

ARA Event Observer Report

Observer Name:

Yishen Wu

Observer State of Residence:

New York State

Event Name:

North Texas Riichi Open 2025

Event Location:

McKinney, Texas

Event Date:

August 16-17, 2025

Number of Participants:

65

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

Days played: 2

Number of rounds: 7 before cut, 2 after cut

Finalist rounds: 2

Time per round: 75+0

Names of Officials/Judges:

N/A

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

Through in person, discord, and website announcements

Prizes:

Awards and gifts (candles, books, rubik's cube, gift card)

Catering:

Unlimited bottle water and two free sodas per player

Tournament Atmosphere:

Good and chill

Complaints and Issues:

1. There is a complaint that judges gave out different rulings when players declared riichi while their hands were open. One judge issued a warning in one case, while the other judge deemed it a dead hand in the other case.
2. There is a complaint that a judge gave out a warning to a player who allegedly snapped their finger to get the judge's attention during the competition. The player doesn't remember snapping their finger and feels the warning is unfair.

Observer Personal Summary:

The North Texas Riichi Open 2025 is a well-organized and enjoyable tournament. The organizers were very considerate despite the high temperatures during the days of the competition. Multiple solutions were implemented quickly, including providing unlimited bottled iced water, adjusting the AC temperature, and putting paper on the windows.

The judges are consistently helpful and fair, further enhancing the quality of the competition. There were a few complaints, and they are recorded above.

The free play is also enjoyable and has a very good atmosphere.

To sum up, North Texas Riichi Open 2025 is one of the most successful and well-run mahjong tournaments in 2025. It goes without saying that this tournament contributes greatly to the growth of the Riichi community in the US.