

DISCIPLINARY & ETHICS COMMITTEE OF FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA
DETERMINATION IN THE FOLLOWING MATTER:

Player and club	Jason Geria, Melbourne Victory FC
Alleged offence	Offence No. 3, Serious Foul Play
Date of offence	20 April 2024
Occasion of offence	Match between Melbourne Victory FC and Brisbane Roar FC
Date of Disciplinary Notice	22 April 2024
Basis the matter is before the Disciplinary Committee	A referral: see clause 3.3(a) and 11.23(b) of the A-Leagues Disciplinary Regulations
Date of Hearing	29 April 2024
Date of Determination	29 April 2024 (oral pronouncement of determination) 30 April 2024 (written reasons for determination)
Place of Determination	Sydney
Disciplinary Committee Members	Anthony Lo Surdo SC, Chair Stephen Free SC David Barrett

A. INTRODUCTION AND JURISDICTION

1. The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee of Football Australia (**Committee**) has jurisdiction under clause 4.4 of the "A-Leagues Disciplinary Regulations" applicable to the 2023/24 A League season (**the Disciplinary Regulations**) to determine matters which have been referred to it pursuant to the Disciplinary Regulations. When a matter is duly referred, clause 3.3(a) provides that the Committee must determine the matter and impose such sanctions as are authorised and appropriate to the determination.
2. In this matter there has been a referral under clause 11.23(b) of the Disciplinary Regulations. Prior to a referral under clause 11.23(b) Jason Geria (**the Player**) had been given a direct red card by the referee. The consequence is that the Player will have an automatic Mandatory Match Suspension (**MMS**) (in this case 1 match). No part of the above process is able to be referred to the Committee and hence cannot be appealed.
3. Further, the Match Review Panel (**MRP**) has formed the view that, on the material available to it, an additional sanction of one match over and above the MMS is warranted. The Player has elected not to accept the proposed additional sanction.
4. The function of the Committee in such circumstances is solely to determine the question of whether an additional sanction should be imposed over and above the MMS, and if so, what that additional sanction should be. In doing so it is not constrained by the recommendation of the MRP and can impose a greater sanction if it thinks fit, or a lesser one. Guilt or innocence is not up for review. That issue

has been finally determined by the earlier process. The Committee has no jurisdiction to deal with that question and will not express any view on it.

5. The Committee is satisfied that it has jurisdiction to deal with this referral. Further, neither party contended to the contrary.

B. THE HEARING

6. On the evening of 29 April 2024, the Committee heard the referral of the matter by AVL.
7. Disciplinary Counsel was Mr Ivan Griscti, of Counsel, and the Player was represented by Mr John Didulica, a lawyer and the Club's Director of Football.
8. Disciplinary Counsel relied upon the following evidence:
 - (a) video footage of the incident;
 - (b) the referee's report;
 - (c) a disciplinary notice; and
 - (d) the Player's disciplinary record.
9. Mr Didulica for the Player, relied upon the following evidence:
 - (a) video footage of the incident;
 - (b) a written statement from the Player, dated 24 April 2024;
 - (c) character references provided by Caroline Carnegie, Managing Director of the Club and Cameron Watson, Player Development Manager, Professional Footballers Association, each dated 25 April 2024;
 - (d) an email from Player Corey Brown, dated 26 April 2024;
 - (e) the Player's disciplinary record;
 - (f) an undated report from Dr Kane Middleton, Senior Sports Biomechanist and Senior Lecturer at La Trobe University; and
 - (g) Short oral evidence provided by the Player in which he said that his intent in effecting the challenge on Player Brown was to push the ball out of play for a throw-in.
10. The Committee was also assisted by the written submissions of each of the parties to which they were afforded the opportunity of addressing orally.
11. At the conclusion of the hearing (following deliberations and pursuant to clause 22.4 of the Disciplinary Regulations) the Committee verbally announced the result, being the MMS. These are the written reasons of the Committee in the "*shortest form reasonably practicable*" (see clause 22.3(c) of the Disciplinary Regulations).

