

ARA Event Observer Report

Observer Name:

Quincy Huang

Observer State of Residence:

New Jersey

Event Name:

Berkeley Riichi Mahjong Fall Open 2025

Event Location:

UC Berkeley Student Union
2495 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94720

Event Date:

November 1-2, 2025

Number of Participants:

40

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

2 days, 9 rounds, all cumulative no cut, 75 minutes + 0

Names of Officials/Judges:

Day 1:

Head Judge: Daniel B

Second Judge: Hawnlay S

Sub 1: Robert C

Sub 2: Patrick Ka Shing L

Day 2:

Head Judge: Daniel B

Second Judge: Peter N

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

Pre-tournament announcements were made via emails and Discord pings. In-tournament announcements were made via Discord pings. Standings and pairings were posted on scoremj.com

Prizes:

None

Catering:

None. Water was provided the first day. Water fountains are available in the building where the venue is in.

Tournament Atmosphere:

Generally agreeable. Friendly and welcoming

Complaints and Issues:

1. Player reported that during gameplay, another player on the table discarded a tile without drawing first, resulting in shohai situation. The head judge was called by the table but did not issue penalty (dead-hand or chombo) and let the player draw a replacement tile and resume gameplay.
2. Player reported that in a game that had a sub player on the table, the sub player was on their phone during the game.
3. Pre-tournament announcements/communication regarding venue location, travel tips, tournament ruleset, ARA qualifying points distribution, prize pool, and etc. could have been more detailed.
4. The venue room had sun glare issue, organizers did not seem to have anticipated the issue and did not have a mitigation plan. Players were moving tables around during the games to fix the issue by themselves.

Observer Personal Summary:

Overall, well organized tournament with minor imperfections. Venue location was very convenient with lots of food options available around. Organizers did their best to ensure a welcoming, friendly as well as fair and competitive tournament.