

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL CAUTION CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Name of Club (the Club) Aberdeen F C

on behalf of

Name of Player (the Player) Lewis Ferguson

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Wednesday 24th March 2021 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the forty-fourth minute of the Scottish Premiership fixture between Dundee United FC and Aberdeen FC on Saturday 20th March 2021 the Player was cautioned by the Referee for Simulation.
3. The Claimants submitted a Claim of Wrongful Caution 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 Caution 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 received the ball inside the opposition penalty area and the opponent challenged him from behind and knocked him off his feet. They stated that there was no act of simulation by the Player and no unnatural movement by him.
6. The Club, in addition to video footage of the incident, asked the Tribunal to consider comparative footage of what they stated was a similar incident in another game which had a different outcome.
7. The Tribunal unanimously agreed that this was inappropriate and declined to view the footage as it had no relevance to the grounds of the Claim before this Tribunal
8. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was Simulation arose as the ball was played to the Player he took a touch, felt absolute minimal contact, exaggerated that contact, and fell to the ground in an attempt to deceive him (the Referee) into awarding a penalty kick.
9. 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 simulation.
10. Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimants had successfully demonstrated that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred. The Tribunal were unanimous in the view that there was substantial contact made by the opponent when

challenging the Player and knocking him to the ground, and that there was no act of simulation by the Player.

11. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be upheld and the original sanction should be rescinded, and that no fee should be paid.
12. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.