C. FACTS

12. In or around the 51st minute of the game, Player Brown of Brisbane FC was in possession of the ball and engaging in a promising attack from within his own half. He was dribbling down the left side of the field, close to the sideline. The Player approached Player Brown from the side and at some speed to challenge for the ball. As he approached Player Brown, the Player can be seen on the video footage to leave his feet and lunge at Player Brown with his left outstretched leg toward the

ball. The first point of contact appears to have been the edge of the ball, with the Player's left foot then sliding off the ball and into Player Brown. The studs of the Player's left foot made contact with Player Brown in the area above the ankle and below the shin bringing that player heavily to ground. Player Brown needed on field assistance but resumed play thereafter and played for the duration of the match.

13. The video discloses the Player approaching Player Brown and apparently enquiring after his welfare prior to Player Brown receiving on-field assistance. This is confirmed by the email from Player Brown of 26 April 2024 in which he relevantly states that the Player "...stayed with me on the field and checked on my welfare until I was able to receive physio treatment."
14. The circumstances leading up to the Player's dismissal from the field of play are confirmed in the referee's report in which the tackle is described as making "contact with studs above the ankle and endangered the safety of the opponent" and from the video footage of the incident which we have had the benefit of seeing.
15. The referee initially issued a yellow card but, after an on-field VAR review, rescinded that card and issued a direct red card for an R1 - Serious Foul Play. The Player left the field of play with no further incident.
16. The events leading up to and culminating in the sending off of the Player are depicted in the following images taken from the video footage.

Image 1: the Player approaching the ball at speed.

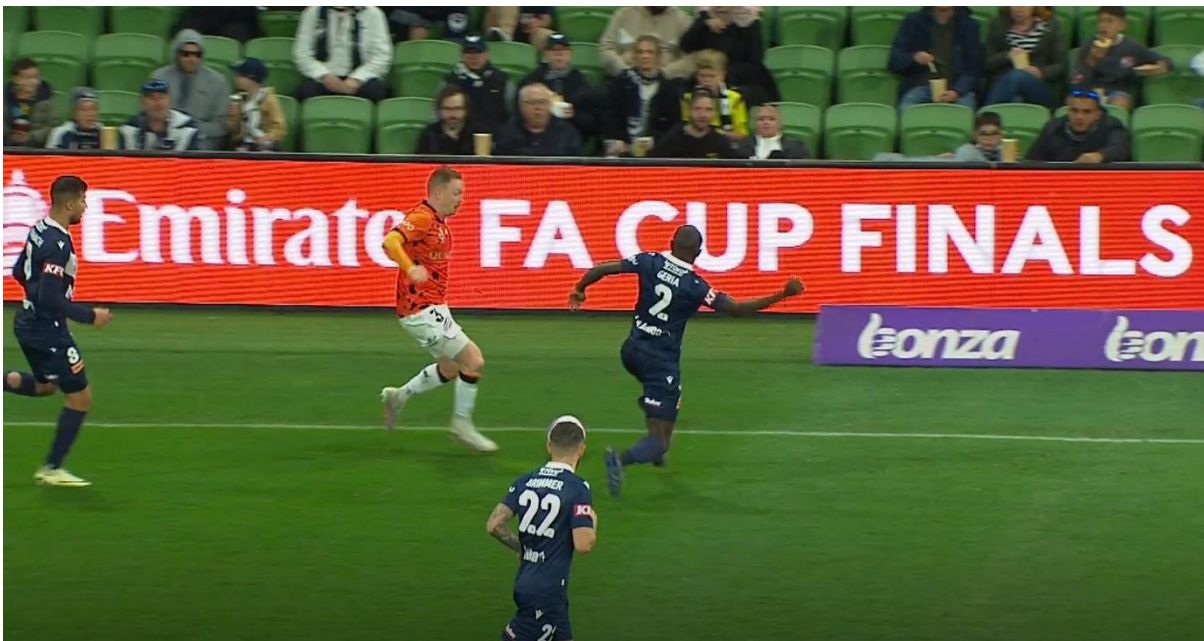


Image 2: the Player lunging for the ball with his left leg and foot extended.



