

ARA Event Observer Report

Observer Name: Jeff Tran

Observer State of Residence: CA

Event Name: Rochester Riichi Open 2025

Event Location: Hammergirl Anime, Rochester, NY

Event Date: April 12-13, 2025

Number of Participants: 32

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

4 rounds per day, 6 total rounds for preliminary scramble

2 round set for top 4 players

90+0 timer

30 minutes from timer end until start of the next round

Names of Officials/Judges:

TO/Judge: Luke Morgan

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

Announcements were made verbally and scores/pairings were posted in the tournament Discord server

Prizes:

Hammergirl Anime gift certificates and trophies to top 4 finishers

Medals to 5th-8th places

Various items raffled after the scramble, with more tickets being given to higher placements and 2 given to every participant at registration

Catering:

Free bottled water

Tournament Atmosphere:

The atmosphere was more casual than other tournaments. Players were more willing to chatter between hands and let smaller violations (sorting drawn tiles into hand, choosing to call after starting to draw, etc.) pass. There was background noise throughout the tournament due to it being hosted in a retail store, but nobody thought that it was an issue.

Complaints and Issues:

- A player noted that they were confronted on the second day by a player that they had called a judge on in round 1 for behavioral issues like visibly being disappointed when they had to fold a hand. They did not report this confrontation to a judge.
- There were multiple instances of repeat matchups starting on day 1. Luke announced to the tournament that he would be submitting a report about this separately to ARA with what he found about the pairing system used.

Observer Personal Summary:

Aside from the multiple repeat matchups, things ran smoothly. With the longer time between rounds, everything was pretty much on schedule. As mentioned earlier, the atmosphere felt more casual than other ARA-sanctioned tournaments, but it seemed to work well for the players. I enjoyed the weekend and would come back again.