

ARA Event Observer Report

Observer Name: Kristy Chang

Observer State of Residence: PA

Event Name: Seattle Riichi Open 2025

Event Location: 13 Top Tricks, Bellevue, WA

Event Date: 9/13/2025 - 9/14/2025

Number of Participants: 56

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

8 hanchans (75+1) were played on hand shuffle except for the top 4 cut after round 6 which was played on autotable. Top 4 had points reset and played 2 finals hanchans.

Names of Officials/Judges:

Tournament Organizer: Ember

Judges: Carrot, Lawrence

Subs: Nikki, Gary, Roy, Peter

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

Announcements were made in-person. Hanchan start/end and time warnings were announced clearly. Time remaining was displayed largely on projectors on both ends of the room. Pairings were displayed on the projectors right before hanchans started and standing were displayed during breaks.

Prizes:

Top 4 received tenbou-themed trophies and had their entrance fees refunded.

Catering:

Snacks and beverages were provided in the venue courtesy of 13 Top Tricks. Food was available for purchase at restaurants within a 20 minute walk, or a short drive.

Tournament Atmosphere:

Fun, competitive.

Finished players socialized right outside the room which distracted some players still playing. Staff usually remembered to close the door.

Complaints and Issues:

Last minute player drops caused slight delays in hanchan 1 as subs were needed.

Some players reported judging inconsistencies as the same infractions resulted in different penalties (two were ruled as chombos but one was dead hand). Judging usually took longer than average.

A judge was called on a player who said “wait” instead of “pon” immediately. No penalties were given and the next player may draw if they wish to.

There was a scoring issue at a table where a player remembered they misscored their own hand as mangan instead of haneman after the end of the next hand. Upon bringing this up, another player at the table vaguely remembered and agreed it should have been a haneman (and only recognized this after the issue was brought up), but thought according to the rules, the hand was already over so there was no revisiting. Voices were raised, claims of poor sportsmanship mentioned despite judge already at the table. The other two players could not confirm the haneman as neither remembered, but upon judge pressing them, the two just agreed to the haneman. Decision was made to revise score to haneman.

Top 4 players seemed to dislike the particular model of autotable and wished to play hand shuffle instead. The autotable could not be set to 30k start and the tiles were clunky.

Observer Personal Summary:

There were inconsistencies during announcements about how the all-last compass should be filled (players were told to write scores based on original starting dealers, but everyone wrote based on current dealer).

I noticed that some sets had marked tiles. I tried to wipe off as many markings as possible but no one seemed to have complaints.

Free play was available until late in the tournament venue. Autotables were also available at Ponten Mahjong parlor nearby.

Overall, I had a fun time at the tournament.