

Respect the Sport

by Nathaniel "Ming" Curran

"Many times during Table Tennis competitions I have heard people say things to angry players like "it's just a game" or "you're playing cause it's fun, right", "it's for fun", etc. in response to another player's disrespectful out burst during play.

This I believe does not put said person's behaviour in the correct light.

I say this because Table Tennis is not a "game" but a sport, nor is it "just for fun".

Table Tennis is played for Pride, Honor, and Respect.

It is for these very reasons that such disrespectful behaviour is especially appalling.

Perhaps in some basement, playing with no net, and beer in one hand, such rude displays could conceivably be called acceptable. However the "sport" of Table Tennis must be treated with respect. Whenever a curse is uttered, a paddle is thrown, or rude gesture made, one demeans the sport of Table Tennis and themselves. Because this is not just a "game", not merely for "fun", is the very reason why we must be reverent or at least display some form of human decency!

We should at least show some respect for our opponents and our selves (there is nothing that makes you look idiotic and strips you of your dignity as fast as ranting, swearing, or maltreatment of paddles.)

So, looking to the future, next time you are at a tournament, enjoy pitting your skills against those of others in the great sport of Table Tennis."