

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Inverness Athletic U18s (the Club)

on behalf of

Fraser Coyne (the Player), together “the Claimants”

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on 30 September 2025 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 82nd minute of the Highland Football U18 League North fixture between Wick Academy U18s and Inverness Athletic U18s on 27 September 2025, the Player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for 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 Claimants’ submission was that the Player was in control of the ball at the time of the incident and that the players involved simultaneously made sliding challenges. The Claimants submitted that contact occurred between the players as a result of the players colliding when they both made contact with the ball. The Claimants further submitted that the Player did not have a high foot, exposed studs or challenge with excessive force. It was submitted that the Player did not endanger the safety of an opponent and that a yellow card would have been a more appropriate sanction.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was Serious Foul Play. The Referee reported that the Player used severe force in the challenge in question. He explained that the Player was out of control and made contact with an opponent above the ankle.
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 Serious Foul Play as follows:

A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality must be sanctioned as serious foul play.

Any player who lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side or from behind using one or both legs, with excessive force or endangers the safety of an opponent is guilty of serious foul play.

8. Having considered all the evidence, the Fast Track Tribunal decided that the Claimants had unsuccessfully demonstrated that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred. On balance, the

Fast Track Tribunal considered that the evidence provided to it by the Club did not show that a clear and obvious error had been made. The angle of the footage did not in the Fast Track Tribunal's view support the Claimants' version of events relating to the challenge. Rather, the Fast Track Tribunal considered that the Player had lunged and used excessive force in the challenge. The Fast Track Tribunal therefore had insufficient evidence before it to uphold the Claimants' appeal.

9. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be dismissed and the sending off offence and original sanction should be reimposed.
10. With the Claim having been dismissed, the Fast Track Tribunal considered whether the Claim fell within the scope of Rules 11.9.37 and 11.9.38 of the Judicial Panel Protocol such that an additional match suspension should be imposed. The Fast Track Tribunal considered that the Claim did not merit the imposition of an additional match suspension.
11. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.