



SUBJECT	Contest Section in the VHF Managers' handbook		
Society	C5	Country:	
Committee:	C5	Paper number:	CT08_C5_38
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Introduction:

Enclosed you will find the proposal from Sine Mermal, S53RM to change the contest section in the VHF manager handbook. Sine made a good job to prepare this issue. This is a very good basis for a sub working group to adopt the contest section to the actual facts of life (internet etc.).

Proposal:

4 IARU REGION 1 VHF/UHF/MICROWAVES CONTESTS

4.1 Introduction

IARU Region 1 has organised official international contests on the VHF/UHF/Microwaves bands since 1956, when an all-band contest during the first weekend of September was established.

In 1962 a separate UHF/Microwaves contest was added, which was initially held during the last weekend of May (decision Turin, 1961). From 1970 onwards this date was set at the first weekend of October (Brussels, 1969).

As of 1970 an SWL contest was established, to be run concurrently with the official Region 1 VHF and UHF/Microwaves contests. During the IARU Region 1 Conference in Scheveningen (1972) it was decided that as of 1973 the September contest would only be held on 145 MHz.

At the IARU Region 1 Conference in Noordwijkerhout (1987) an IARU Region 1 ATV contest was added, to be held during the second weekend of September.

Finally, at the IARU Region 1 Conference in De Haan (1993) an official 50 MHz contest was established, to be held as from 1994 during the first weekend of June. In San Marino 2002 the date was changed into the third weekend of June.

Hence, currently four official IARU Region 1 contests are organised annually :

1. The VHF contest during the first weekend of September - only on 145 MHz;
2. The UHF/Microwaves contest during the first weekend of October on 435 MHz and higher bands;
3. The ATV contest during the second weekend of September;
4. The 50 MHz contest during the third weekend of June.

Member societies of IARU Region 1 organise and judge the results of the above contests. The procedures for the organisation of the VHF and UHF/Microwaves contests are set out in chapter 4.2.

The September IARU Region 1 ATV contest is organized and judged by a member society in a country where ATV transmissions are authorized.

The rules for the official Region 1 contests are set out in chapter 4.6(145 MHz), 4.7 (UHF/Microwaves), 4.8 (ATV) and 4.9 (50 MHz).

N.B. Attention is drawn to the fact that since 1974 during the first weekend of November the Italian member society ARI organises the Marconi-Memorial Telegraphy contest as an international contest for the whole of Region 1. This contest, run according to the rules of the official Region 1 contests, is judged by the ARI VHF

Committee, and the results are distributed to all participating countries via the VHF Managers of the member societies. This ARI contest replaces the former IARU Region 1 Telegraphy contest.

4.2 PROCEDURE FOR ORGANISING IARU REGION 1 VHF/UHF/MICROWAVES CONTESTS

A) In January of each year the Chairman of the VHF/UHF/Microwaves Committee shall send a letter to the societies organising the IARU Region 1 VHF, UHF/Microwaves, 50 MHz and ATV contests in that year, containing an up-to-date copy of the rules for these contests.

B) After receipt the organising societies shall distribute these rules (e.g. in the form of a printed booklet) together with an invitation to participate in the contests to all IARU Region 1 member societies. The invitation shall contain details on where to send the logs etc. This shall be done before the end of March of that year.

C) Not later than the seventh Sunday after the contest the national VHF Manager or properly nominated Contest Committee shall forward to the society organising the contest one copy of each entry, after having examined the logs and after having certified those to be acceptable to the best of their knowledge. Stations operating temporarily outside their "home-country" are for the purpose of the contest participating as stations in the country where they operate and their logs must to be submitted to the VHF-Manager/Contest Committee of that country. Logs sent to the contest committee of their home country shall not be submitted to the adjudicating society!

D) In order to obtain the most important results as quickly as possible the following checking procedure shall be followed: The VHF Manager or properly nominated Contest Committee in each country shall verify the details of each participating station (callsign, locator, band, section, having obeyed the rules...) Upon completion, the logs shall be sent to the organising society, separated in sections (bands, where applicable).

