

# European Mahjong Association General Assembly 2 July 2026

**Participants:** Lena Weinguny (Austria); Henri Devillez (Belgium); Marieke Verheyden (Belgium); Pavel Verabei (Belarus); Kanstantsin Haruchka (Belarus); Tina Christensen (Denmark); Jesper Nøhr (Denmark); Klaudia Lensu (Finland); Kristiina Kuusela (Finland); Nicolas Baptiste (France); Marion Hoarau (France); Julian Nowakowski (Germany); Timur Hahn (Germany); Ildiko Hargitai (Hungary); Marco Montebelli (Italy); Alberto Rosi (Italy); Simon Picard (Ireland); Joaquín Padilla Rivero (Ireland); Maksims Voitkevics (Latvia); Lynxa Ilves (Latvia); Vitalii Balaniuk (Lithuania); Paulius Puidokas (Lithuania); Ivar Bouwman (Netherlands); Désirée Heemskerk (Netherlands); Glenn Husom (Norway); Michał Tkaczyk (Poland); Sonia Rosa (Poland); Sérgio Matos Lima (Portugal); Elizabeth Toucas (Portugal); Rene Khezam (Romania); Michael van der Sluijs (Romania); Tomas Siron (Slovakia); Matija Klinc (Slovenia); Jernej Pangerc (Slovenia); José Moreno Merino (Spain); Edgar Rubio Rodilla (Spain); Petter Ranefall (Sweden); Jasper Germeys (Sweden); Gérard Hêche (Switzerland); Luc Humbert (Switzerland); Maksym Ivanov (Ukraine); Valerii Bohdanov (Ukraine); Gemma Sakamoto (United Kingdom & World Riichi); John Duckworth (United Kingdom).

**Excused:** Norbert Tschinkel (Austria); Jaroslav Brazina (Slovakia) ; Czechia country

**Invitees :** Li Wenlong (MIL)

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## 1. Appointment of notetaker who will prepare the minutes of the GA

Marion Hoarau

## 2. Report of the President

Marco Montebelli thanked the presidium and also sent a special thanks to Tina and Luc for prepare the EMA GA and tournament guidelines. He expressed gratitude for these last 3 years collaborating with all the federations. The collaboration with the WMO is complicated (as experienced at the WMO in Canada) and now the late announcement of the 8th WMC in October in China. The collaboration with the MIL is getting better (successful Mahjong World Cup in Rimini).

## 3. Reports from EMA members

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IFcrRK4LcxEN1rM9lnwKNzThLvOs6Guhd5ldThqHqwk/edit?usp=sharing>

## 4. Admissions of new member organisations

Voting support excel : [EMA GA 2026 Voting - Google Sheets](#)

The seven candidates were all admitted to EMA.

- Armenia : 21 Yes
- Georgia : 21 yes
- Belarus : 31 yes
- Latvia : 31 yes
- Lithuania : 34 yes
- Serbia : 34 yes
- Slovenia : 32 yes

## 5. Reports from existing committees

**The Riichi Rule Committee** finalised the new edition which came into effect on January 1, 2026. The committee has published accompanying documents, annotated rules and summary on the EMA web site. The committee will continue its existence in order to deal with questions and clarifications. The committee going forward is Klaudia Lensu (FI), Manuel Tertre (FR), Sérgio Matos Lima (PT), Gemma Sakamoto (UK), Tina Christensen (DK), Edgar (ES), Henri (BE).

**The MCR Rule Committee** will look at MCR rules which need clarifications. The committee going forward is Tina Christensen (DK), Petter Ranefall (SE), Marco Montebelli (IT), Timur Hahn (DE), Marion Hoarau (FR), Astrid Dubedout (FR), Jaqueline Oudshoorn (NL).

