

INTERIM MEETING OF THE IARU REGION 1 VHF/UHF/MICROWAVE COMMITTEE  
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Subject	Amendment of IARU-R1 ATV contest rules
Society	VERON
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## INTRODUCTION

This document provides a VERON proposal for an update of the actual rules of the IARU-R1 ATV contest as described in section 5.7 of the VHF Managers Handbook.

Annex 1 contains the proposed amendments to the ATV contest rules.

Deletions in the text are indicated in striked out red characters, while additions are showed in underlined blue. Comments are mentioned in separate text boxes.

## MOTIVATION

- Simplification. It is more clear what is needed in practise.
- Encourage 'Rover stations' and 'moving to other locations' to stimulate general ATV activity.
- Make it possible to use technical solutions for longer cables, to stimulate innovations like kite flying, RC helicopters, etc. and to avoid technical solutions as 'via internet remote controlled stations'.

## PROPOSAL

- 1. That the IARU-R1 ATV contest rules shall be amended in accordance with this proposal.**
- 2. That the VHF Managers Handbook shall be updated accordingly.**

## ANNEX 1

### 5.7 RULES IARU-REGION 1 SEPTEMBER ATV CONTEST

#### 5.7.1 Contest sections

The contest will comprise two sections on each UHF/Microwave band on which ATV transmissions are authorized:

##### Section 1 - Transmitting:

This section is entered by all those who use transmitting equipment to send pictures for the purpose of establishing two-way vision communication, or those transmitting any other mode for the purpose of establishing one-way vision communication with a transmitting television station.

##### Section 2 - Receiving:

This section is entered by all those who use receive-only television equipment and do not attempt to communicate in any way with other participating television stations in order to influence their operations.

A station operating under section 1 on any single band will automatically be classified also as such on the other bands where ATV is allowed.

#### 5.7.2 Eligible entrants

No more than one transmitter 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.

##### Section 1:

All licensed radio amateurs in Region 1 can participate in the contest. Multiple operator entries will be accepted, provided only one callsign is used during the contest. 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.

##### Section 2:

All amateurs within IARU-Region 1 who possess ATV receiving equipment.

#### 5.7.3 Date of contest

The contest will begin on the second Saturday of September.

#### 5.7.4 Duration of contest

The contest will commence at 1800 UTC on the Saturday and will end at 1200 UTC on the Sunday.

It is recommended that the national societies will run their ATV contests at the same time as the IARU Region 1 ATV contest takes place (~~1800 UTC – 1200 UTC~~).

Times in UTC are mentioned already in the first sentence. No additional value to repeat it.

### 5.7.5 Contacts

For contest scoring purposes a participating station may be worked or viewed only **once** on each band.

In case a participating station has moved a minimum of five kilometres, the station may be considered as a new station. Therefore, the transmitting station should use a new logsheet and four digit code.

To make it possible to consider a moved (rover) station as a new station, it is proposed to add this second sentence.

Contacts made via active repeaters or transponders do not count for points.

A wireless video link that is only used to send the video signal from the stations receiver to the same station over a maximum distance of 500 meter shall not be considered as a repeater or transponder.

In case of technical innovations it is wise to have the definition of a repeater or transponder clarified. Also to avoid 'remote stations' via internet. This is also in line with the first sentence of section 5.7.2. For that reason it is proposed to add this second sentence.

### 5.7.6 Types of emission

On each band on which ATV transmissions are allowed, contacts may be made using the mode(s) authorized for ATV on that band.

### 5.7.7 Contest exchanges

The following information shall be exchanged during a contact:

- i) a codenumber

For each band used a transmitting station shall choose a four-figure code group that shall **not change** throughout the contest, unless a moved station (as defined in section 5.7.5) is involved.

The moved station should use a new four digit code to transmit. The moved station should request stations that were logged on other locations to transmit a new four digit code and mention it as remarks in their logsheet.

In case of a moved station (proposed in 5.7.5), **both** transmissions should be verified by new digits. The moved station also by using a new logsheet with new locator. The base station should also use a new four digit code while transmitting to the moved station. Because for the base station only the code will be different for that contact, it should be enough to have that code mentioned as 'remarks' on the logsheet. It is proposed to add: 'unless a moved station (as defined in section 5.7.5) is involved. The moved station should use a new four digit code to transmit. The moved station should request stations that were logged on other locations to transmit a new four digit code and mention it as remarks in their logsheet'.

