

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Ashfield FC

on behalf of

Colin Leverage

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Wednesday 26th October 2022 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 42nd minute of the West of Scotland League Cup fixture between Ashfield FC and Vale of Clyde FC on Saturday 22nd October 2022, the player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for committing a handball offence to deny the opponent a goal scoring opportunity.
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 did not commit a handball offence as the ball did not strike his hand or arm but struck him low down on the right side of his stomach.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was denying an opponent a goal scoring opportunity by deliberate handball. He stated that the player used his hand to deliberately block a powerful shot from an opponent which was heading towards goal.
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 A4 Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity as defined by Law 12.
8. Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimants had been unsuccessful in demonstrating that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred, as the video evidence provided was insufficient to allow the Fast Track Tribunal to decide that an obvious refereeing error had occurred.
9. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be dismissed, and the sending off offence and original sanction be re-imposed. The Fast Track Tribunal did not deem the Claim to be suitable to be dealt with in terms of Judicial Panel Protocol paragraph 13.21.8.1.
10. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.