**The tournament Guidelines Committee** presented its work. The guidelines and accompanying documents were approved and the new requirements will come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2027, while the other amendments come into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2027:

- EMA requirements and guidelines for MERS tournaments - 2026 version
- The Mahjong Europe Ranking System (MERS) - 2026 version
- Summary of changes to the EMA Tournament Guidelines in 2026

The committee going forward is: Gemma Sakamoto (UK), Sérgio Matos Lima (PT), Klaudia Lensu (FI), Nicolas Baptiste (FR), Petter Ranefall (SE), Tina Christensen (DK), Jasper Germeys (SE), Manuel Kameda-Schlich (DE), Maxim Ivanov (UA), Michael Gürtl-Dusleag (AT).

**The Technical Committee** going forward is Michael Gürtl-Dusleag (AT), Jasper Germeys (SE), Loic De Kergommeaux (FR), Joaquín Padilla Rivero (IE), Maxim Ivanov (UA), Henri Devillez (BE). The committee will look at the website and the ranking database system and will work to establish a secure and robust framework.

## 6. Creation of new committee

It was decided to set up a referee committee for MCR and a referee committee for Riichi in order to coordinate referee seminars and update the materials of the referee seminars.

**Referee Committee for MCR:** Nicolas Baptiste, Marion Hoarau. Further names were mentioned but could not be confirmed on site and will be added later.

**Referee Committee for Riichi:** Klaudia Lensu (FI), Sérgio Matos Lima (PT), Jasper Germeys (SE), Yulong Chen (FR).

## 7. Sitings of future European Championships

### ERMC 2027

The next ERMCM will be in Katowice, Poland, 5-8 August 2027.

### OEMC 2029

Netherlands have indicated their intention to organise OEMC 2029. The GA decided that the deadline for submitting proposals is 1 July, 2027. The decision on the siting will be taken at the GA in Katowice in 2027.

## 8. Updates from international organisations

### World Riichi Championship (WRC)

Gemma Sakamoto presented the report of World Riichi Championship

Thanks to the support of national associations and international organisations, the **World Riichi Championship 2025 in Tokyo** was a great success. A Japanese M.LEAGUE player claimed the title of World Champion, meaning Japan has now won all four editions of the championship. New York, USA, was selected as the host city for the **World Riichi Championship 2028**. Planning is already underway and will continue throughout 2027. We would like to acknowledge that some concerns have been raised regarding the choice of location. We appreciate the feedback received and would like to reassure the community that a broad range of factors continue to be monitored as preparations progress.

The most significant development since WRC 2025 has been the **formalisation of partnerships between World Riichi Professional Mahjong (WRPM) and four of Japan's major professional mahjong organisations:**

- \* Japan Professional Mahjong League (JPML)
- \* Nihon Pro Mahjong (NPM)
- \* Mahjong Union (μ)
- \* RMU

These partnerships establish a framework for long-term cooperation between Japanese professional mahjong and the international community. Perhaps most importantly for overseas players, they create a pathway through which eligible WRPM members may be invited to participate in selected Japanese professional events, subject to the regulations of the respective organisations. The agreements also provide for cooperation in international promotion, education, player exchanges and future overseas activities. The Japanese professional organisations have also announced a dispatch programme to send more Japanese players to events in locations such as Europe. More details will come later this year.

**World Riichi Professional Mahjong (WRPM)** has now been established as a professional qualification programme for players residing outside Japan. Benefits include monthly strategy lectures delivered by Japanese professionals, participation in online professional events, educational seminars and other competitive activities designed to support player development. Its membership now includes players from an increasing number of countries, including several European nations. World Riichi's objective is to create additional opportunities for international players while working alongside existing national associations rather than replacing or competing with them.

**World Riichi League (WRL)** is now in its second year. The objective of WRL is to complement and supplement the extensive tournament calendars already offered by national associations by providing additional opportunities for clubs wishing to organise events under WRC Rules and for players who wish to compete under those rules (those who love chombos!). Events are intentionally designed to be relatively small and straightforward to organise, allowing clubs to offer additional competitive opportunities while keeping organisational requirements to a minimum.

