



## Observer report for Warsaw Mahjong Taikai 2018 (Riichi, MERS 3)

**Observer:** Matej Labaš








**Date:** December 8th - 9th 2018

**Place:** Warsaw, Poland

**Website or other source(s) of information:** All information on the website of the Polish Mahjong League : registration, program, list of participants,...

**Participants:** 56 players

### Represented countries

POL	UKR	BLR	SVK	RUS	SWE	GBR
						
39	7	4	2	2	1	1

**Playing schedule:** 2 days, 8 rounds (4+4) of 90 minutes

**Location:** Faculty of Chemistry of Warsaw University, two classrooms close to each other.

**Equipment:** Square tables with mats and tiles of various colour variants, all in approximately similar size. Scores were kept in the Mahjong Tracker application on one phone per table.

**Refereeing:** Szymon Lasota (Head Referee), Marta Binkowska, Jakub Bacic, Dominik Kolenda, Łukasz Grzybowski - all playing referees.

**Complaints:** There was a misunderstanding on one of the tables regarding a dead hand penalty, that was handled by the referees, but with a 10 minute delay in the hanchan. Afterwards, one of the players on the table complained, that he received a penalty for arriving late to the next hanchan, and he found it unfair, because of the delay and because of broken toilets on the floor - he had to go to a different floor to find working ones.

### Information / communication during the tournament:

Organizers explained everything regarding the event during the opening of the tournament. Countdowns were displayed on screens in both classrooms. Live results could be checked using the Mahjong Tracker application for everyone that had the app installed.

**Sessions:** Everything went well, sessions started on time, players were excellent to each other.

**Catering:** Unfortunately the organizers had to redirect the budget that should have been used for lunch to get another classroom to accommodate more players. They informed all the players about it in an email 1 day before the tournament. A list and a map of restaurants was provided, with local players glad to offer advice where to eat.

Other than that, snacks and drinks were available on the premises for everyone to enjoy.

**Prizes:** Four places were awarded prizes, as is customary in Warsaw – medals and merchandise of various types (mahjong set, tabletop games, pins etc.)

**Conclusion:** Tournament went well, except for the dead hand incident, which will probably serve as a great learning tool for referees in the future. Everyone was friendly and level of play was adequate. We had a good time in Warsaw and will likely come again!