



## **Observer report for Doppelturnier 2017, MCR tournament (MCR, MERS 1)**

**Observer:** Pieter POTMEER

**Date:** October 29<sup>th</sup> 2017

**Place:** Edeweicht, Germany

**Website or other source(s) of information:** Information provided through DMJL.de: tournament dates, registration information, participants, location, etc. Information jointly provided for Riichi tournament on Saturday.

**Participants:** 36 players

**Represented countries:**

- Germany: 19
- Netherlands: 11
- Belgium: 2
- France: 2
- United Kingdom: 2

**Playing schedule:** 4 rounds of 120 minutes, with RERS tournament on the preceding day.

**Location:** The Gasthaus am Markt is a suitable venue with room to seat many more players than were in attendance. Accommodations were available at the Gasthaus for players in attendance for the whole weekend.

**Equipment:** Standard Chinese tiles on tables of suitable size, all equipment was in good order.

**Refereeing:** Fred BOHLMANN was the non-playing referee.

**Complaints:** A number of players claimed that the referee issued an incorrect ruling in a situation where the winning player failed to claim the winning discard after calling 'Hu'. The players asserted that the referee had based his penalty (a dead hand) on an outdated penalty overview, which did not list the correct penalty (10 points subtracted after which the hand is scored as normal).

The observer checked the date on the referee's penalty overview, which was found to date from June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The referee indicated that he did not know where to find a newer document. He had obtained this document at a referee seminar he attended several years ago, and since no one from his circle had attended one since, no one was aware of any changes to the rules.

Here the situation becomes slightly confusing. While preparing this report, the observer checked the rules documents provided on the EMA website, and found an MCR penalty overview, dated June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009! The overview obtained on the website clearly includes the correct penalty for this

situation. The observer recalls that the referee pointed out which penalty he applied, but when viewing the penalty overview obtained from the website, the foul in question pertains to failing to take a claimed tile after chow, pung or kong. The observer unfortunately does not recall whether the overview held by the referee actually listed the correct penalty. Therefore, the observer can come to only two possible conclusions:

1. The referee was using the correct penalty overview, but incorrectly interpreted it, and made the wrong ruling. Most likely this was due to a confusion in translation. The observer recommends EMA considers adding a clarification to the penalty overview: that the wording for the foul 'Failing to take claimed tile before next two players has discarded' be updated to explicitly state that the tile was claimed for chow, pung or kong to avoid confusion with failing to claim a tile for hu. The referee should more closely study the rules in preparation for future tournaments.
2. There are, in fact, two versions of the penalty overview in circulation, but for some reason both are dated June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009. One (available on the EMA website) includes the correct penalty for failing to take a tile claimed for hu, while the other (held in hardcopy by the referee) does not. In this case, the observer recommends the referee obtain updated documents from the website, and EMA clarifies that there have been further updates to the penalty overview since 2009.

The observer considers the first conclusion most likely, but it rests on the assumption that all involved parties (the observer, the referee and the complaining players) jointly came to the wrong conclusion, namely that the referee was using an outdated document. On the other hand, that EMA would retroactively alter a rules document without applying a new date seems like a rather bizarre practice which is bound to lead to confusion somehow.

**Information / communication during the tournament:** Play timer, tournament schedule (with updates) and round results were displayed on a large projection screen, which was well visible from the entire playing area.

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

**Catering:** Coffee, tea, bottled water, snacks and fruit were available to players throughout the day. Lunch consisted of soup, bread and bratwurst. Freshly-baked cakes were served after the third round.

**Prizes:** Gift baskets with assorted foodstuffs for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Small gifts for players who first managed to complete certain rare hands announced at the beginning of the day. The overall best player of both Saturday and Sunday was awarded the floating trophy.

**Conclusion:** Overall a great tournament organized by lovely people from Germany. All visitors were extremely grateful for the hospitality provided by the organisers, and the observer hopes to be able to attend the tournament again in the future. The venue offers ample space for growth, and the double tournament structure that alternates Riichi with MCR is extremely interesting for players of both disciplines (or those willing to learn a second!). Strongly recommended!