



Observer report for Great Wave 2025 tournament










Observer: Timur Hahn

Date: April 12th - 13th 2025

Place: Espoo, Finland

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the tournament website (<https://aaltomahjong.github.io/#/turnaus-gw25>), including registration, venue, schedule etc.

Participants: 56 players

	FIN	GER	BEL	ESP	LAT	POL	CHN	UKR	CHE	SWE	EST
											
Represented countries:	45	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 hanchans of 90 minutes each. Gong after 75 minutes, then finishing the current hand and one more.

Location: Aalto Design Factory, Espoo.

Equipment: Standard-issue Riichi sets and junkmats on square tables. Slightly different tile sizes between tables, but everything within the usual range.

Refereeing: Petteri Huuskonen (non-playing).

Complaints: The participants' country affiliation wasn't listed on the tournament website or the rankings shown during and after the tournament. Also received a complaint that the draw for the tournament wasn't done publically.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on a pull-down screen. A gong clearly informs players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking up to date between each session on the same screen as the clock.

Sessions: Excellent playing atmosphere, at a slightly higher level than average in Europe.

Catering: Snacks and drinks between rounds on both days at the playing venue. Lunch wasn't included in the participation fee, but there were several restaurants within walking distance, as well as the possibility to order pizza to the tournament venue offered by the organisers.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st through 3rd).

Conclusion: Excellent tournament, as I've come to expect from the Finns. It's sad that due to the circumstances of geography, relatively few foreigners find their way to Finland, because I've enjoyed my time there every time, and I feel so would others.

Bendorf, Germany, 29th April 2025
Timur Hahn