Image 3: the moment of impact between the Player with his outstretched left foot with studs showing.



D. SUBMISSIONS

17. What follows is a summary of the parties' written submissions. It does not necessarily encompass every contention put forward by the parties. To the extent that it omits any contentions, the Committee notes that it has considered all of the evidence and arguments submitted by the parties, even if there is no specific reference to those submissions in the following summary.
18. The matters submitted by Disciplinary Counsel included:

- the video footage shows Player Brown, in his defensive half running along the left touchline with the ball at his feet. As Player Brown ran towards the halfway line, the Player approached from the right and, when close, slid in towards Player Brown on his right knee/lower leg with left leg and boot raised above the turf. The Player's boot/studs are behind the ball as forceful contact is made with Player Brown's left leg;
- the challenge by the Player comprised "Serious Foul Play" because the Player sought to challenge for the ball in a manner that had no regard for the safety of his opponent who, running with the ball at his feet, was in a vulnerable position. The Player lunged in with excessive force in a manner that endangered the safety of his opponent;
- intent is not a necessary element of serious foul play; the key issue is the risk to the safety of the opposition player;
- the Player slid in with his left boot extended and off the ground such that it follows his studs were also off the ground;
- Player Brown was exposed to significant risk of injury by the tackle. The Player's studs appear from the video footage to make contact with Player Brown's left leg. The nature of the challenge and the contact exposed Player Brown to a risk of serious injury;
- the sanction ought to recognise the potential for harm and, importantly, send a message of deterrence to players;
- the need to protect players in vulnerable positions has been recognised many times in decisions of this Committee including *Young, Mandi, O'Donovan, Grant, Urena, Ansell, Mourdoukoutas, Sasse, Topor-Stanley, Isaïas* and *Simmons*;
- as has been observed in previous decisions, each case turns on its own merits and circumstances. The most similar case to the present appears to be that of *Mourdoukoutas* (17 June 2021) and, to a lesser extent *Ansell* (20 May 2021) and *Simmons* (9 February 2024).
- Mourdoukoutas was suspended for two games. Ansell was handed a single match suspension. In his case, Ansell kept his extended foot low and in fact won the ball, albeit in a manner that was dangerous to his opponent. In *Simmons*, the player was handed a three-match suspension.
- there are no extenuating circumstances relevant to the commission of the offence;
- the Player is 30 years of age and has a senior professional playing record of over 10 years. His disciplinary record indicates that he has played 263 games in the A-League and J2 A-League, and associated cup competitions, over 11 seasons. In this time he has received 45 yellow cards and two indirect red cards, in addition to the direct red card presently under consideration;
- the video indicates that following the incident, after play was stopped, the Player showed concern for Player Brown's well-being and, after receiving

the red card, the Player left the field of play immediately and without complaint; and

- in all the circumstances, a two match suspension is warranted.

19. The matters submitted on behalf of the Player included:

- Player Brown resumed his place on the field immediately after treatment and played out the entirety of the game inferring that the extent of the contact was at the lower end of the scale of seriousness.
- that the tackle should be characterised as, at most, negligent which would place the offence at the lowest end of the scale (namely, one match) in terms of sanction;
- the tackle was not intentional as the Player's focus was at all times on the ball and he saw an opportunity to "*engage*" after seeing Player Brown make a "*heavy touch*". This was not a gratuitous or over-zealous challenge where there was no reasonable chance to win the ball, but a tackle of fair and reasonable force that was there to be made and entirely appropriate in a football sense;
- the Player recalls making "*contact with the ball with the instep and sole of my left foot*" and did not recall having made contact with Player Brown until he saw the replay on the in-stadium screen. This is again consistent with the nature of the awkward contact with the ball, which was with his non-preferred foot toward the top of the ball which subsequently caused it to cannon off the ball;
- the video footage confirms that the Player lunged solely for the ball in a reasonable, responsible and controlled manner (as opposed to using excessive or brute force), made contact with the ball before Player Brown reached the ball, that he made contact with Player Brown only after making contact with the ball, one cannot be comfortably satisfied where the point of contact on Player Brown is made, and the ultimate contact with Player Brown, albeit with enough force to justify serious foul play, was a consequence not of any intentional or reckless act by the Player but rather his foot involuntarily being "*squirted*" sharply sideways as a consequence of the unorthodox manner in which his foot, the ball and the pitch came together;
- two analogous cases are *Grant* (2020) and *Ansell* (2021). The decision of the Committee in *Grant* was a 2-match sanction and in *Ansell* it was a 1-match sanction. It was submitted that the present is more closely aligned with *Ansell* than *Grant*. In *Ansell*, the player was deemed to have made contact with the ball and posed less danger to the opposing player than in *Grant*;
- as outlined by the Player in his written statement and consistent with the video footage, the Player returned to assess whether Player Brown had been injured once it was clear there had been contact made. Further, the Player exchanged messages with Player Brown immediately after the match and met with that player's father the following day and they openly

