sufficiently specified and the video footage provided prima facie evidence of a breach of Disciplinary Rule 200.
10. Both parties then addressed the Fast Track Tribunal on the substantive issue of a breach of Disciplinary Rule 200. The Alleged Party in Breach gave evidence on his own behalf and along with his agents accepted that there had been a push but disputed the nature and severity of the contact and the area of the opponent's body where contact had been made. The Compliance

Officer referred to the statements of the 3 former match officials and the video clip that was shown, as well as referencing the statement and evidence of the player.

11. After due consideration of all the available evidence produced by both the Compliance Officer and from and on behalf of the Alleged Party in Breach, the Fast Track Tribunal found the Notice of Complaint proved.
12. The Fast Track Tribunal was satisfied that the evidence disclosed a breach of Disciplinary Rule 200 with contact being made with the neck area of the opponent and that itself constituted excessive force whilst not challenging for the ball, as specified within the rules.
13. The mandatory suspension for the offence is a 2 match suspension to commence immediately.
14. Determinations of a Fast Track Tribunal are final and binding and there is no right of Appeal.