

PRO25 Observer Report

Observer Name: Claire Pozniak

Observer State of Residence: New York

Event Name: Philly Riichi Open 2025

Event Location: Old Pine Community Center, Philadelphia

Event Date: November 8-9, 2025

Number of Participants: 92

Event Schedule Summary: (*Days played, number of rounds, finalist rounds, time per round, etc.*)
2 days played, with 9 hanchan total and no top cut. Each round was 75 minutes + 0. Lunch break after round 2 each day.

Names of Officials/Judges:

Mike Lee - TO

Allen Z - Head Judge

Other Judges: Sarah Allen, James E

Communication to Players: (*How were announcements, standings, pairings etc. communicated to players during the event?*)

Communications were made to players via Discord and email prior to the event, and through the podium as well as on Discord during the event.

Prizes:

trophies for top 4, medals for 5-8

Catering:

Coffee and snacks

Tournament Atmosphere:

The atmosphere was pleasant and friendly but competitive, as expected from the Philly club. The room was not overcrowded and no section of it was too hot or too cold. The lobby area was excellent for waiting without too much noise going into the room.

Complaints and Issues:

Several complaints were received about body odor from participants, which is not something within the organizer's control generally.

Clarification was requested on note taking / requesting mid-game score counts to be written when multiple competing opinions were offered. The organizers clarified the rules on this before the next hanchan began.

Observer Personal Summary:

I always greatly enjoy my time at the Philly Riichi Open and this tournament was no exception! Their new space worked perfectly for the event, the tournament staff were prepared and organized, and the energy was positive and competitive all weekend. Can't wait to come back again next year!