ARA Event Observer Report

Observer Name: Stanley Deng

Observer State of Residence: CA (PML)

Event Name: Bluebird Mahjong Studio Grand Open! Open - WRL Major 2026 Las Vegas

Event Location: Bluebird Mahjong Studio

Event Date: May 30 - 31, 2026

Number of Participants: 36 players

Event Schedule Summary: 2 days. 8 hanchan scramble (4 hanchan each day). Timer: 60+0.

Names of Officials/Judges: Luna Y.

Communication to Players: Announcements were made to players verbally at the start of hanchans via speaker. Standings/pairing were done via WRL app.

Prizes: Top 4: Trophies. Top half: Random assortment of various goods/prizes.

Catering: Bottled water was provided for free. Snacks were provided at a cheap cost.

Tournament Atmosphere: Nice and friendly beginner environment. Players were actively looking out for newer players and actively trying to stop others players from committing offenses/chombos.

Complaints and Issues:

- Short lunch: 30 min of lunch and ending 30 min later would've made it a lot easier for me to walk to and eat at a restaurant.
- The tournament started late. "10 or 10:30, that'll be very nice. Because then we can have lunch break at around 12:30 or 1. 2:15 may be late for [some]."
- Lack of rule knowledge from the head judge.
- Several people complained about a WRL pro about bad etiquette, manners, non-verbalization of calls/wins, and even verbally yelled at another player.
- Judges/runners did not check the score sheet with the table score initially and started checking after complaints from players (starting hanchan 2).
- Unclear who the judges were at times.
- Judges (Vegas players not playing) telling players at the tournament to "please go easy" on players who were underperforming and newer to the game (who were also Vegas local players).
- Forced to download WRL app. There should be a website available for players who do not want to download an app.

Observer Personal Summary: Tournament stream ran smoothly and many players appreciated and gave positive comments about it. Personally, the tournament felt kind of rushed and an earlier start with longer breaks in between would have been nice. Initially, there were quite a few hiccups in the beginning, but the issues slowly got smoothed out. No one complained about the venue being on the 2nd floor with no elevator, however, there were discussions about this after the tournament was over in various discords. I also thought the prizes were nice and thoughtful with the trophies looking good. The tournament staff could have been a little bit more professional, but they were very kind and friendly. I do enjoy the auto tables. Overall, the experience was somewhat questionable in the first few hanchans, but got much better as the tournament went on.