

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Vale of Leven FC

on behalf of

Scott Cowan

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 West of Scotland Football League 4th Division fixture between Vale of Leven v St Peters FC played on 8th November 2025 the Player was dismissed from the field of play in the 12th minute 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 and a written statement from the Club and Player.
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 Violent Conduct. They argued that the Player did not grab their opponent around the neck and there was simple pushing and shoving that happens countless times during a match and goes unpunished. They contended that the opponent fell to the ground with the barest of contact. The Player submitted that he had been subject to a horrendous challenge where his opponent lunged from high stamping on his shin. He stated he merely shrugged his opponent out of his way and denied grabbing him by the neck.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was Violent Conduct. He stated that the Player reacted to a challenge in a violent and aggressive manner by putting both hands around the neck of his opponent in a clear act of brutality. He noted he was 5 yards from the incident with a clear and uninterrupted view.
7. The Fast Track Tribunal viewed video footage 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 violent conduct: *(ref IFAB Laws of the Game Glossary 2. Football Terms)*

Violent Conduct is an action, which is not a challenge for the ball, which uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent, or when a player deliberately strikes someone on the head or face unless the force used is negligible.

8. 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 Claimants it was clear to the Fast Track Tribunal that the Claimant's submission did not support their view that the referee made a clear and obvious error.

9. In reviewing the footage provided by the Claimant it was noted that the footage quality was poor and the camera was some distance from the incident. There was some evidence that the Player did raise his hands though the quality of the footage was such it was not clear to the Fast Track Tribunal members what actually happened in the incident leading to the player's dismissal. The Tribunal noted also that the referees position corroborates his statement that he was within 5 yards of the incident and he appeared to have a clear view of it. It was therefore difficult for the Tribunal to contradict the submission from the referee or support the claimant's view that the referee had made a clear and obvious error.
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 not demonstrated that the referee made an obvious error and therefore their claim was Dismissed.
11. The 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.
12. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.