



## Observer report for the Black Hole 2025 Riichi tournament

**Observer:** Stéphane COMMANS

**Date:** 13 – 14 September 2025

**Place:** Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

**Website or other source(s) of information:** All information on the website of <https://ln-mahjong-club.be/en/tournaments/riichi-blackhole-2025> (the registration, the location of the tournament, the schedule, the fee and the list of participants).

**Participants:** 36 players

**Represented countries:** Belgium (24), France (9), Germany (1), Hungary (1), Netherlands (1).

**Playing schedule:** 2 days, 8 rounds (4+4) of 75 minutes (finishing the hand + one more).

**Location:** At the Salle Rosa Luxemburg Room, Avenue Georges Lemaître 35 (Ground level to rest, 1<sup>st</sup> floor to play).

**Equipment:** We played with new games and tables.

**Refereeing:** Joël Linh Van Leuven, non-playing referee.

### Complaints:

- There was an issue with the algorithm about seat distribution during hanchan 5 and 6, most if not all tables had at least 2 players with the same seat wind. The issue was resolved by either dice roll to see who keeps the seat marked on their sheet or regular seat distribution, which could have an impact of having players being North more than 2 times during the tournament for example.
- The location had no elevator to reach the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, no information about that on the website. Luckily no player was impacted.

### Information / communication during the tournament:

Players had their seating predetermined (2 East, 2 South, 2 West, 2 North) from the algorithm. Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. An alarm clearly informs players of the end of sessions; the start was done vocally by the referee with a countdown. Ranking up to date between each session, a QR code was printed to check the results and was also available on the website.

**Sessions:** Excellent playing atmosphere, FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun).

**Catering:** Plenty of snacks and drinks to recharge between sessions.

Self-service lunch in the same place (Rice, curry, chicken noodles), deserts were made from a local brand (overnight oats Mango – Coconut on Saturday and matcha tiramisu on Sunday).

**Prizes:** Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup>), medals for top 5 and a yakuman pin for those who made a yakuman (1 player).

**Conclusion:** It was a very nice tournament with a friendly atmosphere. Hopefully there'll be more players from foreign countries in the future.