



The Mahjong Europe Ranking System

The goal of the Mahjong Europe Ranking System (MERS) is to rank European players according to the results achieved at tournaments they have played over time. Doing so, EMA encourages players on all levels of skill to play in tournaments and to improve their level.

1. Rankings rule sets

There are ranking lists for the two official rule sets of the European Mahjong Association (EMA) for which the same calculation system is applied: Mahjong Competition Rules (MCR) and Riichi Competition Rules (RCR).

Details of the calculation system are published on EMA's web site.

2. Certified tournaments

The ranking lists of the European Mahjong Association are based on the results of mahjong tournaments that are certified by EMA.

The board of EMA certifies tournaments in EMA member countries or applicant countries for the Mahjong Europe Ranking System. Each country can apply for a maximum of 4 certified tournaments in each rule set per calendar year.

Additionally, Réunion Island (France) can organise 4 tournaments in each rule set. This is additional to the standard tournaments of France. This special rule, decided at the GA 2013, pertains only to the number of tournaments, not to the country quota or ranking. A similar rule was adopted for Siberia at the GA in 2017.

European Championships are also certified and their results contribute to the MERS ranking. European Championships are not counted towards a nation's yearly tournament limit.

Certified tournaments have different weights in the ranking calculation based on duration, number of players, number of participating countries and status as a tournament that requires qualification (European Championships). Only tournaments from the past 24 months count toward a player's ranking. A player's best results are weighed more heavily, and for players with a large number of tournaments the worst results are not taken into account. The details of the ranking system are described in a separate document/annex below. Certified tournaments must follow the EMA requirements for MERS tournaments.

3. Requirements for players

Only players who are recognized by EMA member organizations are listed in the European ranking systems. A player needs an EMA registration number to be listed. Depending on their country, a player may need to obtain their EMA number before participating in an EMA tournament.

If an EMA member country requires a national membership administration and corresponding fees for players to be able to participate in tournaments then EMA respects that such countries exclude players that do not comply with these national requirements.

This does not imply that other countries should have to exclude such players from playing tournaments. Players who do not comply with the regulations set by their country will not enter the EMA ranking list.

To be listed in a ranking of a specific ruleset, a player must have participated in at least two certified competitions of this ruleset during the last 24 months. Participation as a non-playing official or non-playing referee is not rated. Participating as a substitute player may only be rated if the player plays from the beginning of the tournament and decides at the beginning to have their results added into the ranking.

4. Handling of substitutions and disqualified players

If a player is unable to participate in a tournament due to an unforeseen situation (e.g. sudden illness or unpredictable transport issues), they will not be listed in the tournament ranking.

If a player misses a small amount of sessions due to an unforeseen situation or their own fault, their result may still be listed in the tournament ranking. The missed sessions are scored as

* 0 table points and 0 points in MCR.

* -15000 uma and -15000 points in Riichi.

If a player is disqualified (e.g. due to cheating or unexcused absence), they will be listed at the bottom of the tournament ranking list.

The size of the tournament should always be reported as a multiple of 4, based on the number of tables who actually played. If a table has to be removed midway through the tournament, the amount of tables remaining at the end (before any playoff rounds) will be used.

Players unable to participate in a tournament are replaced with a "SUBSTITUTE PLAYER" entry (unless the substitute played from the beginning of the tournament and decided at the beginning to have their results added into the ranking). These are ranked below any non-disqualified players in the ranking.

If a player was disqualified and replaced with another player, or a table was removed from the tournament, the disqualified player can be reported as an additional last-place player that does not increase the size of the tournament.

5. Publication

Tournament results and rankings are published on the EMA website. By subscribing to a tournament a player accepts that he player's name will appear in online listings of participants, tournament results and ranking. The European Mahjong Association processes the necessary player and tournament data on the basis of legitimate interests under GDPR, in order to maintain and manage official rankings. This data is used only for ranking administration and related competition purposes.

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The player's picture and video may be recorded and used for reports or publicity of the tournament. The tournament website and/or registration form informs the players of the tournament's photo/video policy.

Players are encouraged to send a picture of themselves to their EMA representative, for the EMA player gallery.

Appendix 1. Detailed calculation of the EMA player ranking:

Minimum requirement

To establish a representative ranking five results are needed. A player is required to have participated in at least two tournaments to appear on the ranking and a player with less than five tournaments is given a result of 0 (weight 1) for each missing tournament.

