

European Mahjong Association General Assembly
Valencia + online, 12 October 2023



Representation

(v) indicates virtual presence

AT: Norbert Tschinkel (no show), Michael Gürtl-Dusleag (v) (report?)
BE: Peter Van Damme, Marieke Verheyden
BY: (no representative)
CH: Gerard Heche, Luc Humbert (v)
CZ: Martin Diviš (v)
DE: Nadine König, Manuel Kameda-Schlich (v)
DK: Tina Christensen, Jesper Nøhr
ES: Edgar Rubio Rudilla, Antonio Ayllón
FI: Konsta Lensu (v), Tommi Ikonen (v)
FR: Caroline Arnaud, Loïc De Kergommaux (report?)
HU: Ildiko Hargitai, Eszter Varnai (report?)
IE: Andrew Smith (v)
IT: Marco Montebelli, Alberto Rosi
NL: Menno van Lienden, Oscar van den Nieuwendijk
NO: Glenn Ivar Krogseng Husom (v)
PL: Dominik Kolenda (v), Paweł Polański (v) (report?)
PT: Elisabeth Toucas, Sergio Matas Lima (v), Rui Machado (joined towards the end)
RO: Rene Khezam (v), Michael van der Sluijs (v)
RU: (no representative, no report)
SE: Petter Ranefall, Jasper Germeys (v)
SI: (no representative, no report)
SK: Tomas Siron (v)
UA: Maxim Ivanov (v) (no report)
UK: John Duckworth, Gemma Sakamoto (v)

24 associated countries, 14 national reports received.

1. Appointment of Note Taker

Tina Christensen was appointed notetaker

2. Approval of the minutes of the last GA

The minutes were approved.



3. Report of the President

Covid make a huge gap in our lives. Everything was frozen. Live games were difficult, as reported in many national reports.

We had the situation with Ukraine, there was a vote and a decision.

4. Reports of the chairmen of existing committees

The work on committees has also been on hold. We have a riichi rules committee and MCR rules committee and may create more later today.

5. Elections

One vote per representative. 37 representatives present.

Election for President

Candidates: Luc Humbert, Marco Montebelli, Manuel Kameda-Schlich.

Presentation of candidates:

Marco: representatives have to be present in the communities, Players are most important. I meet a lot of players, and can promote mahjong in Europe and collaborate with other organisations, also in IMSA with other mind sports, chess, go and so on.

Manuel: I try to be a bridge builder and work for the community. Head referee at big tournaments. Want to be a pillar you can rely on. I am a riichi player, but both rule sets deserve attention.

Luc: I play both rule sets. I have had no options to play because of Covid. I am a lawyer. We need to move forward to change statutes to current situations, need to revise regulations, and it is good to have legal skills. We all love the game of mahjong, and MCR and riichi have equal status. We need EMA to evolve, and I want to work for that.

For Luc: 8. 5 physical votes, 3 online votes

For Marco: 15. 13 physical votes, 2 online votes

For Manuel: 12. 1 physical votes, 11 online votes

1 abstention

Marco Montebelli is elected president of EMA

Elections of 2 Vice Presidents

Candidates: Gemma Sakamoto, Luc Humbert, Tina Christensen, Caroline Arnaud, Manuel Kameda-Schlich

Short presentation of candidates

Gemma: Support president, network, native Speaker

Luc: Regulations



Tina: Rules, Regulations
Caro: Involved with refereeing. Need update of regulations
Manuel: Want to work on riichi rules

Luc: 5+1
Gemma: 5 + 12
Tina: 3 + 0
Caro: 5 +1
Manuel: 1 + 3

Gemma Sakamoto elected as VP

2nd VP vote:
Luc: 1+2
Tina: 10 + 2
Caroline: 7+1
Manuel: 1 +11

Revote
Tina: 16 + 4
Manuel: 1 +12

Tina Christensen elected as VP

Election of 2 presidium members

Caro: 13 + 1
Manuel: 2 + 15
Luc: 4 + 1

Manuel Schlich elected as Presidium member

Luc: 4 + 13
Caro: 15/6 + 2

Recount due to unsure counting

Caro: 15 +1
Luc: 4 + 13

Luc Humbert elected as Presidium member



6. Creation of new Committees: Existing committees

Proposal: Tournament Guidelines Committee

Members:

Marco Montebelli

Tina Christensen

Edgar Rubio

Jasper Germeys

Michael Gürtl-Dusleag

Caroline Arnaud

Further members can join the committee via their EMA board member.