discussed the incident. The text exchange confirms the Player's concern for Player Brown's health and he apologises which apology Player Brown accepted;

- the Player left the field of play immediately after being issued the red card without remonstrance. This conduct, contemporaneous with the incident, unequivocally demonstrates remorse and contrition;
- the conduct of the Player immediately after the incident is consistent with the sportsmanship and fair play which is characteristic of the Player's career as a footballer and is supported not only by the character statements provided by Ms Carnegie and Mr Watson but also by the Player's disciplinary record which discloses that he has played 263 senior matches of football on the international stage, the A-League and in Japan across more than a decade. Through this period, this is the first occasion that the Player has been issued with a direct red card. This is additionally notable in that the Player has played his entire career as a right full back or central defender, positions where tackling, physicality and last-ditch efforts to prevent attacks are required weekly. It demonstrates the Player's historic commitment to playing within the guardrails of the sport and the depth of respect he has for his opponents/peers and their safety. Further, the Player has never committed a breach of the National Code of Conduct or any other FA Statute that applies to the behaviour of registered footballers;
- the Committee has at various times considered that a player's disciplinary record was a factor in determining the appropriateness of a sanction, including the recent cases of *Simmons* (2024), *Arslan* (2024), *Roux* (2024), *Ansell* (2021) and *Grant* (2020). In *Simmons*, the Committee held the relatively short tenure of his career (21 games) meant his clean record was neutral. In *Grant*, the Committee, in reducing a sanction for serious foul play from three matches to two matches, gave weight to the player's "... exceptional disciplinary record...and the fact his likelihood of re-offending is negligible", confirming the importance attached to Grant's "exemplary" record;
- significantly, Grant's record – as impressive as it is – falls short of the Player's. Grant had participated in 178 professional matches prior to receiving his first direct red card whereas the Player has participated in 263 matches, 85 matches more than Grant;
- in the case of *Arslan*, the Committee stated it was required to consider "the player's good character". In *Arslan*, the Committee issued the Player with a sanction of three matches when a sanction of greater than four matches was deemed appropriate by the MRP (in line with Regulation 11.22). Accordingly, there was a significant reduction from the starting point set by the MRP (from at least five matches to three);
- whilst each matter clearly turns on its own facts and context, the Committee determined that *Arslan* was supported by "extremely

impressive character references". Accordingly, it follows that such good character played some role in the significant reduction afforded to Arslan. To this end, the Player relies on character references from the Club's long-standing Managing Director, Caroline Carnegie, and from Cameron Watson of the Professional Footballers Australia, the peak body representing the professional interests and wellbeing of Australia's elite footballers. The references from Ms Carnegie and Mr Watson each speak for themselves and reinforce the picture of the Player being the very best of what our game and our footballers have to offer. He is a player of huge repute and universal respect, as much for his values off the pitch as for the sportsmanlike way he plays his football – his stellar disciplinary record across more than a decade, being a monument to this;

