International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia Founded 1950

General Conference, Davos, 11 to 16 September 2005

SUBJECT	ADJUDICATION OF VUSHF CONTEST LOGS		
Society	EDR	Country:	Denmark
Committee:	C5	Paper number:	08
Contact:	Ivan G. Stauning, OZ7IS	e-mail:	is@ihk.dk

Introduction

The purpose of this document address the issues of contest log adjudication both the individual log and log-to-log. In principle the possibilities are the same for both manual and automated adjudication. Yet using a computer makes it less cumbersome.

Background

Since the first VUSHF contest the contest manager(s) has had the often tedious job of adjudicating entries manually. In the past the contest manager(s) hand made adjudication was probably not likely to find each and every flaw in the entries. Therefore, those that were found were few and many contacts were probably incorrectly included in the total score.
Lately SARA, and the late Andy OM1CW, made the tool we all waited for and also made a clever web integration at http://www.vhfcontest.org/. This may or may not have lead to a number of issues that now are easier to identify.

IARU Region 1 VHF Committee principles

The IARU Region 1 VHF Committee stipulates the following principles for scoring contacts and adjudication of entries in document 3b, dated October 1999.

Scoring

Points will be scored on the basis of one point per kilometre, i.e. the calculated distance in km will be truncated to an integer value and 1 km will be added (Lillehammer, 1999).
In order to make contest scores comparable, for the conversion from degrees to kilometres a factor of 111,2 should be used when calculating distances with the aid of the spherical geometry equation (Noordwijkerhout, 1987).

This means that the formula for calculating distances is: Distance = 111,2 * arccos(sin Latitude1 * sin Latitude2 + cos Latitude1 * cos Latitude2 * cos(Longitude1-Longitude2)), where the conversion factor is 111,2 km/deg. Prior to this the locator(s) must be converted to latitude and longitude found in the centre of the locator square; and not any of the corners.

Judging of entries

The final judging of the entries shall be the responsibility of the organising society, whose decision shall be final. Entrants deliberately contravening any of these rules or flagrantly disregarding the IARU Region 1 bandplans shall be disqualified.
The claimed contact will be disqualified for an obviously wrongly stated Locator or a time error of more than 10 minutes.

Claiming points for a duplicate contact will be penalized by deducting ten times the number of points claimed for that duplicate contact from the score.

Any error in the information logged by a station will result in the loss by the receiving station of all points for that contact.
The contest entrants will not be penalized for the failure of non-entrants to comply with the rules.
Telephony contacts made with stations operating in the CW subband shall not count for points.
Adjudication possibilities
This paragraph list a number of possibilities that may be used in judging contest entries. This adjudication can be made on individual logs and in a log-to-log comparison.

Single log

A stand alone entry can be evaluated on the following:
* QSO-points
o Distance formula.
o Rounding method.
* Date and time
o Date(s), within contest date(s) window.
o Time, is it within contest time window.
* Sent information.
o Signal reports
* Do signal reports and mode(s) match.
o Sequence of QSO-numbers.
* Received information
o Does callsign exist?
o Callsign vs. locator, do the locator fit with the area from where the callsign is valid.
o Signal report
* Do signal reports and mode(s) match.
o Other Exchange, is the received Other Exchange valid.

Problems

A list of issued callsigns must be provided from each of the National Regulatory Agencies.
Multiplier on QSO-points must be defined, not on total score.
An entry cannot qualify for more points than claimed. I.e. it is not the contest manager(s) responsibility of the correct scoring principles have been applied by the entrant(s).

Log to log

Having the opportunity to cross check between a number of logs is the ultimate goal in the adjudication process. Below are a number of cross checking possibilities:
* Time to Time
o Time identical or is difference bigger than 10 minutes.
* Call to Call
o Dulicates.
o Call mismatch(s), which also may lead to duplicate contacts.
o Call not found.
* Report to Report.
* QSO-number to QSO-number.
* Other Exchange to Other Exchange.
* Locator to Locator.

Problems

The sending station did actually send wrong information
* It is not new that the sending station e.g. forgets to include /P in the callsign, or sends the home locator, from time to time. This can hardly be the fault of the receiving station.
The receiving station does not know the received callsign syntax
* The extension to a callsign, e.g. /P, /3, IV3, /M etc., shall be included in the adjudication even if the receiving station may not know the syntax of the issued callsigns. This does not have to be a problem since the receiving station must log what is heard irrespectively of the callsign syntax in the country where the sending station is located.
If "log2" is missing no cross checking can take place
* ...unless some kind of majority voting takes place, e.g. if 80% of entries say "X" then it is "X."
But, in this solution is another problem, the 80% might actually be wrong, e.g. just taking the suggested locator from a database but the station is actually in a different location.

General issues

Below are a number of progresses that electronic entries provide:
* Long deadlines are no longer relevant.
Results from many contests in the past are still missing.
* Only one entry point is needed.
The national contest manager can receive a copy of the entries as well as a national result that may or may not be used as decision support before the final national result is made.
Another advantage of this is that log-to-log adjudication becomes easier.
This may, however, not be in compliance with the current IARU Region 1 VHF Committee principles.

Publishing claimed results

Pre-publishing of claimed scores showing the entrant's callsign, locator and other exchange may be used those who submit later to correct their own entry.
In the long run it could be foreseen that entries will show up closer and closer to deadline because stations want to verify their own log as much as possible against the other claims. Those who were the first ones are punished because they do not have the same possibilities of verifying against all the others. This cannot be a wanted situation.

Key points and proposal

When enforcing adjudication, automated or not a number of key issues surfaces:
* The primary goal of contest is activity and enhancing the radio amateur hobby.
* One mantras should prevail - No reduction in points can happen to a 100% correctly log QSO.
Therefore:
* Should the callsign extensions (/P /3 etc.) form part of the log check?
* Should it be possible to submit the log directly to the adjudicator and not via national contest manager?
* Should direct log submission to the adjudicator be the only route for log submission?
* Should the points be re-calculated by the adjudicator?
* Should a station that has not submitted a log, but the station can be found in other logs be used to detect errors?
o If so, which voting principle should be followed (e.g. minimum 10 times in other logs, with minimum 80% match between call and locator)?
* Should the locator be used to detect errors in calls using the voting principle (e.g. DK0MN found 10 times with locator JO50HG, would give an error in a log having DK0NM in JO50HG)?
*

Recommendation

It is recommended that the following points are added to the IARU Region 1 VHF Committee contest principles:

1. No reduction in points can happen to a 100% correctly log QSO.

2. When the blame for incorrect exchanged information, e.g. missing the callsign extension, cannot be placed on who is the responsible party the fault does not reduce the score.

3. An entry can never be awarded a higher score than initially claimed.

4. Obvious incorrect scoring of a QSO will disqualify the QSO.

5. Electronic entries should be sent to both the national VHF contest manager and the organising entity's point of contact.