



## Observer report for Bologna Double Race 2018 (MCR + Riichi)

**Observer:** Cédric Aguerre

**Date:** June 9th – 10th 2018

**Place:** Bologna, Italy

**Website or other source(s) of information:** All information on the website of FIMJ ([http://www.fimj.it/?page\\_id=6133](http://www.fimj.it/?page_id=6133)): registration, program, list of participants,...

**Participants:** total 34 players (28 in MCR, 28 in Riichi) from 3 countries: Italy (27), France (5), Poland (2)

**Playing schedule:** 1 day MCR with 4 rounds of 90 minutes, 1 day Riichi with 5 hanchans.

**Location:** The “Caserme Rosse” has several rooms each large enough to host players and leave enough space between them, with the timekeeper’s table at the rear.

**Equipment:** We played on squared tables with standards game sets according to the game rules (large tiles for MCR on Saturday and smaller Riichi sets on Sunday). MCR scores written on standard score sheets. For Riichi using sticks + score sheets + mobile app.

**Remarks on scores calculation during Riichi play:** Players were asked to write han/fu on a dedicated score sheet. They can also use sticks and a mobile app to calculate the scores. Entering hands result in the app is longer (30-60 seconds) than using sticks. But one can read the exact scores at any time if the mobile phone is placed in the table center. The use of sticks remains the easiest, fastest and more secure way of managing stacks. I observed several problems with the app (wrong use, app crash). At the last hand of first hanchan, all scores were lost on a table using the app but not the sticks. Fortunately the hanchan has been saved by recalculating scores from all han/fu written on the score sheet. From this moment all players were asked to always use sticks. IMHO the app may provide additional features (live scores, hand statistics after the game, calculation check) but it should not replace neither sticks usage fiability nor the (human) learning of han/fu and hand value calculation.

**Refereeing:** Joël Ratsimandresy (FR) was the player referee. Alberto Rosi (IT) managed the timekeeper’s table.

**Complaints:** None.

### **Information / communication during the tournament:**

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. Players clearly informed of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking up to date between each session.

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

**Catering:** Lunches at the same place (typical Italian food), drinks and others.

**Prizes:** Gift basket for individual rankings (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>) in MCR, high-tech products for individual rankings (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>) in Riichi. A 0-100 score has been calculated for each of MCR and Riichi ranking. The sum of players' scores led to the final double race classification. Trophies for individual ranking (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>) in double race + medals for the 3 best Italian players.

**Conclusion:** Very nice tournament in Bologna, 20 minutes by car from the airport, with a very good (warm) weather. Well organized, friendly and competitive. Italian people aim at developing mah-jong, also promoting Riichi play. They rely on their solid experience in tournaments organization.