

EXAMPLES OF MISBEHAVIOUR AND HOW TO DEAL WITH IT

Deliberately unfair or offensive behaviour is not common in table tennis and is usually limited to a small minority of players but its effects may be very damaging and it is often difficult to control. Because misbehaviour can take many forms it is difficult to lay down precise rules, and setting and applying acceptable standards of conduct is more a matter of judgment and common sense than of factual decision. Consistent application by umpires of the regulations concerning misbehaviour is very important. It is very frustrating for players, coaches and spectators to see one umpire dealing with misbehaviour in a fair and consistent manner in accordance with the Regulations, whilst also seeing another umpire completely ignore misbehaviour. The table shown below describes some examples of misbehaviour and suggested ways to deal with it, however you should remember that every situation is unique and you should use your judgement and common-sense (this does not mean that you can use this as a reason to ignore misbehaviour!).

| Offence | Suggested Action by umpire | Remarks |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Player swears where probably only the umpire can hear | A quiet word of warning to the player | Immediate issuing of a Yellow Card could be an over-reaction and you risk then having to give a Yellow/Red for a minor offence |
| Player swears sufficiently loudly to be heard by spectators or people around the playing court | Formal warning card | Ignoring swearing or other words likely to be offensive to others signals to the player that he can 'get away' with this behaviour, and possibly other types of misbehaviour. The player also might think that he has a weak umpire for the match, and take advantage of that. |
| A very gentle striking of the court surround | A quiet word of warning to the player | Avoid over-reaction. |
| Striking of the court surround using more than gentle force | Formal warning | Abuse of equipment should not be tolerated |
| Throwing the racket into the net | Formal warning | Abuse of equipment should not be tolerated |
| Throwing the racket onto the table (fairly gently and dropped from very little height) | A quiet word of warning | Players can be prone to expressing their disappointment by dropping their racket onto the table; a word of warning will probably avoid this happening again |
| Throwing the racket onto the table from a distance or height | Formal warning | Abuse of equipment should not be tolerated |
| Verbal abuse of the umpire | Formal warning | Verbal abuse should never be tolerated |