7. Confirmation of provisional EMA Member: Romania

8. Confirmation of provisional EMA Member: Ireland

Welcome to two new countries!

Question: was Belarus ever accepted? Luc: I could not find notes. The decision is delayed. (After the GA Presidium members have checked and could not see that a formal application was ever received, so Belarus has observer status).

9. Sitting of future European Championship(s)

Intensions received:

ERC 2024: Spain

OEMC Germany

There should be guidelines for proposals for EC's.

Call for ERC proposals by end of November will be sent by the presidium. If more than one proposal we will have an online vote.

10. Items submitted by Italy (Annex 1), Portugal (Annex 2), Romania (Annex 3), Finland (Annex 4), Belgium (Annex 6).

Riichi rules were discussed and the GA was reminded of the Riichi Rules Committee

Chair: Tina Christensen



Members: Gemma Sakamoto, Maxim Ivanov, Michael Sluijs, Tomas Siron, Pavel Bogazov, Konsta Lensu

New members added: Michael Gürtl-Dusleag, Manuel Kameda-Schlich, Edgar Rubio

Suggested referee committee: its mandate is included in the Guidelines committee

Website:

We should be sure that there is backup of ranking lists

Michael G.D. I offer my expertise as IT specialist to help with fixing some points that the site is lacking (certificates etc) if necessary.

Luc: website backup is including in hosting, and it is sponsored.

Tech panel: Maxim, Jasper, Michael G.D., Pawel, Andrew, Martin Divis. Should be headed by Sebastien.

BE: Hard to find room in the calendar. Can we have fewer tournaments per country? Tournament Guidelines Committee can look at it

DK: proposing to set up a discord channel. Sharing of information. Share referee issues.

Supported by the GA.

MCR rule committee

Aleksei, Astrid Dubedout, Axel Eschenburg, Tina , Luc

Add: Loic

France wants to change 1 country 1 vote, and find a new system. Luc: would mean changing the statutes.

Ildiko: this would be unfair to small countries.

11. Presentation by Wenlong Li, General Secretary of the IMSA

Thanks for the invitation. I was happy to join the referee seminar, and become a certified EMA referee.

IMSA, International Mind Sport Association under IOC umbrella. Esports Federation has joined IMSA. Poker Federation is under consideration.

Attracting a younger audience. 3 cities are applying for hosting the next IMSA games, and mahjong will part of it. Will allow for more support. Int



Esports Federation will make an online platform for mahjong and work to include it in Asian Games.

MIL is cooperating with Hanzhou, support and recognition from local authorities, and Taipei has a party working to make mahjong a recognised sport. MIL has promoted the Duplicate Format which is recognised by IMSA, finals and global events must be in duplicate format. It is a format, like round robin.

MIL support both MCR and RCR (riichi rules). 30.000 active MCR players in China, for other rules, millions of players.

I could not come to WRC due to COVID but MIL supported 8 participants from South America.

Cooperation with Hanzhou on MCR, RCR and Sichuan rules. Skill level certification. 3 million players have applied. Live broadcasting on tiktok, 1 million viewers every day. Valuable for stakeholders.

Presentation by Gemma Sakamoto on WRC

Played since 2006. Qualified as professional player in Japan in 2013.

WRC events in 2014 Paris, 2017 Las Vegas

2022 Vienna. 2025 Tokyo

Vienna saw a lot of teamwork between Europe and Japan. Good media exposure, including a documentary Mind Games: The Experiment available on youtube, JPML channel Mondo and Fairpoint Production.

WRC rules by Sylvain Malbec 2013. Currently on version 3.

WRC rules used widely throughout Americas and Australia

WRC Red with Red fives - a document is being finalised.

Also working to align with M League.

We are aware of proportionality, we have heard views that penalties are too severe, it may limit who wants to adopt the rules.

1-6 July 2025

Qualification tournaments by Kasu and TnT.

Key focus: Education , transparency, resilience and standardisation.

12. Miscellanea

The GA thanked the outgoing president for all his work, not least in holding EMA together through the covid years.

