

# ARA Event Observer Report

**Observer Name:** Dustin Fries

**Observer State of Residence:** Maryland

**Event Name:** VBRT 2026

**Event Location:** 4878 Princess Anne Rd #105, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

**Event Date:** 2/20 - 2/21

**Number of Participants:** 32

## **Event Schedule Summary:**

10 Rounds of Pure scramble with 75 minutes + 0 hand across two days

## **Names of Officials/Judges:**

James B Tournament Organizer

Josh H - Judge

Kate L - Judge

## **Communication to Players:**

Standings and pairings were listed on the tournament discord/ a google sheet link. Judges communicated announcements to players as normal. Multiple TVs displayed time left in a round.

## **Prizes:**

\$200 prize and trophy for 1st place, \$100 and trophy for 2nd place, some various choices of swag and trophies for 3rd and 4th place

### **Catering:**

Sodas and a good and wide selection of cookies and other snacks were provided complimentary

### **Tournament Atmosphere:**

Relaxed atmosphere with players of mixed skill levels, people generally friendly and keeping their cool despite what mahjong does to us

### **Positive Notes:**

Very hospitable environment courtesy of James and Kate and the rest of the staff at Setting sun VB!

There was a nice amount of cool stuff to do after hours besides just mahjong, namely some fighting game stuff.

Lots of convenient side tables, jacket hooks, and other amenities part of the venue.

Someone noted that adding 5 minutes to a tables time when a chombo happened felt like a good rule.

### **Complaints and Issues:**

Having two substitutes at the same table during some of the hanchans was not ideal

A few participants noted preferring a format with a cutoff and final table with this player count

There was a situation where a dead hand was given out but it wasn't made clear that was the ruling to two of the other players that it was a dead hand until the fourth player pointed out that the offending player had a dead hand and could not be tenpai at the end of the hand

There seemed to be more repeat match ups than there probably should have been on the second day, granted the circumstances were not ideal with additional drops between the two days.

There was a situation where one player discarded a dora and a different player asked a judge if they were furiten on that tile say 8m dora and the second player had a 5m in their discard. The player who observed this felt weird about the information being made available by the player asking the judge

A player noted a substitute took their phone out and took a picture of their hand in the middle of a hand.

Someone noted that one of the substitutes was fumbling assembling their wall at a rate that seemed rather high.

It seemed like only the judges were reporting scores, having other people available for recording scores would be ideal.

**Observer Personal Summary:**

I wasn't affected by the issues that many people reported, but I appreciated the opportunity to be receptive to what other players experienced. Still, the staff put on a great and fun tournament despite the unideal weather, player drops, and other circumstances. I am looking forward to coming back next year!