



Observer Report for the 9th Open Italian Riichi Championship (RCR, MERS 2.5)

Observer: Mateusz Woźniak

Date: October 17–18, 2026

Place: Bologna, Italy

Website or other source(s) of information: All relevant information was available on the tournament website (https://www.fimj.it/?page_id=11621), including registration details, schedule, and list of participants.

Participants: 28 players from 6 countries: Italy (22), Poland (2), France (1), the Philippines (1), Romania (1), and the UK (1).

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 rounds (5+3) of 75 minutes, plus finish the current hand and play one more.

Location: Centro Sportivo Caserme Rosse – a community sports and social club located at Via di Corticella 147.

Equipment: Good-quality tile sets, mats, and compasses.

Refereeing: Marco Montebelli served as a non-playing referee.

Complaints: Delays – the tournament ran 30 minutes behind schedule on the first day and 15 minutes behind on the second day. No other complaints were received.

Information / communication during the tournament: A clearly visible clock was projected onto a screen. A gong clearly signaled the end of each session. Updated standings were displayed on the screen between sessions.

Sessions: Good playing atmosphere, in line with the FFF principles (Fair Play, Friendly and Fun). There was more casual conversation at the tables during play than is typical at European tournaments. Together with the cozy playing room, this contributed to a relaxed and laid-back atmosphere.

Catering: An optional hearty lunch (a choice of lasagna or a mixed salad, served with a large grilled sandwich) and coffee were available on the first day. No lunch was provided on the second day, when play was scheduled to begin at 12:45 and consisted of only three hanchans. Free bottled water was available throughout the tournament. A coffee and snack bar was also open at the venue throughout the event.

Prizes: Statuette trophies for places 1–3, large gift bags for places 1–6, and traditional Italian cured meats for the highest score in each hanchan. A cup trophy for the 2026 Italian Champion and medals for places 1–3 in the 2026 Italian Championship.



Conclusion: A nice tournament in Bologna with a friendly atmosphere and a laid-back feel.