



Observer report for **Poznan MCR OPEN 2025** (MCR, MERS 2+)

Observer: Ksenia Trishina

Date: January 18th – 19th 2025

Place: Poznań, Poland

Website or other source(s) of information:

<https://www.mahjong.kalisz.pl/poznan-mcr-open-2025/> - registration and tournament info

Participants: 52 players including 2 substitutes

Represented countries: 9

Poland	Germany	France	Sweden	Netherlands	UK	Belgium	Hungary	Switzerland
15	11	11	10	1	1	1	1	1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 7 rounds (4+3) of 120 minutes

Location: one of the conference rooms at [Hotel Moderno](#), 20 min by car from the airport.

There was a deal with the hotel to have rooms for 1 or 2 persons plus breakfast.

Social play was offered on Friday night, up to 5 tables were playing simultaneously.

Equipment: Game sets were of the same size, different back colours and styles.

Ordinary square tables were used – no borders. Initially light green clothes were covering the tables. It was difficult to shuffle the tiles and operate the walls as the cloth was getting wrinkled and moving a lot. From the second round and onwards clothes were removed. Shuffling became much easier but unfortunately much louder as well.

2 rows of tables were located too close to each other during round 1 – was solved by aligning the tables in a diamond shape before round 2.

Table 1's set had a defect and was replaced for round 2.

Refereeing: Thibaut Arnold was non-player referee, acted friendly and with empathy.

Complaints: Lack of dedicated mahjong tables with proper surface and borders – makes shuffling and wall building less smooth.

Bamboo tiles in some sets were not 100% green – a combination of green and grey-ish colour.

Most of the time it was rather warm in the room, not enough fresh air.

Bad light when sitting next to the walls as spotlights were in the middle of the room along the roof.

Referee was at times interfering with the game even when not called for it.

There was no East sign on the wall.

Katarzyna Chabelska was both player and an organizer, had to do a lot herself, would have been better to get more help.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. A tiny bell was used as a gong with referee/organisers reinforcing the end of the round. Referee was announcing 15, 10, 5 min left.

Round table draw was done in advance and printed on the participants badges.

A summary with participants names and corresponding round tables was available at the entrance.

Ranking up to date between each session, projected from a computer on a screen.

By the end of day 1 ranking became available via [Results Google Drive](#) as well. Initially there were mistakes in some players results, it was quickly addressed and sorted out during the optional dinner.

Sessions: Excellent playing atmosphere, FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun).

It was a first ever EMA MCR tournament held in Poland, participants enjoyed it much.

Organizers demonstrated great hospitality, lot of love and care for all participants.

For most of the Polish players it was a first ever EMA tournament. They played fast and showed great knowledge of the game.

Pictures were taken during the tournament including a group photo.

Round 1 was delayed 30 min as one of the players had to take multiple trains as his flight got cancelled. Round 3 was delayed for additional 10 min as Katarzyna Chabelska had to sort out last details about the optional dinner. Overall, day 1 schedule became 40 min off.

Day 2 schedule was kept perfectly allowing participants taking their Sunday night flights.

Catering: Lunch in the same place with traditional Polish food, main course only.

Coffee, tea, water, small deserts were always available in a separate break room.

Optional dinner on Saturday night in the same place was offered as well. Soup plus main course.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd). Small gifts for top-10 players.

2 prizes for players making dragon (small/big) combinations and 1 prize for the biggest round result.

Conclusion: First ever EMA MCR tournament in Poland, attracting 52 players from 9 countries.

Many smiles and clapping, friendly and cheerful atmosphere. Traditional Polish food and great hospitality from the organisers.