



Observer report for the Warsaw MCR Open 2026

Observer: GHERMAN Vasile












Date: March 14-15, 2026

Place: Hotel Lord, Poland

Website or other source of information: All information was available on the website of the Calisia Mahjong Club at the following link: <https://www.mahjong.kalisz.pl/warsaw-mcr-open-2026/> (including registration, venue location, tournament format and scoring, schedule, entry fee, and list of participants).

Participants: 56 players.

Countries represented:

GER	FRA	SWE	POL	SUI	POR	NED	ESP	BEL	GBR	AUT
										
12	12	10	9	3	2	2	2	2	1	1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 7 rounds of 120 minutes each.

Location: Hotel Lord, Aleja Krakowska 218, Warszawa, Poland.

The venue was a luxurious 4-star hotel.

The playing room, which contained all the tables, was spacious, well-lit, and beautifully decorated.

A long corridor leading to the playing room was used for breaks between rounds.

Equipment: We played with standard MCR mahjong sets, all of good quality.

The Berlin Mahjong Club application was used for scoring and for the ranking.

A QR code was shown to the players at the beginning of the tournament and displayed between every round.

Each table used the app on one of the players' phones.

A paper score sheet was also used to keep track of the scores.

Refereeing: LEPIK Michal (non-playing)

Observations: Some players complained that the playing tables were too small and lacked edges, which made shuffling difficult. Rulers to help build the walls were requested by some but none were provided to the players. Although shuffling took time, the two-hour timer was helpful in allowing games to finish. A few people also complained about the app used, particularly the lack of explanations on the website. Others said that the app made them faster and was a useful tool for counting the points. The breakfast food and drinks were enjoyed by everyone, with a modern coffee machine and an endless supply of small cakes.

Information / Communication during the tournament:

A visible clock was projected onto a large screen. A 5-second countdown marked the start of each game, and a sound was played on the computer at the end of the two hours. Scores and rankings were available via a link accessed through a QR code displayed on a screen.

Sessions: There was an excellent playing atmosphere, FFF (Fair play, Friendly, and Fun).

Catering: Snacks such as small pastries, cakes, and biscuits were offered in the break rooms. Lunch consisted of a buffet with both cold and hot dishes in the hotel restaurant. Several Polish meals were available, along with a dessert buffet featuring fruits and cakes.

Prizes: Trophies were awarded to the top three players (1st, 2nd, and 3rd places). A soft toy dragon was given to players who made the “Little Dragons” hand. Some local food products from Warsaw were presented to the referee and the EMA observer. A board game was offered to the Berlin club for their help with the organization, as well as to another player from Germany who also assisted with the organization.

Conclusion: An excellent tournament!

Katarzyna was a very kind organizer. She made everyone feel at home and did her best to please everyone. Congratulations!