



## Observer report for Tenpai Championship Open 2025 (RCR, MERS 2.5)

**Observer:**  Oļegs Ošmjans

**Date:** 13–14 December 2025

**Place:** Tampere, Finland

**Website or other source(s) of information:** A dedicated page on the website of the society organizing the tournament, *Mahjong-seura Tenpai*, with all the necessary information including descriptions of the location, schedule, price and rules, an up-to-date list of participants, a signup form, and bank and contact details. <http://www.tenpai.net/tenpaina-vuositurnaus/>

**Participants:** 48 players. Represented countries:

FIN	LAT	EST	UKR	—
				

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One player was substituted on the second day for medical reasons.

**Playing schedule:** 2 days, 8 rounds (4+4) of 75+15 minutes (75 minutes + finish the current hand and play one more hand)

**Tournament format:** Player seatings were done in advance such that no two players met more than once and such that each player started in every wind's seat exactly twice. The full seating schedule was displayed on site in printed form, and each player was provided with a personal seating schedule slip.

**Location:** An open-plan area within *Lautapelikahvila Taverna*, a board game café in close proximity to the Tampere railway station. The area is just large enough to host 48 players. The café also contains other connected areas that may host other visitors during working hours, but they are delimited from the tournament area by bookcases holding the café's board game boxes.

**Equipment:** Wooden square tables with wooden or plastic legs; table size was a great fit for mahjong. Wooden and plastic chairs. Mahjong sets of various design but consistent quality. Mats with edges and visible trays for point sticks. Compasses on most tables but not all. Each table was provided with a reusable laminated all-last sheet and an erasable marker, result sheets and a pen, a calculator, and a scoring table.

**Refereeing:**  Henri Haapsamo was the non-player referee.

**Information/communication during the tournament:**

During each round, a countdown clock was projected from a computer onto a screen. At the end of each break between rounds, an updated player ranking was projected onto the same screen.

Voice announcements informed players of the start and the end of each session's allotted 75 minutes, but there was no distinctive gong or beep signal.

**Play:** Excellent playing atmosphere made the event feel fair, friendly and fun. Occasional chatter happened at some tables, but it was kept in check by the referee and the players themselves.

**Catering:** Water provided. Toasts, salads, drinks available for purchase on site. Central location means there are various options for eating out and grocery stores nearby.

**Prizes:** Trophies for the top 3 ranked individuals. Snacks for individuals who won yakuman hands.

**Possible further improvements:** Perhaps a gong could be added to make time signals more obvious, and equipment needs could be communicated clearer so that participants could assist with bringing additional compasses to fill out all tables.

**Conclusion:** A pleasant, comfortably-equipped tournament in a convenient location and with an excellent atmosphere. Everything went smoothly.