Observer report for Pumpkin Tiles Armenia (Riichi, MERS 1)

Observer: Gulnara SHARAFUTDINOVA

Date: October 31st 2026

Place: Yerevan, Armenia

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the tournament page: https://kokasoku.com/tournament/pumpkin-tiles-armenia-2026 — registration, program, list of participants.

Participants: 20 players, 3 countries

AM Armenia	13
GE Georgia	5
RS Serbia	2

Playing schedule: 1 day, 5 rounds of 90 minutes

Location: Fabula Coworking, Yerevan

Equipment: Manual sets in good condition. All tables were equipped with mahjong mats.

Refereeing: 1. Leon Nikolaev, playing referee

2. Gulnara Sharafutdinova, playing referee

Substitutions, disqualifications: None.

Irregularities: None.

Complaints: None. All questions at the tables were resolved by the referees.

Information / communication during the tournament: The tournament was announced three months in advance with a full bilingual (English/Russian) description. Registration closed an hour and a half before the tournament. Seating, a countdown timer, current points and the overall standings after each round were displayed by Pantheon on players' smartphones/tablets. A signal was given when 15 minutes remained in each session.

Sessions: The schedule was kept with no delays.

Catering: Meals were not provided. The organisers shared a list of places to eat around the venue in advance, and a 75-minute lunch break was scheduled.

Prizes: A trophy — a commemorative printed slate plaque — for 1st place; commemorative mugs for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Certificates for various in-tournament achievements, such as the fewest deal-ins. Souvenirs for players with notable Halloween-themed outfits.

Conclusion: A well-organised tournament that met the EMA minimum of 20 players and brought together players from three countries. The organisers have broad experience with various tournaments, including large ones, so many details were taken into account. Communication before and during the event was clear, equipment was in good condition, the schedule was kept, and no irregularities were observed.