Calculation

A player's base rank in a tournament is based on his place in the tournament compared to the other participants:

- If you win you get a base rank of 1000.
- If you are in the middle of the field you get a base rank close to 500.
- If you are number 75 out of 100 you get a base rank of 252.
- If you are last of 100 players, you get a base rank of 0.

The base rank is calculated as follows:

- Find the number of player's you have beaten by taking the number of players and subtract your position.
- Divide by (number of players minus 1).
- Then multiply by 1000 to avoid small numbers.

Example: there are 100 players. Consider the player who got the 25th place. Base rank: $(100-25) / (100-1) * 1000 = 757$.

Averaging

From January 1st 2018, rules change : It's composed by 2 parts.

First Part (A)

We take average of the **NA** best results on last two years
 $(W1R1A1+ \dots + WNA * RNA * ANA) / [W1A1+ \dots + WNA * ANA]$

Second Part (B)

We take average of **NB** best results on last two years
 $(W1R1A1+ \dots + WNB * RNB * ANB) / [W1A1+ \dots + WNB * ANB]$

New Ranking = **50%*Part A + 50%*Part B**

First part is made with average of 5 during last two years and 80% of the remaining tournaments (rounded up). Note that all tournaments are rated differently (with weight) and count less in the time. A player with less than required tournaments is given a result of 0 (weight 1) for each missing tournament.

For example:

with 5 tournaments or less = all results are taken into account;
with 10 tournaments = the 9 highest results are taken into account (5+4=9);
with 15 tournaments = the 13 highest results are taken into account (5+8=13);
with 20 tournaments = the 17 highest results are taken into account (5+12=17);
with 25 tournaments = the 21 highest results are taken into account (5+16=21);

Second part is made with average of 4 best results (base rank) during last two years. Note that all tournaments are rated differently (with weight) and count less in the time. A player with less than required tournaments is given a result of 0 (weight 1) for each missing tournament.

Appendix 2. Detailed calculation of tournament weight

Weight

General

The weights of MERS tournaments are calculated by taking into account the characteristics of the events, including:

- The number of rounds played
- The number of participating players
- The number of participating countries
- The need to qualify

Update of the weight will be applied from January 1st 2018 and retroactively for all tournaments since January 1st 2016 (last 2 years) for the new ranking.

Weight calculation

The weight of the tournament corresponds to $TOTAL_MERS = Weight_duration + Weight_players + Weight_countries + Weight_qualif$.

Duration (1)	Weight_duration (1)	Players (2)	Weight_players (2)	Countries (3)	Weight_countries (3)	Qualification (4)	Weight_qualif (4)
1 Day	+1	$X \leq 40$	+0	$X \leq 5$	+0	NO	+0
2 Days	+2	$41 \leq X \leq 80$	+0.5	$6 \leq X \leq 9$	+0.5	YES	+1
3 Days	+3	$X > 80$	+1	$X \geq 10$	+1		

(1) Number of rounds (Weight_duration)

One day tournament accounts for MERS-1.

Two days tournament accounts for MERS-2.

Three days tournament accounts for MERS-3.

(2) Number of participating players (Weight_players)

If the number of player is greater than 40, the weight of tournament gets an extra MERS-0,5 point.

If the number of player is greater than 80, the weight of tournament gets an extra MERS-1 point.

Substitute players (maximum 3) are accounted in the calculation of participating players.

(3) Number of participating countries (Weight_countries)

If the number of participating countries is greater than 5, the weight of tournament gets an extra MERS-0,5 point.

If the number of player is equal or greater than 10, the weight of tournament gets an extra MERS-1 point.

Substitute players are not accounted in the calculation of participating countries.

(4) Tournaments with qualification (Weight_qualif)

If the participation is subject to qualification that is supervised by EMA (such as OEMC and ERMIC tournaments), the weight of the tournament gets an extra MERS-1 point.

Examples

Duration	Countries	Players	Weight_duration	Weight_countries	Weight_players	Weight_qualif	Total weight
1 Day	3	40	+1	+0	+0	+0	1
2 Days	4	44	+2	+0	+0	+0	2
2 Days	7	92	+2	+0.5	+1	+0	3.5
5 Days OEMC	20	220	+3	+1	+1	+1	6

Contribute to the MERS

Also, player's older results count less towards his ranking, than his more recent results do.

- Tournaments that occurred within one year count for 100%
- Tournaments older than one year count for 50%
- Tournaments older than two years no longer contribute to the MERS.