



Observer report for RDO Riichi Dutch Open 2026 (MERS 5)

Observer: Lies Naert

Date: May 15-16-17 2026

Place: Oss, the Netherlands

Website or other source(s) of information: All relevant information available on the website of Schoonspel.nl (registration, schedule, list of participants).

Participants: 88 players out of 11 countries (Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Finland, Sweden, Japan, Czech Republic, France, United Kingdom and Romania).

Playing schedule: 3 days, 12 hanchans of 75 minutes

Location: Wijkcentrum Schadewijk in Oss. The location can host a big tournament like the RDO with 88 participants. There is enough space in between the tables.

Equipment: There were enough sets and junk mats

Refereeing: Pieter Pormeer was non-player referee. There were also two playing assistant-referees.

Complaints:

- A player said the junk mats and the sets were not totally clean. There was an incident when blood came on the tiles and they were not cleaned properly afterwards.
- There was a complaint about the early starting hour of the tournament on Sunday (8:30 AM). Also, the 12 hanchans could have been spread evenly across the days (so 4 hanchans a day). The player suggested a starting hour of 10 AM which is maybe a little on the late side.
- Another player said not all players were friendly when they lost, point sticks were aggressively thrown across the table. However most of the players were friendly and polite throughout the tournament.
- There were complaints about the food: the rice on Sunday was not cooked, the meat balls were cold.

Information / communication during the tournament:

There was a timer with a count-down and a beep at end of each hanchan. The timer was visible for everyone, the beep was loud enough. At the start of each day there was a short announcement of the organisation or of the referee.

Sessions: In general there was an excellent playing atmosphere, FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun).

Catering: Lunch in the same place (cold on Friday, hot on Saturday and Sunday), drinks available at the bar. Coffee, tea and water for free. This was much appreciated.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), a price for the highest hand in every hanchan.

Conclusion: Nice tournament, smoothly organised despite the high number of participants and hanchans.