



Observer report for Yuki No Taikai 2026 (Riichi, MERS 1,5)

Observer: Sabine Manten




Date: 24th of January 2026

Place: Oss, Netherlands

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website of the organizing club www.schoonspel.nl: registration, program, list of participants, ...
Additionally an email with a summary of important information belonging to the tournament was sent to all participants on the 19th of January.
All information was given in Dutch and English.

Participants: 56 players

Represented countries

NED	BEL	GER
		
38	14	4

Playing schedule: 1 day, 4 hanchan, after 75 minutes a gong with information to end the ongoing game and start one at most one new game. The next round was scheduled 30 or 45 minutes after the gong at the end of the round before.

Location: The “Wijkcentrum Schadewijk” is a building with several rooms and a bar. The games were played in a large room, big enough to host all players and leave enough space between them. There was another room for the time between the games with tables for eating and a room where the buffet for lunch was placed.

Equipment: We played with games and junk mats in a very good state.

Refereeing: Two playing referees: Jaqueline Oudshoorn and Ivar Bouwman.

Complaints: Some players reported, that the breaks between the rounds were not long enough (“just ten minutes for lunch”). The tournament manager prolonged the breaks a little bit to give all players the chance to rest.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. A gong clearly informed players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking up to date between each session, printed and posted on walls.

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

Catering: Lunch in the same place, drinks and snacks. Special diets were served, if corresponded before.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), small prizes for the last one, and the 6th (since this was the 6th Yuki No Taikai). The referees and the EMA observer got small gifts.

Conclusion: Very nice tournament in the Netherlands. This was the first tournament with the brand-new Riichi rules. However there were no problems concerning them.