



Observer report for Cologne Riichi (MERS 3,5*)

* According to the new 2018 ranking system. MERS weight is subject to change depending on the number of players registered and the countries participating. Breakout of the current weight:

- 2-days tournament: 2 points.
- More than 40 players: 0.5 points.
- 10 countries represented: 1 points.

Observer: Sophie DELAUCHE

Date: April 25-26 2026

Place: Köln, Germany

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the following dedicated website [Zensekai no Heiwa no Taikai in April 2026 | Rinshan Kaihou...](#)

Participants: 72 players (71 enrolled 1 substitute)

Represented countries :

GER	BEL	NED	FRA	AUT	UKR	SUI	EUR	SWE	ROU	POL	GBR	FIN	ESP	---
42	8	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 9 rounds of 75 minutes

Tournament Format:

The tournament matchings are done according to an adaption of the Dutch System (a subtype of Swiss System):

The first 5 Hanchan (= all of day 1) all players are placed in the same group. This phase would behave just as a limited round-robin.

After that, players placed in groups and are seated according to their current position after the previous hanchan: e. g. 1st, 5th, 9th and 13th play at the table 1. 2nd, 6th, 10th and 14th at table 2. Please note the details are dependent on the number of total participants. There was no cutoffs.

The final Hanchan players are seated according to their position with groups of 4: i. e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th play at table 1 etc.

Location:

The tournament has taken place in the Schützenhalle der St. Sebastianus Bruderschaft
Maria-Himmelfahrt Strasse 10
51067 Cologne-Holweide

Equipment: We played with mats and games on tables that were of excellent conditions.

Refereeing: Manuel Schlich (From Germany non playing)

Complaints: None

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. A gong clearly informs players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking up to date between each session, appearing clearly on screen + on phone application

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

Catering: Coffee and soft all the time. Lunch enough for everyone. remark on Vegie lunch: there should be more protein.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd).

Conclusion: Very nice tournament in Cologne. Excellent organisation!