



Observer report for Championnat de France MCR 2024 (MCR, MERS 4)

Observer: Anton Kösters

Date: March 30th, 31st, April 1st.









Place: Lyon, France

Website or other source(s) of information:

All tournament information available on website. Regular updates by mail in the weeks before. The tournament was fully booked in one day. The start of the registration was announced beforehand, so everyone had the chance to register in time.

Participants: 80 players

Represented countries:

FRA	SUI	ITA	SWE	POR	NED	GER	ESP
							
66	4	4	2	1	1	1	1

Playing schedule: 3 days, 11 rounds (4+4+3) of 115 minutes

Location: *Maison des Italiens* in the centre of the city. Public transport stops in front of the venue. In the venue all necessary facilities available.

Equipment:

Excellent tables and mahjong sets.

Refereeing:

Erwan was non-playing referee and was quite busy answering question and correcting score sheets.

Remarks:

The time limit to complete one round was set to 115 minutes (plus extra time to finish the current hand). In other tournaments still 110 minutes is applied. Result was that 99% of the tables finished with 16 hands played. I recommend the EMA to prescribe a minimum of 115 minutes for one round, as the aim of the game is to play 16 hands in one round (and not to be ready before lunch).

After round 3, I personally made a remark to the organizers about the use of the mahjong calculation app during the game by some players. During the OEMC, there was a clear rule that the use of any electronic device during the games is prohibited, with an exception for calculators assisting the person that records the scores. The use of an app by others is only taking extra time, distracting and adding confusion. As long as the score sheet is the only relevant means to record

the score, I recommend EMA to make clear in the tournament regulations that the use of electronic devices (other than calculators) is not allowed.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Intermediate and final results projected shortly after each round in the tournament venues and published on Facebook, on the tournament website and on everyone's personal results page, including detailed statistics on your personal performance.

In a perfect world, one would have this info available after each tournament.

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

Catering: Coffee, tea, soft drinks (and other drinks), fruit and snacks available through the day. Lunch meal was served around noon.

And because of the 10th anniversary of Mahjong Club du Rhône, there was pizza and birthday cake during social play on Friday. Congratulations and thanks !

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), and one more for the best team. Before the start of each round, a challenge was announced (e.g. the first chicken-hand or the largest hand value) and awarded with a special price.

Conclusion:

Excellent tournament, well organized and great players.