**Education and Publishing.** Recognising that access to Japanese-language resources remains a significant barrier for many international players, World Riichi has expanded its educational activities through the translation and publication of Japanese strategy materials. The first titles were launched during the M.LEAGUE x World Riichi US Tour and will shortly become available for purchase online. World Riichi also continues to provide regular English-language livestreams of professional and international events through its YouTube channel, helping make high-level riichi mahjong more accessible to players across the globe.

### Looking Forward

Over the coming year, World Riichi will continue to:

- \* strengthen relationships with international organisations, including the EMA;
- \* expand opportunities for non-Japanese players through WRPM;
- \* support clubs wishing to organise events under WRC Rules;
- \* deepen cooperation with Japanese professional organisations;
- \* increase the availability of English-language educational resources; and
- \* continue preparations for the 2028 World Riichi Championship.

### World Mahjong Organization (WMO)

WMO has announced the 8<sup>th</sup> World Mahjong Championship (MCR) 18-22 October in Kunming, China. Further information will be distributed.

### MIL (Mahjong International League)

Li Wenlong encouraged organisations to join MIL and presented the report of MIL.

MIL was established in 2015 and is a member of the International Mind Sport Association.

**The mission of MIL** is to spread the competitive spirit of mahjong worldwide, including a variety of rules sets, and to promote official recognition of mahjong as a formal sport in all countries and regions, so as to secure more funding support and popularize mahjong.

**The ultimate goal:** to make Mahjong an official Olympic sport, as well as an official event in the World Mind Sports Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and national multi-sport games. To this end the duplicate format plays an important role in promoting its acceptance in countries where mahjong is considered gambling.

**Support:** Supplies seed funding, referee training, tiles, and digital scoring tools to global regions, regardless of their MIL membership status.

**Research:** Finances academic studies on Mahjong AI, historical rule origins, and rule standardization.

## 9. Items proposed to the General Assembly

### *Proposal from Belarus: Review of the March 31, 2022 Decision as it Applies to Belarus.*

Revoke measure (f): restore the accrual of MERS/RERS ranking points for players holding Belarusian EMA IDs. The GA agreed to lift the measure. Approved with 37 yes votes.

### *Proposal from France & Portugal: Increase the number of certified tournaments per year to 4.*

Each country can apply for a maximum of 4 certified tournaments in each rule set per calendar year. 22/44 votes were registered as yes, but tampering of votes was experienced in a vote that was quite close, so the chair of the meeting declared that the issue should be deferred together with other issues that we did not have time to

resolve. After the GA it was clear that there was some confusion on whether the vote was resolved as agreement to the proposal or referred. The Presidium discussed the issue after the General Assembly and decided to let the motion count as passed.

Starting from 2027, each country can organise 4 MERS per year.

*The following proposals were not resolved either due to equality of votes or running out of time. The Presidium will find for a way for the proposals to be taken up before end of September.*

***Proposal from Belarus: Review of the March 31, 2022 Decision as it Applies to Belarus.***

Revoke measure (e): restore the right to EMA certification of tournaments in Belarus.

The GA votes were divided evenly and no agreement reached to either agree or dismiss the proposal.

***Proposal from Portugal & France: Increase the frequency of European championship***

OEMC every 2 years, and accordingly an ERC, also every 2 years, in alternation.

The GA ran out of time before deciding on this proposal.

***Proposal from France & Sweden on modification of the ranking system***

The GA ran out of time before deciding on this proposal.

## **10. Election of President, two Vice Presidents and two further members of the Presidium Election**

List of candidate and presentation : [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_5vdrYh766mngRvp-pXvgxaiaSwnFMVS/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=115940918320363786132&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_5vdrYh766mngRvp-pXvgxaiaSwnFMVS/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=115940918320363786132&rtpof=true&sd=true)

Tina Christensen, President, 27 of 44 votes

Gemma Sakamoto, Vice President, 28 of 43 votes (after runoff voting with Jasper Germeys)

Jasper Germeys, Vice President, 26 of 44 votes (after runoff voting with Sérgio Matos Lima)

Sérgio Matos Lima, Presidium member, 22 of 44 votes

Klaudia Lensu, Presidium member, 22 of 44 votes