

Good morning, folks!

We are going to have a great time today.

Remember: Above all, sportsmanship, fair play and shake hands at the end. And if you loose don't worry, but you won't have desert for a whole month, no, sorry, you can have desert, but no videogames.

You might be a bit nervous now. Don't be. Your opponent is surely as nervous as you are. So if you keep calm, you can read their play better. To keep calm let me give you one piece of advice, well, two:

Number One: take a deep breath and Secondly: think of something nice like a big big big ice cream of your favourite flavour. If you are relaxed and focused you'll win.

Now, there's a few things I'd like to mention:

First: grab the racquet not too tight.

Second: Always look at the ball.

Third: Fight for every point.

Fourth: If you are loosing 5-love, boy you're in trouble.

Fifth or Sixth, maybe fourth, whatever, I can't even remember all my good advices: The match is the best of three sets so don't leave everything for the fourth set, fight from the beginning.

(To a boy, low voice) what do you mean we are going to a chess tournament? Are you sure?

They're telling me here that we're playing chess not tennis, well, it doesn't matter. This speech is good for any sport. Now, for the tactics more specifically for chess, although you could apply the same tactics for tennis, I'll tell you this:

First: You can't choose the colour of the pieces. You can only choose black or white. Forget your about your favorite colour.

Secondly: Try and get as many queens as you can. The more queens the merrier because -believe me- rooks are terribly boring.

Thirdly: Watch out with the knights. This is not the Curragh so don't make them run all around the chessboard. As you know they're called Knights but in reality they're horses. The knights fell off the horses some centuries ago and they were never able to mount again. So, we were left with the horses alone.

Fourth: For those who have never played chess before: choose black pieces and just replicate the movement of the oponent, that, as you know, will start with the whites. Just follow what they do.

Also, if you take a piece it doesn't mean it is for you. You have to give it back at the end of the game. This "take" is, like, you know, a metaphor.

So, St.Conleth's people, fear nothing of this tournament. I sent yesterday an email to all the other schools saying that the tournament was postponed to tomorrow so we're going to beat all the matches by the opponents failing to appear!

Good game ladies and gentlemen!