E) Two weeks shall be allowed for transit to the organising society and thus all national contributions should be in by the ninth Sunday after the contest weekend.

F) The organising society shall allow a margin of three weeks for possible postal delays and shall declare the entry closed on the twelfth Sunday after the contest weekend. Entries received after this date shall be returned to sender or -if agreed by the sender by mail or fax- be destroyed.

G) The organising society shall publish the results based on the claimed scores not later than thirteenth Sunday after the contest on their web site. The organising society will perform full computer/automatic cross check on all the received logs and will publish the final results not later than fourteenth Sunday after the contest on their web site. The list of results should include at least the following data: call sign, Locator, score, number of QSOs, number of deleted QSOs, percentage of deleted points, ODX call sign, ODX Locator and ODX QRB. The organising society shall judge the contest and publish the official results on their web site and send the results to the Webmaster of the IARU Region I web site for publication. These results shall also be sent in

electronic format to all VHF Managers and/or Contest Committees of Societies who sent logs and also to the Chairman of Region 1 VHF/UHF/Microwave Committee, not later than two months after the date mentioned in F. above (e.g. not later five months after the contest took place). Optionally certificates for all participants may be provided for distribution by national societies. See also chapter 12.

The entrants scoring highest in each section will be awarded the IARU REGION 1 CERTIFICATE. The organising society will receive the certificates from the chairman of the VHF/UHF/Microwaves committee (signed by the R1 secretary) and will send those after having filled in the relevant data and after signature to the winners in each of the two sections. (The text from the UHF/Microwaves rules should be placed here).

H) All QSOs including unique QSOs shall count for points even if they only appear in the log of one contest entrant.

4.6 RULES IARU REGION 1 50 MHz, 145 MHz AND UHF/MICROWAVES CONTESTS

4.6.1 Eligible **entrants (This text is now practically the same for all this 3 contests. I think we can omit »who are authorized to use 50 MHz« for 50 MHz rules)**

All licensed radio amateurs in Region 1 may participate in the **contest (Maybe we can discuss that? There are many QSO on 50 MHz with stations in IARU reg.2 and 3. Can they participate too?)**. Multiple operator entries will be accepted, provided only one **callsign per band** is used during the **contest (see Footnote 1)**. The contestants must operate within the letter and spirit of the contest and at no greater power than permitted in the ordinary licenses of their country. Stations operating under special high power licenses do so "hors concours" and cannot be placed in the contest proper.

Stations operating temporarily outside their "home-country" are for the purpose of the contest participating as stations in the country where they operate and their logs must be submitted to the VHFManager/Contest Committee of that country. Logs sent to the Contest Committee of their home country shall not be submitted to the adjudicating society.

4.6.2 Contest sections

The contests shall comprise the following **sections for each band from 50 MHz to 10 GHz :**

A) Stations operated by a single operator, with no assistance during the contest.

B) All other entrants

Furthermore, there will be two sections, as defined above, for the combined group of amateur bands above 10 GHz , the so-called millimetre group (see Footnote 2).

No more than one transmitter per band may be in use at any one time. All the equipment of the station (transmitters, receivers and antennas, etc) must be located within a single circle of no greater than 500 metres diameter.

A participating station must operate from the same location throughout the event.

4.6.3 Date of contests

The 50 MHz contest will begin on the third Saturday of June.

The **145 MHz** contest shall start on the first Saturday of September.

The UHF/Microwave contest will start on the first Saturday of October.

4.6.4 Duration of contests

The contest will commence at 1400 hours UTC on the Saturday and end at 1400 hours UTC on the Sunday.

4.6.5 Contacts

Each station may only be worked once **per band**, whether it is fixed, portable or mobile. If a station is worked again during the same **contest on the same band**, only one contact may count for points, but any duplicate contacts should be logged without claim for points and clearly marked as duplicates. Contacts made via active repeaters do not count for points. **Maybe we should put in the rules that EME QSOs also do not count for points? It is easy to win the contest on 10 GHz with only one EME QSO and they are EME contests for that purpose.**

4.6.6 Type of emission

Contacts may be made in A1A J3E or F3E(G3E).

