



Observer report for Birthday Bash Mahjong Madness Taikai (Riichi, MERS 3.5)

Observer: Nathan Germeau

Date: April 7th-8th 2024

Place: Cologne, Germany

Website or other source(s) of information: <https://riichi.cologne/en/tournaments/2024/birthday-bash-mahjong-madness-taikai/>

Participants: 72 players

12 countries were represented : Austria (2), Belgium (13), Denmark (1), Spain (1), France (6), Great Britain (1), Germany (30), Netherlands (7), Poland (1), Romania (3), Sweden (3), Ukraine (3). One player was a substitute.

Playing schedule: 2 days, 9 rounds (5+4) of 90 minutes. The first 5 rounds played round-robin. After that, 2 Hanchan, players are seeded according to their current position after the previous hanchan: e. g. 1st, 5th, 9th and 13th play at the table 1. 2nd, 6th, 10th and 14th at table 2. Please note the details will be dependent on the number of total participants. There will be no cutoffs. The final 2 Hanchan are played with the Swiss System, i. e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th play at table 1 etc.

Location: Schützenhalle der St. Sebastianus Bruderschaft. The place was good enough to host 72 players

Equipment: Square table and with standard Riichi mahjong tiles set. Each table has a score sheet, an "All-Last" sheet, a rule summary sheet, a pen and an indelible to write on the "All-last" sheet

Refereeing: All non-playing referees. Manuel Schlich(head referee), Ken Schultheiss and Tian Hang

The new referees made some errors. Those were reported to the main referee for improvement.

Complaints:

Multiple small complaints were bring to me during the tournament :

- Presence of screws on the table in place where the tiles of a player could be present. Those could reveal tiles of the player playing on that side of the table.
- The results sheet indicating the table of the players for the second day was unclear as the column of the table was far from the name of the player. The organizer directly corrected this.
- More time between the hanchans of the second day is needed. By the time the result sheet was ready, the next hanchan was nearly starting.

Compliment:

The organizer was aware about the personal needs and disabilities of some players and took the correct actions (facilities, announcements, ...)

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. The start was clearly announced verbally and the end of session was announced by a ringtone coming from the computer. Ranking up to date between each session, printed and posted on walls. Multiple reminders and announcements were done between the hanchans.

Sessions: Excellent playing atmosphere, FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun) even if some players showed sometimes bad behaviour (Anger, not wanting to play).

Catering: Lunch in the same place (hot meal). Drinks and snacks available between the hanchans.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd) and some chocolate for the best player by hanchan. Partial reductions for the next tournament were given to the players who did a Yakuman or a Rinchan Kaihou. Full reduction has been given to the last player of the tournament.

Conclusion: Very nice tournament with very good weather (maybe slightly too hot the first day but the organizer has no control on this). Very high level of experience in the plays. I took pleasure in playing and will certainly come back.