### **Introduction**

Johnny Depp and Amber Heard

Chris Rock and Will Smith

James Charles and Tati

WSB vs Robinhood

Gambling and Pokimane

TSM Reginald and Sean Gares

Reckful and Dr.K

Drama events like the above are basically live AITA posts.

These are interesting because they allow me to test my opinions against the masses. This is particularly insightful when I'm in disagreement with the common consensus.

The other interesting aspect is when there is limited information. This tests intellectual incisiveness to choose the right side of the argument as the story unfolds. Sometimes you are right, and sometimes you are wrong.

When you are wrong, does a genuine, honest, good-faith postmortem find that you could have figured it out earlier? How could you have been less ego-driven and more correct and insightful?

Or perhaps you were ultimately wrong, but it was correct to be wrong in that moment – at each step you are satisfied with your conclusions; it's just that the vital pieces of information weren't public until the very end.

### **Mizkif's Schooled**

Mizkif is a Twitch streamer and he hosts a game show called Schooled that is essentially *Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader*. We don't need to detail the entire game show but the TLDR of the show's history is there have been many episodes and many instances of cheating. Cheating is an ongoing problem and joke on the show.

Part of the problem is that cheating was encouraged and joked about repeatedly and light-heartedly in the beginning of the show but then was morphed from the top-down to be more serious and integrity-driven. We won't dive deep into *why* cheating has been a problem but the drama that materialized was in the reveal that the **finale** winner was also cheating the entire time – winning a large sponsor (stream host) and 50K prize pool.

After the fact, the winner admitted to cheating and everything was rescinded – as has been done *several* times over the course of the shows history (many winners have won and then rescinded their prize after confessing to cheating).

**However**, the reason for this post is my frustration with internet people repeatedly echoing that they are sorry for Mizkif and he did all he could – there is no solution to the cheating problem. It is unpreventable because if you list an X rule we can workaround it with Y.

That is so small-minded.

In real life you will not get far by throwing your hands in the air and giving up exasperatedly. There are always solutions to any problem, there are always arguments against your opinions – if you cannot conceptualize any solutions or any opposing arguments, that should be an indicator (if you are good faith and interested in learning and improving) that you are blocked by ego and not in good faith accessing the other side's point of view in steel.

### **Brainstorming A Dozen Solutions To The Cheating Problem**

The biggest place for improvement would be trusting the Admin team instead of outsourcing and making decisions based on the cheater's own admission of guilt. This is a terrible design.

In the final episode Mizkif was already making passive-aggressive comments towards EE (the cheater). If this confidence threshold has already been reached and the Admin Team is in agreement the absolute worst case scenario is letting a cheater win and then confronting/resolving the problem after-the-fact. And of course, that is exactly what occurred.

Below we describe tons and tons of possible ideas. Each idea alone has pitfalls (aka trade-offs), however a dynamic combination of multiple (before, during, after) solutions based on discretion would improve if not completely solve the cheating problem.

**TLDR**; doing any of these based on trusted \*admin discernment\*, not chat, not LSF, and certainly not reliant on cheater admission of guilt after-the-fact, would solve the problem

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**after:**

blacklist from Mizkif shows for 1 year,

blacklist from Mizkif shows for X time,

blacklist from Mizkif shows indefinitely,

blacklist from OTK events for 1 year,

blacklist from OTK events for X time,

blacklist from OTK events indefinitely,

blacklist from OTK and friends (Ludwig, OTV, etc) events for 1 year,

blacklist from OTK and friends (Ludwig, OTV, etc) events for X time,

blacklist from OTK and friends (Ludwig, OTV, etc) events indefinitely,

etc.

**during:**

- (1) confrontation

- (2) stopping cheating.

- (1) Mizkif did this passively in the past episode. Escalation is asking directly, explaining the mod evidence, directly kick cheaters immediately, etc. Allowing cheaters to win and then changing/hot-fixing the winner after-the-fact is literally the worst case scenario.

- (2) if this is the goal then it needs *dynamic* requirements. You have them turn around, unplug headphones, non-math close eyes and answer verbally. I'm sure Mizkif could make it hilarious and fun by imposing silly absurd restrictions for the game show.

**before:**

- (1) clear expectations

Mizkif and his team did a terrible job setting expectations. How can it be possible that contests literally think cheating is part of the game and it's entertainment-first?

- (2) preventative

this and the above is all common in any institution that is conservation and needs to be certain - bank, companies, schools, etc. In a Twitch setting preventative measures (NDA, deposits, etc) aren't as effective but if anything

preventative and clear expectations give a proper foundation. More protection, more intentionality, more confidence and evidence against any malicious actor, making it more acceptable to implement the other deterrents mentioned above in *during* or *after*.

Yes, each one of these has 'problems' aka trade-offs. The intent of this post is to communicate that if one wants to prevent cheating there are truly plenty of solutions.

They rescind the reward but this is not a punishment, this is simply not an encouragement (because cheating is an advantage). I'm a huge fan of Mizkif and Ludwig but I'm too long a viewer to know that they are masters of language framing, politics, appeals, etc, so it's blatantly obvious to me at the dissonance.

Everyone and their mother is arguing that there is no single ruleset that prohibits cheating. If you think with your brain for one second in good faith I'm sure you can come up with solutions.

What does one do when their child begins stealing? How do we model / teach / change / incentivize behavior? Certainly the cheaters are completely to blame and lack integrity AND there is a systematic problem with the show. We do not need to bury our heads in the sand and exclaim we are doomed as a perpetual victim. Don't let others impose on you; if there is an issue be honest, genuine, confront, rupture, and repair.

If Mizkif is genuine and good faith, after the rage comes responsibility. There is great utility in positive-only therapy to admit to ourselves when we have suffered as a victim and the destructive fall-out from events; however after successfully passing that 'stage' it is worthwhile thinking about one's agency in the scenario – yes, even though there is an offender and a victim. It is the furthest thing from victim-blaming or deconstructive to have actionable items for a victim to avoid future abuse. Certainly it is not a victim's responsibility, but genuinely after the ego is eliminated and we are healed and desire to improve / grow / achieve success, there is plenty to do.

*(Yes, I'm sure more information will come out after this post as Mizkif hasn't even addressed any of this yet. However I'm confident my opinions are more correct than incorrect.)*

Here's to the future.

I genuinely wish the best for Mizkif as a fan and do believe that he is furious and against cheating on this show. If cheating is a real problem and the cure is not worse than the disease then I'm very much looking forward to future game show implementations where Mizkif is actually actionable on his beliefs.