

Expected Meta Decks

The current TCG metagame centers on *Maliss in Wonderland* and the new “Ryzeal” engines, along with any strong hybrid links. In recent premier events, North America’s WCQ Top 8 featured *Fiendsmith Orcust*, *Maliss*, *Shaddoll Gem-Knight*, *Onomat/Ryzeal*, and *Vanquish Soul* variants ¹. (Note that *Fiendsmith’s Lacrima* is now forbidden ².) Across the globe, similar decks have dominated: for example, Oceania’s WCQ champion was a pure Ryzeal deck (Andy Liu – 1st place) and Ryzeal/Mitsurugi builds made up most of the Top 16 ³ ⁴. In Asia, “Vanquish Soul” engines (often combined with K9 XYZ support) and *Maliss* were prevalent – 3 of the top 8 at Asia-Thailand WCQ ran Vanquish Soul (with K9) ⁵, and multiple *Maliss* decks also made Top 16.

Importantly, **some archetypes are absent in EU** because *Battles of Legend: Monster Mayhem* is not yet released here ⁶. That means **Dragonmaid**, **Orcust**, etc., won’t appear at EUWCQ. Instead expect the “old” meta: *Maliss* decks (with their coin-flip gimmick), Ryzeal combos (often paired with Onomat or Mitsurugi links), *Vanquish Soul*, and maybe a few rogue control engines (e.g. Gem-Knight/Shaddoll or even Blue-Eyes variants). In short, EUWCQ will likely mirror these top TCG decks ¹ ³ ⁵, minus the banned/OCG-only pieces.

Deck Recommendation

Given the meta and your preferences, a **Ryzeal-based deck** is a great choice. For example, a **Ryzeal/Onomat or Ryzeal/Mitsurugi hybrid** leverages the powerful new Ryzeal monsters plus well-known Synchro/Link engines. These decks have already proved their strength – multiple Ryzeal lists placed in the Top 8/16 of WCQs ¹ ³. (By comparison, *Maliss* decks did very well too, but *Dormouse* and *White Rabbit* in *Maliss* are only at 2 copies ⁷ and half your plays rely on coin flips, which you mentioned as a concern.)



Tuner monsters like “Assault Synchron” are often used in Onomat/Ryzeal builds to extend Synchro plays. A typical Ryzeal strategy might start by Normal Summoning an Onomat monster or Ryzeal unit, then using their effects to summon further pieces. For example, a Ryzeal monster may search itself (or Onomat) and then a Tuner (like Assault Synchron, shown above) to Synchro Summon. These extra plays create strong boards in one turn. The prevalence of Ryzeal/Mitsurugi in top cuts shows the approach is working – e.g. in the Oceania WCQ, Ryzeal and Mitsurugi decks filled almost half of the Top 16 ³ ⁴ .



Another key tuner is “Visas Starfrost”, a LIGHT Warrior whose effect can destroy an opponent’s monster and special summon itself for Synchros. Decks running tuners like this consistently hit top tables. In fact, 8 of the Top 16 decks at Oceania were Mitsurugi or Ryzeal variants ⁴ , underscoring their power. Given this trend, running a **pure Ryzeal deck** or a Ryzeal deck with an Onomat/Mitsurugi engine will give you the best shot. For example, include *Ryzeal* ritual spells/monsters (once Detonator is at 1 copy ⁸) plus generic link/Synchro support.

Maliss **is** technically still tier-1 (its key cards are legal at 2 copies ⁷ and it was Top-4 in NAWCQ ¹), but it hinges on coin flips. If you dislike that randomness, you can focus entirely on the Ryzeal plan. (If you do play Maliss in the mirror or vs FTK decks, note that *Maliss in Wonderland* – the field spell – is semi-limited ⁷ , and the core Maliss monsters are at 2.) In summary: a Ryzeal-Onomat/Mitsurugi deck is the safest, most proactive choice for EUWCQ (able to combo out and break boards).

Side Deck Strategy

Your side deck should target the matchups and tech hate cards for those meta decks. Useful strategies include:

- **Hand-trap counters:** *Called by the Grave* to shut off your opponent’s Ash Blossom, Droll, etc.; *Nibiru, the Primal Being* to punish slow combo turns; and *Droll & Lock Bird* (if you expect a lot of searching decks).

- **Board disruption:** Non-targeting removal like *Twin Twisters* or *Cosmic Cyclone* to destroy opposing Floodgates or continuous spells (e.g. *Maliss in Wonderland*). *Mystical Space Typhoon* is also good vs Maliss field spells.
- **Floodgate cards:** Cards like *Gozen Match* or *Rivalry of Warlords* can crush any deck that relies on multiple Attributes. *Dimensional Barrier* (choosing Synchro or XYZ) can also shut down an Extra-Deck combo deck's turn. These are great vs Synchro-heavy lists (like yours mirror or Vanquish Soul).
- **Special-board tech:** *Magic Deflector/Impermanence* can negate problem monsters (Impermanence is legal in TCG and fine to run). *Waking the Dragon/Dragon Diagram* and *Crossout Designator* can be side options if you expect any rogue opponents (e.g. Pendulum or Field spam, though these are rarer here).

In practice, you might build a 15-card side like: 3 *Called by the Grave*, 2 *Droll & Lock Bird*, 2 *Nibiru*, 2 *Twin Twisters*, 2 *Impermanence*, and 2–3 floodgates (e.g. *Gozen* or *Dimensional Barrier*). Adjust as needed: for example, if playing Maliss, include *Mystical Space Typhoon* to pop its field. The key is to cover the meta's strengths (handtraps, big boards, fields) so your Ryzeal deck can prevail into Game 2/3.

Sources: Recent WCQ results show Maliss and Ryzeal engines topping in multiple regions ¹ ³ ⁵. (Note: EU play excludes BOM:MM cards like *Dragonmaids* ⁶ and bans *Fiendsmith* ².) Our recommendations are based on these trends and the current banlist constraints ² ⁶.

¹ Yu-Gi-Oh! North America WCQ 2025 | Road of the King

<https://roadoftheking.com/you-gi-oh-north-america-wcq-2025/>

² ⁷ ⁸ YGOrganization | April 2025 TCG Forbidden & Limited List Update

<https://ygorganization.com/fiendsmithstilltippin/>

³ ⁴ Oceanic WCQ 2025 - Yu-Gi-Oh! Tournament - YGOPRODeck

<https://ygoprodeck.com/tournament/oceanic-wcq-2025-3210>

⁵ Yu-Gi-Oh! Asia WCQ 2025 Thailand | Road of the King

<https://roadoftheking.com/you-gi-oh-asia-wcq-2025-thailand/>

⁶ TCG Top Decks: June 23rd - 29th 2025 | Yu-Gi-Oh! Meta

<https://www.yugiohmeta.com/articles/tournaments/tcg/weekly-roundup/2025/june/4>