

A shadow opponent. A story about the abuse of power

Introduction

Mr. Cobble, the head of the Land of Fun, decides to organise a tennis tournament for children. Rulo loves tennis so he registers to participate. However, before competing in the tournament he must first pass a qualification round, where he stands to go head to head with non-other than the son of Mr. Cobble.

Intrigue

When he learns of his son adversary in the qualifier, Mr. Cobble gets nervous. He knows that his son has no chance against Rulo, but he needs him to qualify nonetheless. It would be humiliating for him to have his son miss his tournament. So, he cooks up a plan.

Action

In the day of the match, a few moments before its start, Mr. Cobble is seen together with the game's referee.

The game starts. The arena is filled. Everyone is nervous – everyone, except Mr. Cobble.

The first set goes over quickly and is easily won by Rulo. It is clear that he is the better player. As he enters recess, it seems that this will be an easy match after all.

Mr. Cobble is furious. He gets down from the stands and confronts the referee in the locker room. A lot of yelling is heard from their area, but no one understands what they are talking about.

The game starts again. Only that now, the referee seems to blow the whistle a lot on Rulo. The public grows uneasy with the way the referee is handling the game, but the match goes on and gets tougher and tougher.

Conclusion

After another two sets playing through the bias decisions of the referee, Rulo loses the match and the chance to compete at the tournament.

Explanatory conclusion

What happened? How did the match transform to this extent? The truth is that Mr. Cobble used his position as head of the land to intimidate the referee and force him to help his son. He disregarded the rules and the idea of fairness and he used his power in an abusive manner.

Questions

What would have happened if Mr. Cobble would not have used his power abusively? Do you believe that Mr. Cobble could use his position as head of the land to obtain an advantage in other situations as well?