

ARA Event Observer Report

Observer Name:

Edward Zeng

Observer State of Residence:

Pennsylvania

Event Name:

Oklahoma Riichi Open 2026

Event Location:

Embassy Suites 3332 S 79th E Ave, Tulsa, OK 74145

Event Date:

March 14-15, 2026

Number of Participants:

44

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

2 Days, 7 hanchan scramble followed by a top 4 cut. Top 4 will play a two hanchan final bracket, while all other players continue with two additional games of scramble to determine final placements of 5th and lower. 75+1 time limit.

WRC 2025 Ruleset with Open Riichi, 15/5 Uma, Nagashi Mangan, Chankan on Ankan (for Kokushi only), and lower penalties.

Names of Officials/Judges:

Caleb G (TO), Justin G (Head Judge), Ty B (Judge), Joe (Judge)

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

Announcements were done by Caleb on the tournament discord (#announcements) and at the venue before each hanchan.

Prizes:

Collectible art piece imprinted on a junk mat for 1st place. Trophies for top 4, medals for 5th-8th.

Catering:

There were muffins and water at the venue. There were food options by car, and a few fast food chains within a 15 minute walking distance.

Tournament Atmosphere:

The tournament was held in one of the large conference rooms in the hotel, and it was very spacious. The outside area was nice to hang out in, and noise did not often leak into the playing area. There were multiple bathrooms as well, which was a big help between hanchans.

Complaints and Issues:

There was only one timer on a projector, so some people had to turn around to see the clock.

Some parts of the room was pretty dark, and especially the inside room was very dark

One instance of a phone ringing which was not penalized.

After players disagreed at the table, one judge falsely ruled a hand to be a dead hand when it should've been a warning (false pon without revealing tiles). That player was quite new and felt that they were scammed from a hand. This was discussed and corrected by the judge after the game, but affected the game nonetheless.

One player called out another player for slowplay. A judge watched the player play from the rest of the hanchan but most of the slow decision points were deemed reasonable - only a few decisions took longer than it needed to.

Judges were noticed to be circling tables where big hands were happening more often, which may have given information to the players who noticed this trend.

One person (James Bragg from Denver Riichi Mahjong) dropped after registering and paying without saying anything. Caleb had to ask the day of the tournament to confirm their absence. Two people dropped during the tournament but did so properly by notifying the staff.

Observer Personal Summary:

Every hanchan started within 5 minutes of the listed starting time, which was great!

Open Riichi ended up not being that bad to work with, as there were no major issues that arose regarding colluding or the like regarding open riichi. I thought it was fun, but probably wouldn't want it to be the standard.

Overall, the tournament went really well, and Caleb did a great job!