



Observer report for MCR Dutch Open 2026 (MCR, MERS 2,5)

Observer: Ksenia Trishina

Date: June 20th – 21th 2026

Place: Oss, Nederland

Website or other source(s) of information:

information available on the website of mahjong association Schoon Spel, Nederland <https://www.schoonspel.nl/toernooien-tournaments/mcr-dutch-open-mdoregistration> including summary in 4 languages (Dutch, English, German and French), program, list of participants divided to tables of 4 (17 tables shown), place and date. Lacking information on who are the referees and EMA observer.

Participants: 68 players from 5 countries:

NL Netherlands	47
DE Germany	10
BE Belgium	6
FR France	4
SE Sweden	1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 7 rounds (4+3) of 1h 55 m each.

Location: Wijkcentrum Schadewijk in Oss. Two spacious rooms for breaks, bar and a playing area in a sports hall. Beautiful and peaceful surroundings with greenery and water.

Equipment: Game sets were all the same with a proper size, tables were of good quality, with edges and soft pads. Chairs were of light plastic, not especially comfortable.

Refereeing: Three playing referees. In addition, Olav Sommers the host was offering his assistance with score shits points corrections when needed. Just a few referee calls were made during 7 rounds.

Complaints: Few topics were mentioned.

1. The playing area

While the facility was modern and beautifully located, the playing area itself was a sports hall aka school room for inside football. Rubber odor could be noticed when entering the room. It was too hot and humid on day 1. Organizers tried to mitigate it with a few fans in the corners, but it didn't help much. On the day 2 the organizers said they managed to enable some air flow, however the effect was almost the opposite - no air, only increasing odor of sweat and rubber.

2. The game

Some players were missing a round wind indicator.

The East wind sign was present on the wall but hanging rather low - some players missed it completely.

Would be great to mention that clipboards can be attached to the chairs as alternative of keeping them on the floor.

3. The food

While the tournament fee was low, it affected the quality and the amount of food offered. Some players found it was too much of fried semi-finished snacks such as croquets instead of properly cooked meals. Day 1 there was confusion with more people requiring vegetarian meals while only two registered as vegetarians. Desert on day 2 finished even before some players got their lunch plates. Day 2 also lacked salad at lunch.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Dedicated timer with large digits and sound at start/finish of the rounds visibly put high enough to be seen from every table. Ranking up to date between each session, printed and posted on a wall, plus a QR code with live results. Olav Sommers the host was sharing small updates between rounds in his usual humorous manner.

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

Spacious area with enough space between tables to allow comfortable play and reduce noise level.

Bottled water, still and sparkling was offered.

The scoring clip boards had magnets glued on the back side with a possibility to attach them to a chair leg.

Jacqueline Oudshoorn was gathering players between rounds to ensure we start on time.

Time schedule was kept well.

Catering: Lunch in the same venue, in another room with proper air conditioning. Mostly semi-ready fried snacks. Juice and water were offered day 1, day 2 no lunch drinks. Bar with affordable prices and friendly stuff was available. Great coffee and tea offered all throughout the tournament.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), goody bags for referees and the EMA observer.

Conclusion:

Quality tournament with great equipment. Many familiar faces coming back year after year.

Volunteered helpers kept it together ensuring breaks were well arranged and snacks were served on time. Excellent host or I should say toastmaster contributing to relaxed atmosphere.

Beautiful surroundings with trees, flowers and water.

As for the poor air quality in the playing area, we were ensured that it will be addressed until next year's tournament - either by adding the air condition or by changing the venue.

Overall a pleasant experience, can recommend 😊