

ARA Event Observer Report

Observer Name:

Edward Zeng

Observer State of Residence:

Pennsylvania

Event Name:

Great Lakes Riichi Open 2025

Event Location:

R U Game, 1345 E Michigan Ave, Saline, MI

Event Date:

October 25-26, 2025

Number of Participants:

68

Event Schedule Summary: *(Days played, number of rounds, finalist rounds, time per round, etc.)*

2 Days, 7 hanchan scramble followed by a top 4 cut. Top 4 will play a two hanchan final bracket, while all other players continue with two additional games of scramble to determine final placements of 5th and lower. 75+0 time limit.

WRC 2025 Ruleset with Red Fives, 30/10 Uma, Kazoe Yakuman (Yonbaiman), and lower penalties.

Names of Officials/Judges:

Steve (TO), AndrewS (Head Judge), Hannah Zhou (Judge)

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

Announcements were done by Steve on the tournament discord (#announcements) and at the venue before each hanchan. Players in the back or the side room could not hear very clearly.

Prizes:

Cash Prizes for top 4: 200/150/100/50 respectively for 1st-4th for \$500 of total cash prizes.

Trophies for top 4, medals for 5th-8th, and a random name generator that picked random players for swag.

Catering:

There were bagels, coffee and water at the venue. There were a few food options right next door, and a lot via a 10-20 min drive.

Tournament Atmosphere:

The tournament was held in the back room of a game store, and there were curtains to separate the store front from the players.

There were not many noise complaints but sometimes customers stumbled into the playing area and had to be guided back out. This was only mildly distracting, as it only affected a few tables at most.

There were two bathrooms as well, and a bathroom in the movie theatre next door, so it wasn't much of a problem.

The waiting / chatting / store area was large enough that we had no problem fitting the finished tables of players in the outside room.

Complaints and Issues:

Room was really hot

Some parts of the room was pretty dark, and especially the inside room was very dark

At least two instances of people's phones ringing - judges did NOT stop the phone and they rang for a long time.

WRC 2025 rules indicate that a chombo after time gives you another hand, but judges did not give the extra hand to adhere to the 2022 rules for consistency (despite tournament website showing that WRC 2025 rules were being used).

Observer Personal Summary:

Day 1: Each hanchan started 10-15 minutes late

Day 2 was better, with each hanchan only starting about 5 minutes late

Overall, the tournament went really well, and Steve did a great job!