



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 2011 Regional Conference – Sun City, South Africa 12 to 19 August 2011



Subject	World Championship Rules		
Society	RSGB	Country:	Great Britain
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IARU HF World Championship Contest

Introduction

DARC raised the question at the 2010 Region 1 Interim Meeting as to whether the scoring system could be improved. There were some strong points made about a disproportionately high number of unique calls logged by DA0HQ, as well as logs of known non-contesters being deleted. It was agreed to form a sub-group on the Region 1 website's discussion forum, comprising Contest Managers / HQ station leaders, to review the scoring, rules and whether useful UBN files could be included. The sub-group would make a proposal back to C4.

Background

Whilst the RSGB has supported this approach it is concerned that too much of the discussion only took place immediately prior to the deadline for reporting to C4, that the group was unrepresentative of Region 1 and that the scope was so wide that the purpose of setting up the group was being overlooked in favour of more radical rule changes.

The contest is hugely popular within the UK, both within the HQ contest team but also UK contesters; we believe that this is the case in many other countries. We therefore feel that Region 1 should proceed with caution and only make relatively minor changes to the rules that address the specific concerns raised at the Interim Meeting.

Key Points & Proposals

Rule 6.5 that states "Use of self-spotting techniques on packet or other mediums are inconsistent with the spirit and intent of these rules." It could benefit with being strengthened along the line of the ARRL's General Rule 14

One of the unique features of this contest that makes it popular but is also a cause of one of its problems is the encouragement of participants to contact HQ stations. Nationalistic fervour can, it seems, create a lot of "uniques" where a participating station only contacts a specific HQ station. This can adversely bias the overall result. It is proposed that a rule is created to discourage this practice; non-conformance to this rule at the adjudication stage could easily eliminate such uniques from the score. Our proposal is simple, that is to set a requirement for participants to work a minimum number of HQ stations before these HQ stations can claim benefit from such contacts. Only logs of HQ stations will need to be examined for this scoring process.

Recommendation

That

- a) The following change is made to rule 6.5: "Spotting your own station or requesting another station to spot you is not permitted."
- b) Advance publicity for HQ stations can be allowed, to encourage individual amateurs to work their own national HQ station, but not without including encouragement to work other HQ stations. Further, national societies should discourage selective spotting ("cheerleading") or other organised efforts to favour one particular country.
- c) Any contest station working its own Society's HQ station on a band must work at least five (5) other Societies' HQ stations on the same band (irrespective of mode) for the contacts to be used for HQ scoring purposes.