

European Mahjong Association General Assembly 2015

May 15, 2015, 9:00 – 11:30, Copenhagen, Denmark

Opening: All present introduced themselves and their country. Special guests from the Mahjong International League were also present:

1. Gemma Sakamoto (UK and presidium) was appointed as noketaker for the General Assembly.
2. Report of the President

This is included in the addendums for the General Assembly. There were no questions regarding the report.

3. Reports of EMA member organizations.

These are included in the addendums for the General Assembly. Reports are still missing from: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden and Ukraine.

4. Reports of the chairmen of existing committees.

(a) EMA Riichi Rule Committee

The main direction is to align the EMA rules with the new WRC rules. The WRC rules are in the final draft stage. As Mr. Moriyama is taking a trip to Paris this June, the finalization is postponed until after his visit. Once the WRC rules are finalized, the EMA rules committee will be active once more in drawing up a final draft of the EMA rules for approval.

It was also noted that we should speak with Sylvain Malbec (writer of WRC rules) to ensure he is happy that EMA rules follow closely.

(b) EMA Rule Committee for Mahjong Competition Rules

This committee has been less active. Tina and Axel are working to finalize regulations. However, earlier this year WMO updated these rules. Most of these updates initially appear to be minor but time is required to gain a complete overview. Due to the current circumstances and recent developments, the committee will be put on hold for the moment.

- (c) The Requirements and Regulations Committee has been very inactive. Committee is requested to resume work and there is no further report at this time.

5. Siting of Future Events

(a) OEMC 2017

A proposal has been received from Portugal. The proposal is included in the addendums to the agenda. The feeling of the assembly is positive. Some concern was expressed that Portugal has relatively few members to organize such an event. Support is available from other countries and is offered.

Portugal's proposal is officially accepted.

(b) ERC 2016

Three countries are potentially interested in organizing this event: UK, France and Russia. Proposals should be submitted by July 31st for consideration. The approval of the proposal will lie with the board and it was mandated by the General Assembly that the Board will have the power to make this decision. The Board's approval must be received no later than August 31st.

6. WMO and New Developments

An overview of the current situation is included in the addendums to the agenda. WMO has been the main driver of MCR in the global community and has achieved success in its promotion of the game. Initially, there was good communication between China and Europe with most communication being in English. Recently the European side has experienced problems with information sharing and communication.

In addition to this, WMO has no legal status. There are also competing rule sets, including one ruleset endorsed by the Chinese government (98' Rules) and the WMO rules (Green Book Rules) with the Green Book Rules been played by fewer Chinese players than the 98' Rules.

A group headed by Li Wen Long (present at the General Assembly) has taken the initiative to make mahjong a 'mind sport' in China. This new group has taken the name 'Mahjong International League'. This movement appears to be well supported. The week of the General Assembly, there was a meeting and press conference to celebrate the start of this new group which Tina Christensen was invited to attend. The bylaws of this new organization are in the addendums, and committees for specific tasks within the group are planned.

The Mahjong International League (MIL) will be registered as a non-profit entity in Switzerland

Further, the MIL is promoting a new format currently called 'Duplicate Mahjong' to eliminate some of the luck elements of mahjong and in doing so fulfil the requirements of a mind sport. The details are not to be discussed at a General Assembly but an exhibition game is planned during the Danish MCR Open 2015. Duplicate Mahjong is not intended as a new rule set but as a tournament format. Details are to be finalized, but multiples of 16 players will not be a requirement of tournaments incorporating the Duplicate Mahjong format.

A question was raised to the guests from MIL about whether they will incorporate riichi or other rule sets. The current plan is to focus on MCR for the moment but consider expanding to other rule sets in the future once they are established in MCR.

Concern was raised about causing conflict with other organizations by supporting this new one. It is agreed that any support will not mean withdrawal of the current level of support shown to the WMO.

A question was raised about membership fees for countries. Each country will need to join MIL themselves (i.e. not under the umbrella of EMA). Each country in the EMA will be free to join or not. Fees will not be charged for countries that join in the first four years.

Support is shown for their proactivity in traveling this far to discuss with us in person and their progressive attitude to the game.

The General Assembly formally agrees that EMA will align with MIL. Communication with WMO will continue with no change to the current status quo.

7. Items Proposed

The France proposal is included in the addendums. They propose that minimum player numbers for MERS tournaments are too low, leading to inflated scores for players in countries with a smaller player base. France argues that to be a national championship, a requisite size is reached and it would also encourage smaller countries to reach out and get international participation.

This was countered with the concern that smaller countries will have difficulties obtaining players when they are in awkward locations and subsequently be a disincentive in organizing MERS tournaments and potentially involvement with EMA.

A vote is made:

Against: 13

For: 2

The proposal is not accepted. However, it is suggested that more nuanced and context-based criteria are used. However EMA is currently not equipped to handle this. It is agreed that this issue be postponed until the Regulations Committee can work on this.

8. Creation of New Committees

Italy proposes a rethink of EMA's current ranking. The General Assembly agrees to elect a ranking committee.

Ranking Committee

GA will elect a ranking committee.

Morten Andersen (Denmark) will head committee

France will propose a name.

Axel Eschenburg or Norbert Luckhardt (Germany).

Vitalii Novikov (Russia)

Netherlands will propose a name.

All other committees will continue with their current members.

9. President: Tina is re-elected.

Vice-Presidents: Sebastien has resigned as vice-president. Axel is re-elected. Gemma Sakamoto runs and is elected.

Presidium: Anton and Frederic are elected into the presidium.

10. Board members: France is changing board members.

11. Time and place of the next General Assembly will be the OEMC in Portugal.

12. Any other business

- a. Currently none of our documents have a license. In most countries, this means all rights reserved. If you don't exercise those rights, they will be lost.

Axel suggests we use a creative commons license for our documentation. Axel will make a proposal to the presidium for approval.

(No other business)