- in the context of extenuating circumstances, the Player submits that the determinative factor behind the contact that constituted the offence was his foot involuntarily being "squirted" sharply sideways as a consequence of the unorthodox manner in which his foot, the ball and the ground came together and that this lessens the magnitude of the offending. In support of that submission, the Player relies upon an undated report of Dr Kane Middleton, Senior Sports Biomechanist and Senior Lecturer at La Trobe University; and
- the consequences of imposing the two match sanction as proposed by the MRP on the Player is that the Player would be ineligible to play in the Elimination Final. Whilst the impact of a sanction on a player is not expressly set out as a consideration pursuant to Disciplinary Regulation 13.2, it is also, based on its language, not expressly precluded as a matter the Committee can consider. Sentences should be proportionate to the offence. In this instance, given the nature of the offending and no express preclusion to the consideration of the impact of the sanction on the Player, it is submitted that the principles of proportionality and parsimony would not be achieved if the Player was forced to miss an Elimination Final in addition to over 45 minutes of the match against Brisbane Roar and the final match of the season against Western Sydney Wanderers; and
- accordingly, the Committee can (and should) reduce the sanction to one match. Even in the event the Committee prefers the view of the Disciplinary Counsel in relation to the nature of the offence, it was submitted that the Player's (a) authentic and contemporaneous remorse, (b) disciplinary record which is of the absolute highest order in Australian football, and (c) proven good character over more than a decade as one of Australia's most respected professionals, warrant a reduction from the two matches set by the MRP to a one match sanction or the suspension of that second match (for activation on terms deemed appropriate by this Committee).

20. Disciplinary Counsel made the following submissions in reply, in summary, that:

- the fact that Player Brown was able to play the game out without being substituted is indicative of good fortune but does not permit an inference

to be drawn that the extent of the contact was at the lower end of the scale as the Player submits;

- there is no sound basis, as the video footage makes clear, to conclude that any contact with the ball caused the Player's leg to deviate, thereby giving rise to the contact with Player Brown's leg. An alteration in direction is not discernible from the video and the opinion provided by Dr Middleton provides conclusions without any reasoning;
- it is apparent from the video that the Player lunged and slid in attempting to tackle with a raised foot and some force. It was a dangerous tackle and exposed Player Brown to a risk of serious injury and should be viewed accordingly;
- like the case of *Grant*, the action of the Player in tackling or challenging for the ball showed disregard for the danger to, or consequences for, the safety of Player Brown and used excessive force;
- the Player's disciplinary record is positive, although it falls short of being described as "exceptional". The Player has received 45 yellow cards over 263 matches being an average of a yellow card approximately every 5.8 matches. The Player has also received two indirect red cards prior to this direct red card;
- the comparison to *Grant* is incorrect. Grant had played 250 professional matches (178 with the A-League to that point) and had received 35 yellow cards and no red cards at all prior to the incident. Grant averaged a yellow card approximately every 7.1 matches;
- it is acknowledged that the Player was remorseful after the incident and that the character references are in his favour;
- the potential to miss a finals match is not a matter that the Committee ought to consider in determining sanction. It is not a matter that the Committee has considered previously and it is significant in this regard that such a matter is expressly said not to comprise an "exceptional circumstance" under the Disciplinary Regulations and, consistent with this policy position, it should not be a factor taken into account in determining sanction; and
- finally, this is not a matter which warrants a partially suspended sanction which is generally considered appropriate where the circumstances or the nature of the offence is unusual (see *Amor*).

21. Neither party contended that there were "Exceptional Circumstances" for the purposes of clause 11.23(b)(ii) of the Disciplinary Regulations.

E. CONSIDERATION AND FINDINGS

22. The sole issue is what, if any, sanction should be imposed over the MMS.

23. The Committee has made plain on many occasions that an important consideration is the safety of all players and, relevant to these circumstances, the safety of an opposing player.