4.6.7 Contest exchanges

Code numbers exchanged during each contact shall consist of the RS or RST report, followed by a serial number commencing with 001 for the first contact **on each band** and increasing by one for each successive contact **on that band**. This exchange must immediately be followed by the complete Locator of the sending station (examples : 59003 JO20DB or 579123 IN55CC).

Note: for the "T" part of the report, see chapter 7.9.9

4.6.8 Scoring **(Replaced by definition in UHF/Microwave rules, which covers all bands)**

For the amateur bands up to 10 GHz inclusive, points will be scored on the basis of one point per kilometre, i.e. the calculated distance in kms will be truncated to an integer value and 1 km will be added.

The centre of each locator square is used for distance calculations.

In case that only a 4-character locator has been received (50 MHz), the contact is invalid.

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).

For the combined higher bands the score will be the sum of the points scored on each of the bands, using the following multiplication factors for the number of kilometres scored on each band :

24 Ghz	1 x	120 GHz	5 x
47 GHz	2 x	145 GHz	6 x
75/80 GHz	3 x	245 GHz	10 x

4.6.9 Entries

The entries must be set out in digital/electronic form fulfilling the requirements under rule 4.6.12. Logs must be sent to the national VHF Manager or the national Contest Committee not later than the second Monday following the contest weekend. Late entries will not be accepted. The submission of the logs implies that the entrant accepts the contest rules.

4.6.10 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.

Each VHF Manager and/or national Contest Committee shall be responsible for monitoring during contests. Additional monitoring stations may be appointed but these stations may not take part in the contest. The national VHF Manager/Contest Committee is responsible for disqualification based upon the results of monitoring. The claimed contact shall be disqualified for any error in the information logged by the station.

Claiming points for a duplicate contact shall be penalised by deducting ten times the number of points claimed for that duplicate contact from the score (see Footnote 4).

Any error in the information logged by a station shall result in the loss by the receiving station of all points for that contact.

4.6.11 Awards **(Replaced by definition in UHF/Microwave rules, which covers all awards.)**

Section winners

Certificates will be issued by the organising society to the winners in the two sections on each band up to 10 GHz and for the millimeter group.

Overall winners for UHF/Microwave contest

For each section an overall winner of the IARU Region 1 UHF/Microwaves contest will be declared.

For this competition the scores of the entrants on the following bands **(see Footnote 3)** will be combined, using an adaptive multiplier system:

435 MHz
1.3 GHz
2.4 GHz
5.7 GHz
10 GHz

The multipliers to be used for the determination of the overall scores in each section are found as follows:

The multiplier is equal to the ratio between the highest number of points scored by any participating station on the 435 MHz band for that section and the highest number of points scored by any participating station on the band for that section for which the multiplier is being determined.

For the millimetre group the scores as determined according to rule 4.6.8 are used for the determination of this group's multiplier.

4.6.12 Logs

The logs shall be in the format defined in Section 4.11. See also chapter 4.2, item D

4.6.13 Footnotes (**Footnotes are from UHF/Microwave contest. Other footnotes have no meaning and (or) are included in this rules).**

1. Multi-operator entries are accepted for participation. When such stations use a different call sign on each band, the logs of that Multioperator entry shall for each band clearly bear an indication of the group. This will preferably be one of the call signs used, but a group name may be used instead. All stations belonging to such a group shall operate from the same location, i.e. All the equipment of the stations (transmitters, receivers and antennas, etc) must be located within a single circle of no greater than 500 metres diameter.

2. The millimetre group was introduced during the meeting of the VHF Working Group in Vienna, March 1986, with the aim of promoting the use of these Amateur Service bands. In October 1987 this extended rule was applied for the first time.

3. As the 3.4 GHz band is not yet available in all countries within Region 1, the 3.4 GHz results will not be taken into account when determining the overall winners of the sections in the October IARU Region 1 UHF/Microwaves contest (Noordwijkerhout 1987)

4. According to the decision of Interim Meeting in Vienna 2007 this regulation is omitted.