



## Observer report for Yakitori Riichi Open Berlin 2024 (Riichi, MERS 3.5)

**Observer:** Jakub BACIC












**Date:** June/22-23, 2024

**Place:** Berlin, Germany

**Website or other source(s) of information:** All information was available on the Berlin Mahjong Club website [\[link\]](#): registration, program, list of participants, scoring.

**Participants:** 76 players

### Represented countries

GER	UKR	POL	SWE	FRA	BEL	SUI	EUR	NED	IRL	GBR	ESP	DEN	CHN	AUT
														
38	8	7	4	4	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

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

**Location:** Sport school not so far away from the city center, same venue as in the previous year. The room itself was spacious and could accommodate even more players. Additional huge room with snacks designated as a hangout area upstairs.

**Equipment:** Comfortable chairs and tables, visible clock, no issues with the mahjong sets. The “non-standard” sets with grey and red reverses had different looking 1-souzu, but that fact was clearly announced by the organizer and didn’t obstruct the game in any way.

Scoring was recorded using the mobile app called Pantheon. Design of the app was intuitive, I used it first time in my life without any issues. The only thing which made the process of counting points longer was the fact it wasn’t possible for players at the table to correct wrongly inputted hand themselves. Players had to call the referee, who removed the hand and then input the correct result once again.

**Refereeing:** Two non-playing referees were all the time present. They have been active and attentive. I haven’t heard about any major refereeing case which could cause some issues, players seemed to be experienced and they called referees mostly to correct their hands in the app or to accept the chombos (it was announced that for every chombo a referee should be called, even if it’s an obvious case stated in EMA rules).

**Complaints:**

- Some of the players tended to put the melds in front of them (instead of their right side). It was never pointed out by referees even though it's not compliant with EMA rules.
- Players often chitchatted among themselves using a language that's not understood by everybody at the table. Scoring was always done in English though without any issues.
- Poorly chosen date of the tournament during EURO 2024. A lot of players canceled, probably due to accommodation issues at that weekend.

**Positive remarks:**

- + Cold water, sparkling and still (plus apfel schorle) were available for the players all the time in the fridges, both on the venue itself as well as in the chillout room upstairs.
- + Delicious dinner (multiple positive remarks)!
- + Snacks, especially mini Haribos.
- + Chillout room upstairs - spacious and well separated from the main venue.

**Information / communication during the tournament:**

Very good communication with the organizers; clear, loud announcements between hanchans; e-mail reminders before the tournament.

**Sessions:** Peaceful, without any delay, FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun), last 2 session seatings were created based on the current tournament ranking.

**Catering:** Asian-style buffet was set up in the chillout room. Food was really tasty, amount was more than enough (players could take refills).

**Prizes:** Trophies for best 3 players (1st, 2nd and 3rd) and one more for the yakitori. Some achievements received chocolates. As it was German Championships, best German player got a seat for ERM2024.

**Conclusion:** Very well organized tournament. Good atmosphere, comfortable conditions. I'd recommend this event for friends if they considered choosing a tournament in Germany.