24. The Laws of the Game (**LOTG**) state, “[a]lthough accidents occur, the Laws should make the game as safe as possible. This requires players to show respect for their opponents and referees should create a safe environment by dealing strongly with those who whose play is too aggressive and dangerous.”
25. Serious foul play is defined in the LOTG as:
“A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality...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.”
26. Further, the LOTG define “reckless” as “any action (usually a tackle or challenge) by a player which disregards (ignores) the danger to, or consequences for, the opponent.”
27. Clause 13.2 of the Disciplinary Regulations requires that when determining any appropriate sanction in accordance with the Range at the Table of Offences, a Judicial Body, which includes the Committee, may consider:
 - (a) the nature and severity of the Offence, including whether it was intentional, negligent or reckless;
 - (b) the Player’s past record and whether or not this is a repeated Offence;
 - (c) the remorse of the Player; and
 - (d) any extenuating circumstances relevant to the commission of the Offence.

The nature and severity of the offence

28. Having regard to the video footage, the submissions made by Disciplinary Counsel and those made on behalf of the Player, and the Player’s written statement, the Committee accepts that the Player did not act with any intention to commit a foul or contact the opponent, and that his only intention, having seen Player Brown take “...a heavier touch of the ball that took it out of his close control” was “...to quickly engage and stop the attack...I used my left (...non-preferred foot) to lunge across to effect the tackle...” and in doing so, his aim was to push the ball out for a throw-in.
29. However, as submitted by Disciplinary Counsel, intent is not a necessary element to serious foul play and the primary issue is the risk of safety to an opposing player. That is not to say that the absence of intent is irrelevant. As is plain from cl 13.2 of the Disciplinary Regulations, in considering the nature and severity of the Offence the Committee is entitled to consider whether the offence was intentional, negligent or reckless. In considering the spectrum of forms of “serious foul play”, the absence of intent therefore points generally to a less severe form.
30. Whilst, in this case, the challenge did not cause serious injury to Player Brown it nevertheless had the potential to do so and the nature and severity of the challenge must be viewed in that light.
31. The Player approached the ball at speed to challenge Player Brown for the ball and to stop a promising attack. To win the ball, the Player lunged from the side with his left leg and studs showing. The Committee accepts that the first contact was with the ball, as the Player had intended. However, forceful contact was then made with the studs of the Player’s boot to Player Brown just above the ankle and below the

shin area. This outcome is an illustration of the inherent risks that arise when a player leaves the ground and lunges with the studs raised into a challenge, even if the ball is being played.

32. The Committee is comfortably satisfied that the incident caused an unacceptable risk of injury to Player Brown who was in a position of vulnerability. This brought the conduct within the definition of serious foul play but at the lower end of reckless.
33. As to comparable cases, the Committee has often observed that each case turns on its own merits and circumstances and thus comparing incidents alone without being cognisant of all the circumstances that informed the Committee's reasoning process is of little assistance in achieving the objective of consistency in decision making.
34. The Committee accepts that the tackles in *Grant*, *Mourdoukoutas*, *Ansell* and *Simmons* bear some similarity to the present in that they each involved lunging challenges for the ball. There are also points of contrast with those previous incidents. For example, the angle of the challenge in the present case involved a challenge on the ball from the side of the line being run by the opponent. As a general observation, this type of tackle tends to involve a lower risk of collision with the opponent than a front on challenge between two players running at the ball from opposite directions.
35. The type and seriousness of the offending is only one factor that the Committee is required to take into consideration in determining the appropriate sanction.

The Player's Disciplinary Record

36. The Player has played professionally since debuting in the A-League in season 2012/13. He has played exclusively in the A-League for Perth Glory and Melbourne Victory except for seasons 2018 – 2020 where he played for JEF United Chiba in the J2 League. He has also competed in the FFA Cup, the Emperor's Cup and the AFC Champions League.
37. Over the course of his professional career spanning some 11 seasons, the Player has played at least 263 games in which he has received a total of 45 yellow cards, 2 indirect red cards and only one direct card being for the offence the subject of these proceedings.
38. The offending in *Grant* was more serious than the Player's. Grant had played fewer professional games than the Player at the time of the offending for which he had received 35 yellow cards and no red cards. The Player has received more yellow cards than *Grant* but in a professional career that, at the time of the offending, was longer than Grant's career at the time of his offending. The Committee notes that unlike *Grant*, the Player has received two indirect red cards but like Grant no direct red cards apart from that the subject of the offending.
39. On balance, we consider the Player's disciplinary record to be impressive especially as (like *Grant*) the Player has played his entire career as a right full back or central defender, positions where the Committee accepts, physicality and last-ditch efforts to prevent attacks are regularly required exposing players to heightened risks of being cautioned or sent-off.

