



Observer report for 1st Hakuryuu No Keisho 2024 (Riichi, MERS 2,5)

Observer: Łukasz Grzybowski

Date: 15-16 June 2024

Place: Prague, Czech Republic

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website of <https://prague-riichi-yuu-iisou.webnode.cz/haku-info/> : registration, program, list of participants,...

Participants: 24 players from 9 countries:

Poland – 6
Austria – 4
Ukraine – 4
Czechia – 3
Slovakia – 2
Germany – 2
France – 1
Portugal – 1
Sweden - 1

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

Location: Vršovická Sokolovna is a historical old place created by Sokol movement (pan-slavic gymnastic movement) of Vršovice district. We played in a smaller room within the object, while the snacks and coffee were served in the hall part.

Equipment: We played with the standard Japanese mahjong sets and mats, tenbou was used for scoring. 3d printed orasu 'sheet' with glass that could be written with a marker was used for last hands.

Refereeing: Martin Diviš was a sole playing referee

Complaints:

- On the first day there were no sheets to write the scores, the organiser said to use the rules score sheet to write the scores there, fortunately someone brought some blank sheets of paper to be used for the next 3 hanchans, on the second day the actual score sheets were brought
- Some players complained about scores being put wrong after 1st day, they were corrected on the second day
- Some players complained that there was no gong announcing the start of hanchan, we started as the clock started with the referee announcement

- There was poor ventilation in the room, it is advised for organiser to bring some electric fans if a tournament should be organised on the warm seasons again in the same place
- There were complains about some players not being able to contain their emotions, especially when it can be seen as intimidating, which could possibly be disrupting
- Most of the players complained that there was no bottled water provided or at least jar with water, the players were forced to fill their bottles from the toilet. Tap water in Prague is safe, however players probably shouldn't go to toilet for that, would be advisable to get the water to jar and put it on table, or announce that no drinks will be provided before, so players can come prepared.
- Some players complained that if a referee is playing then they shouldn't be the only referee on the tournament

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on a wall. Referee informing players about start and finish of the hanchan. Ranking projected almost after each hanchan

Sessions: The sessions went mostly smoothly without complaints with the exception of some players being too emotional, which was mentioned on the complaints section. FFF as always

Catering: Tasty lunches in a restaurant near the venue, snacks of sliced bananas, sliced watermelon and grated cheese, with croissants on the first day and doughnuts on the second day. Coffee from the coffee machine.

Prizes: Trophies of white dragons made in 3d printer for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), and small dragons for yakumans and best hanchan.

Conclusion: There is a lot to improve, so the future tournaments in Czech Republic are to be on par with the other tournaments quality, however I hope that the organisers will take a note and the next tournaments are better. I hope that players will also try to better contain the emotions, so the overall atmosphere becomes friendlier.