



Observer report for Rzeszów Riichi Open 2023 (Riichi, MERS 2)

Observer: Artur LIBICH

Date: June 29th – 30th 2023

Place: Rzeszów, Poland

Website or other source(s) of information: Facebook event was used as the source of all information: registration, program, list of participants.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/914949246264728>

Participants: 28 players

Represented countries:

Poland 23

Ukraine 4

Portugal 1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 hanchans, 75 minutes + finish this hand and one more.

Location: Raglot Rzeszów – academy of logical games, located inside an industrial complex in the middle of Rzeszów. Exact location was available in Google Maps, also organizer provided a marked map how to reach the venue inside the complex. Tournament was in one room with plenty of space. With fans and open windows there was enough ventilation. A separate room was provided to relax during breaks.

Equipment: Tables large enough to hold both mat and drinks, and small enough to have no issues reaching the opposite wall. Various good quality mats and various good quality mahjong sets, including plenty of spares. Tournament in Mahjong Tracker app was used for scoring.

Refereeing: Łukasz Grzybowski and Dominik Kolenda were playing referees. There was no non-playing referee.

Complaints:

One large Chinese set was used on standard size mat – replaced set with a smaller one.

A few chairs felt not solid, and one broke during the game (fortunately no injury for the player) – organizer replaced it and any other dangerous chairs.

There was no agenda in visible place at first – fixed after mentioning.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Remaining time was visible in the Mahjong Tracker application on each table. Tournament standings were available in the application. There was no public display, but I have not heard any complaints about that. Main organizer was non-playing and providing any required information, including announcing round time end.

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

Catering: Lunch in the same place, soup and full-size 2nd dish for each participant. The serving was so big that it caused leftovers. The dishes were different each day. On first day food arrived a bit late, which caused a 15-minute delay for last 3 games. In addition, snacks, tea and coffee was available in the relax room. Bottled water was provided for each player to drink during games.

Prizes: Medals for first 4 places. Board games for first three. Bag of good quality tea for 4th place. Small towel as consolation prize for last place.

Conclusion: Very nice tournament in Rzeszów, went smooth without major issues. Despite it being in the middle of the summer, it was not that hot.