



Observer report for Upper Silesian Riichi Championship 2019 (RCR, RERS 3)

Observer: Lena WEINGUNY

Date: March 16th – 17th 2019

Place: Katowice, Poland

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website of Mahjong Silesia (<https://mahjongsilesia.wordpress.com/usrc2019/>): registration, schedule, list of participants

Participants: 52 players

Represented Countries: Poland (39), Belarus (4), Slovakia (3), Austria (3), Germany (2), Czech Republic (1)

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 rounds (4+4) of 90 minutes

Location: We played in a conference room of Hotel Diament Spodek. It fit the 52 players perfectly with enough space between tables.

Equipment: We played with sets and junkmats on tables, all in very good condition. Each table was required to have one person with the MahjongTracker app on their phone, but since almost all of the polish players had it, it was never a problem.

Refereeing: Lukasz Grzybowski and Marta Binkowska were playing referees. Lukasz Grzybowski was planned to be non-playing referee, but had to fill in for a player who cancelled last minute.

Complaints: None.

Information / communication during the tournament:

The tournament used the MahjongTracker app for scorekeeping, seating and timekeeping. It all went very well. Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. A countdown in the app clearly informed players of the start of sessions, the end was indicated by a sound. Ranking updated live after a table finished. The only downside was that the time schedule was not pinned to any wall and you had to look it up on the website. This was fixed after the first day. On the second day, the schedule was projected between rounds.

Sessions: Excellent playing atmosphere, fair play and almost no referee calls.

Catering: Lunch in the hotel restaurant (Silesian cuisine), drinks and snacks in the playing room. Optional Get Together at a Mexican restaurant Saturday evening.

Prizes: Trophies, goodies and certificates for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), and one more for the best hanchan.

Conclusion: Very nice tournament in Katowice with an excellent host, very good atmosphere and delicious food. I really liked scorekeeping with the app as it makes it faster to get standings in between rounds.