

WRITTEN REASONS OF THE FAST TRACK TRIBUNAL



IN THE MATTER OF A WRONGFUL DISMISSAL CLAIM BROUGHT BY:

Hill of Beath Hawthorn FC

on behalf of

Joe Dawson.

1. These are the written reasons for a Determination made by a Fast Track Tribunal which convened on Tuesday 26th August 2025 to deliberate this Claim.
2. In the 86th minute of the East of Scotland Premier League fixture between Jeanfield Swifts FC and Hill of Beath Hawthorn FC on Saturday 21st August 2025, the player was dismissed from the field of play by the Referee for A1 - 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 did not make contact with the ankle of an opponent using his studs. The Claimant's submission was broadly that the Referee's report offered an inaccurate description of the incident. The Claimants submitted that the player did not lunge toward an opponent, and did not use excessive force.
6. The Referee provided a statement explaining the act which he decided was Serious Foul Play. The Referee reported that the player challenged an opponent at speed, lunged towards the tackle, used excessive force in the challenge, and (despite making contact with the ball) made contact with his opponents ankle on the follow-through using his studs. The Referee considered that the player endangered the safety of an opponent.
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 successfully demonstrated that an Obvious Refereeing Error had occurred. The Fast Track Tribunal did not agree with the Referee's view that the player made contact with the opponent's

ankle with his studs, and that he used excessive force in the challenge. The Fast Track Tribunal's view was that the challenge was reckless; as opposed to one that involved a lunge, excessive force or the endangering of the safety of an opponent.

9. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal was that the Claim be partially upheld, the sending off offence and original sanction should be rescinded, and that the original sanction be replaced with a caution under category B1(c) Recklessly tackles or challenges an opponent.
10. The Determination of the Fast Track Tribunal is final and binding on all Parties and is not subject to Appeal.