

# UK Snooker Championship 2021: Professionals vs Amateurs

The first thought that struck me whilst reading this article was that Shaun Murphy would not have been making these comments if he had won the match. After losing to an amateur player, he said that he believes amateurs should not be allowed in professional competitions since they do not play with the same 'concerns and pressures' as professional sportsmen, who rely on professional tournaments for a living. By not commenting on this issue, he apparently was very passionate about it before the competition, he is now implying that amateurs should be allowed in competitions, as long as they end up losing. What he fails to see is that by playing successfully in 'professional' tournaments, amateurs have the chance to develop their careers. You cannot deny equally good or better players the chance to participate in professional tournaments, since that is how they will end up becoming professionals. Otherwise, it becomes very hard for amateurs to prove that they are capable of being professionals and improving their skills, meaning that some very talented players may not have the chance to have a career in their sport.

Another issue with Murphy's comments is that being a professional does not guarantee the right to stay in tournaments, as there are going to be up and coming amateurs who are simply better than you. Sport is all about how good you are - if another player is better than you, then they have earned their spot in a tournament that you have not managed to stay in. The thing that distinguishes amateurs from professionals is being able to make a living from your sport, which again is determined by how good you are. While Murphy may rely on snooker for his living, the amateurs are also looking to make their livelihoods from their sport. He claimed that Si Jiahui, the amateur player to which he had lost, "does not have a care in the world", which he has no evidence to support. By taking part in this competition, Si Jiahui is proving that he cares enough about snooker to try to pursue a career in it, meaning his livelihood is as dependent on snooker as Murphy's, and that he is dealing with a great amount of pressure as well.

Ultimately, it seems that Murphy is understandably upset with leaving the competition, however his comments simply do not make sense. At the end of the day, the best players are the ones who deserve to remain in tournaments. In sport, it is very important that players have equal opportunities, but what Murphy is proposing goes against this key principle as he is saying that players should not be allowed to play in tournaments due to their amateur status. Being an amateur simply means you have not had as much experience as professionals and does not necessarily reflect how skilled you are as a player (especially when you are young, which is true in Si Jiahui's case). To conclude, I disagree with Murphy's comments as I believe that amateurs, like professionals, should be allowed to partake in competitions if they perform well.

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