The Player's Remorse

40. The video footage shows the Player approaching Player Brown shortly after the incident enquiring as to his welfare before he obtained on-field medical assistance. So much is also confirmed in an email from Player Brown, dated 26 April 2024 in which Player Brown said, in part, that the Player, *"...stayed with me on the field and checked on my welfare until I was able to receive physio treatment."*
41. Further, the Player reached out to Player Brown by text on the evening following the incident again enquiring as to his welfare and being told that he was *"alright...just flesh wounds"* and to Player Brown's father the following day to check on his son's welfare.
42. Each of these actions are consistent with the Player being truly and sincerely remorseful for the tackle and is consistent with his character which we address below.

The Player's Character

43. Player Brown refers to the Player as *"...a very good person."*
44. Ms Carnegie describes the Player as *"...an outstanding human being, who is much loved by the Melbourne Victory community. He is always happy to be a part of our community programs, and to also assist us with marketing the Club, having consistently over his journey with us, participated in our membership campaigns, interviews, community and school programming, and more, without any hesitation"* and as having *"...a wonderful character and is responsible, respectful and trustworthy."*
45. Mr Watson describes the Player as being a *"...hard-working, honest, dedicated, and professional individual..."* who *"...illustrates the values that should define our sport: respect and courage. In over 244 professional matches, [the Player's] conduct has been exemplary, and he has been a consummate professional and role model for his peers."*
46. The Player is obviously well-liked and respected in the football community to which he has made a significant contribution both on and off the field.

Extenuating Circumstances

47. The Player submits that the determinative factor behind the contact was his foot involuntarily being "squirted" sharply sideways because of the unorthodox way his foot, the ball and the ground came together and that this lessens the magnitude of the offending.
48. While the Committee does accept that the first contact was with the ball, it is not obvious from the video-footage that the Player's foot came into contact with the ball in the particular manner in which he describes or that it was "determinative" of the contact. What was determinative was that the Player approached Player Brown at speed and lunged to prevent a promising attack.
49. Whenever a player leaves their feet and lunges towards an opponent, especially at speed, a player risks losing control over the challenge and, in doing so, may expose an opponent to risk of injury as was the case here. That is what occurred here, a fact that Dr Middleton's report tends to confirm.

50. Dr Middleton states that having executed the slide tackle with his left foot, the contact between the Player's foot and the ball caused his hip to abduct (move away from the midline of his body), resulting in his foot moving horizontally rather than vertically and contacting Player Brown. "*Once [the Player's] left foot contacted the ball, he would not have been able to control where his foot moved.*" (emphasis added). Had the Player not executed the tackle in the way he did, he would not have lost control.
51. The Committee accordingly does not consider there to be any extenuating circumstances. However, as is apparent from the explanation above, the Committee has taken into account the nature of the tackle in considering the nature and severity of the offence.

Impact of the sanction on the Player's prospects of playing in an elimination final

52. Lastly, in reaching its decision, the Committee has not taken into consideration, as urged by the Player, the consequences for him of not being able to compete in an elimination final. It is not a matter that, ordinarily, would mitigate or otherwise impact the nature of the sanction. It may be a necessary but unfortunate consequence of the Player's conduct.

Conclusion

53. Weighing up these factors, the Committee considers an appropriate sanction in this case to be the MMS only. But for the Player's impressive disciplinary record achieved over a long and distinguished career, his sincere remorse, his character and contribution to the Club and the football community and the fact that, whilst reckless, the seriousness of the offence is at the lower end, the Committee considers that the offence would have warranted the MMS plus at least one additional match.

F. RESULT

54. The sanction we impose is the MMS.



AP Lo Surdo SC, Disciplinary & Ethics Committee Chair
Tuesday, 30 April 2024