

## **Puzzlement That The Edge Ball Dispute Brings To Table Tennis Match and Its Solution.**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The table tennis match has adopted 11-point-system which increased the victorious contingency of both sides of match and made the contention of the competition fiercer too. In the match, with the increasing of the scope of striking the ball by athletes, the chance that the ball touches the edge of the playing surface at the both sides of the table is obviously enhanced. Edge ball or outside, a point difference may influence the result of win or defeat of the match. In the various table tennis matches of the most recent two years, the edge ball dispute appeared again and again and often broke the competition especially at the side of the table nearest to the assistant umpire. This kind of situation is perplexing the normal operation of the match. Solving the dispute of the edge ball, referees should pay more attention and improve the observing angle to make the accurate judgment; Coaches and athletes should be in line with spirit of respecting the fact and fair play, respect referees' final judgments.

Keyword: edge ball, side of the table, referee, sportsmanship

### **1. posing of the problem**

In the table tennis matches of the recent years, the dispute from the athlete to the edge ball appeared again and again. No matter in the match of 2007 National City Game in Wuhan, or in the match of 2008 China's table tennis open tournament, there were disputes between athletes and referees to the edge balls. And that would always broke the game. Even in the rigorously organized 2008 Beijing Olympic Game, such disputes had happened a lot. Among all these disputes, the one happened in the men's singles eighth-final, since the dispute still couldn't be solved through repeated replay, the pause of the game lasted for 4 minutes and 3 seconds, with a result of a scene of embarrassment during the match.

It is very important to know that whether the ball touched the edge, or touched the side under the edge. Even though there's only one point disparity, if it happens at the the critical moment of game point or game ball, it will greatly influence the results. So the disputes of edge balls are normal in table tennis matches. The main problem we face today is how to deal with disputes of edge balls quickly to ensure the smooth process of the match when such disputes happen.

### **2. Research Methods**

This thesis uses the methods of Literature, Video analysis, interview experts and so on to research the disputes of edge balls.

### **3. Results and analysis**

3.1 With the increasing of the scope of striking the ball by athletes, the chance that the ball touches the edge of the playing surface at the both sides of the table is obviously enhanced.

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which increased the victorious contingency of both sides of match and made the contention of the competition fiercer too. In the match, with the expansion of the scope of the competition, the scope of activity of the athletes on the two sides of the table is increasing. While the number of the forehand large angle striking and backhand sideways striking is increasing, the opportunity that the ball would touch the edge on the two sides is increasing obviously. According to the rule, if the ball touches the the edge of white side line and light gray side, it is an edge ball. If it touches the light gray side under the edge, it is outside.

3.2 The factors which affect the accurate judgement for the edge ball

3.2.1 The impacts of the table tennis equipments for the accurate judgement for the edge ball

Table tennis is the smallest ball in all the ball games. The color of the balls for table tennis games are commonly white, almost the same color with the side line's, and also quite similar with the edge of the side face's light grey. The speed of the ball during the game is very fast, when the edge ball appears, the ball is just rubbed over the edge of the table quickly. In view of contrast of the color difference, it is not being very clear whether the ball touching the edge of white side line and light gray side or touching the light gray side which has caused certain difficulties to accurate judgments.

3.2.2 The impacts from the vice umpire's attention and viewpoint

According to the rule of the game, the vice umpire should decide the if the ball has touched the edge of the nearest table during the game. The judgement of the game is mainly decided by chief umpire, the vice umpire should also give consideration to the turning over of the scores, he doesn't adjudge the judgement

initiatively, so his attention for the edge ball appeared in the nearest sideline is a little bit inadequate.

The height of deputy umpire's seat is generally relatively low. Assistant umpire's sight after sitting down is to look at the table straight ahead. While assistant umpire deciding whether or not the ball in play touches the edge of the playing surface at the side of the table nearest to him, who can only see the coincidence to the side of ball and table from the top down; lack the suitable observation angle as to the placement of the ball.

3.3 The factors that affect the quick solve of the dispute of the edge ball

3.3.1 A few athletes are lack of the sportsmanship and the consciousness of fair play

Although the athletes could see the edge ball most clearly because they have the best distance, angle and attention, some athletes fight for the edge ball every time and totally ignore the other side's view; some athletes adhere to the personal opinion obstinately, like such dispute happened in the men's singles' semi-final in Beijing Olympic Games, an athlete put forward the objection repeatedly to the judgments that the referee had made, so the match was stopped for 100 seconds; other a few athletes lack the sportsmanship and the consciousness of fair play, they refuse to take a just attitude to the edge ball that the other side shows while the dispute appears.

3.3.2 The effect of repeated video is not that good

When the dispute of edge ball happens, the vision of the video of the edge ball's touch point from the top down is not that clear. We should mention the dispute of the edge ball in men single's eighth-final in Beijing Olympic Games again, the video had been repeated for three times, but it still couldn't be judged with full satisfaction. Withal, an athlete said, "The video repeat can't ensure the accuracy, right? I have watched the replay, but it still can be considered to be a strike, you can also discuss it."

3.3.3 The umpires'view can be influenced by the disputed athlete

From the repeated video we can see, when the dispute of edge ball happens, the athletes like to emphasize their own points of view, sometimes, they will repeat their opinions again and again to make the referee change his mind. At the moment, any hesitation from the referee will be the hope and encouragement to the athletes to go on disputing.

## 4 Conclusion and suggestions

### 4.1 conclusion

The size of the ball is very small ,and the speed of the ball is very fast. So it is inevitable to have dispute about the edge ball in the match. In a table tennis match, the referee should make a decision with the matter of fact. To solve the edge ball dispute, firstly, the referee should

improve the ability of judging the edge ball; and the referee should insiste on his right decision outcome, and explain nothing about the details; and also, he should respect the fact that is admitted by the athletes from both sides. In a word, the referee should solve the problem as soon as possible, and let the match go on.

### 4.2 suggestions

4.2.1 The height of the assistant umpire's chair should be increased. And the assistant umpire should pay more attention on observing the edge ball happened on the edge line which is nearest to him.

4.2.2 We should make the color of the table side line more different from the color on the edge of side of the table. So that it is more easy for us to tell them.

4.2.3 If we will play the picture recording, we should play the close-up slow motion of the edge ball.

4.2.4 We should strengthen education in fair competetion for the athletes and the coaches. And we also should uphold the the style of playing of being practical and realistic. The athletes should respect their rival, and submit to the referee.

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