

Summary of changes to the EMA Tournament Guidelines in 2026/2027

The EMA Tournament Guidelines committee has made a number of changes to the “EMA requirements and guidelines for MERS tournaments” document.

The “Application form for certification of MERS tournaments” and “The Mahjong European Ranking System (MERS)” documents have also been updated in accordance.

These changes were voted on in the 2026 EMA General Assembly, held on July 2nd in Uppsala.

The new rules and requirements were approved by the GA, and will come into effect as follows:

The following changes apply to tournaments held starting in July 2027.

New Requirements:

- A tournament's maximum number of players cannot be lower than 32. (2.1)
- A mandatory 25% quota for foreign players, applying for 4 weeks after application and 2 weeks after the opening of registration, has been added. (2.2 b)
- The optional quota for up to 50% for the national organization expires two weeks after the opening of registration. (2.2 b)
- Additional requirements on tournament websites. Websites must be ready at least 12 weeks before the tournament. (3.3)
- Session minimums for MCR tournaments increased to 7 for two days and 10 for three days. (3.7)
- Referee benefit requirements for non-championship tournaments added (3.11)
- Added personal information policy. Tournaments must ask for permission to photograph players in the registration form. (3.16)

The following changes apply to tournaments held starting in 2027.

Relaxed Requirements:

- A country can apply for a tournament that coincides with a Protected Tournament (formerly "National Championship") of the same ruleset if they first send a written request to the country holding the PT and it is not rejected. (1.2.2 b)
- Tournaments that are neither Protected nor European Championships can coincide without restriction. (1.2.2 c)

New/Expanded guidelines:

- Minimum Player Requirement option added. (2.1)
- Rules on player waiting lists added (2.3)
- Player eligibility rules extended (2.4)
- Rules on opening the registration on a specific date (3.5)
- Pre-determining starting winds is now encouraged. (3.8)
- Guidelines for smartphone scoring added (3.9)
- Substitute scoring procedures clarified. (3.10)
- Added rules for canceling a tournament (3.15)
- Complaints and sanctions process greatly expanded. Organizers are encouraged to proactively report unusual situations. Single/minor failures to meet guidelines are to be handled with suggestions of improvement. Sanctions for repeated/major failures are to be requested with a formal complaint sent to the presidium, and to be approved by the Board or GA. (4.)