The four figures shall neither be the same (e.g. 2222) nor consecutive (e.g. 4567 or 5432). ~~Stations using such groups shall be disqualified.~~

It has no added value to point to disqualification; disqualification is applicable for all aspects mentioned in these rules (in accordance to section 5.7.10). Proposal: delete 'Stations using such groups shall be disqualified'.

THIS CODE GROUP SHALL BE EXCHANGED IN VIDEO ONLY AND SHALL NOT BE TRANSMITTED BY ANY OTHER MODE THAN VISION.  
(Reporting the sum of the four digits via other mode then vision is acceptable by the viewing station The transmitting station may answer with yes or no).

In case of many contest stations with B2/B3 signals, it is not always clear if the involved station is seen. For station verification, it is recommended to add the following sentence between brackets: '(reporting of the sum of the four digits via other mode than vision is acceptable by the viewing station, the transmitting station may answer with yes or no)'

- ii) On different bands a different code group - obeying the above rules - must be used.  
Call sign ~~(also in video)~~

It makes no sense to oblige to have the call sign in video. Especially in weak signal views. Proposal: delete 'also in video'.

- Vision ~~and sound~~ report

In practise: no one cares about sound during a contest. Proposal: delete 'and sound'.

- IARU Locator ~~(also in video)~~

It makes no sense to oblige to have the locator in video. Especially in weak signal views. Proposal: delete '(also in video)'.

- Contact serial number, starting with 001 on each band used and increasing by one for each successive contact on that band, no matter if a new logsheet is applicable.

For the moving stations as proposed in 5.7.5, this rule is also valid. No matter that the moved station uses a new logsheet. Proposal to add: 'no matter if a new logsheet is applicable'.

For the vision report the internationally recognized codes B0 to B5 shall be used:

- B0 - No picture perceived
- B1 - Synchronisation with very little picture contents
- B2 - Only large images (call sign etc.) perceivable
- B3 - Picture noisy but some detail resolved
- B4 - Picture slightly noisy but with good detail and resolution
- B5 - Noise-free picture

~~For the sound report the codes T0 to T5 shall be used:~~

- ~~T0 - No sound~~
- ~~T1 - Audible but unintelligible sound~~
- ~~T2 - Partly intelligible sound~~
- ~~T3 - Noisy, but intelligible sound~~
- ~~T4 - Slightly noisy sound~~
- ~~T5 - Perfect noiseless sound~~

~~The report (e.g. B4T4) is followed by the suffix 'C' if the transmission is received in colour.~~

In practise: no one cares about sound or colour during a contest. Proposal: remove sound and colour reporting.

### 5.7.8 Scoring

#### Section 1:

A two-way exchange of the four-digit code group by vision together with the exchange of the other

information specified in rule 7 by vision or any other mode of transmission shall score:

- for contacts on the 435 MHz band : 2 points/kilometre
- for contacts on the 1.3 GHz band : 4 points/kilometre
- for contacts on higher bands : 10 points/kilometre

If only one station received the four-digit code group, and the other information specified in rule 7 was exchanged, the scores for *both* stations shall be reduced by 50%.

## Section 2:

Reception of the four-digit code group by vision and of the other information specified in rule 7 shall score:

for reception on the 435 MHz band : 1 points/kilometre

for reception on the 1.3 GHz band : 2 points/kilometre

for reception on higher bands : 5 points/kilometre

Notes.

i) For scoring purposes all valid contacts shall be deemed to have taken place over a distance of at least 5 kilometres, even if the two stations in contact have the same or adjacent IARU Locators.

~~ii) 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 greater than the 5 kilometres mentioned under i) with the aid of the spherical geometry equation (Noordwijkerhout, 1987).~~

Unclear additional value of 'ii'. Nowadays everyone uses PCs to calculate distances, likely no one remembers what 'Noordwijkerhout, 1987' means. Proposal: delete 'ii'.

### 5.7.9 Entries

The entries must be set out on log sheets fulfilling the requirements given under rule 12.

~~Multi-operator stations shall be clearly marked as such.~~

No added value because no multi-operator section exists. Proposal: remove this sentence.

A copy of the logs must be sent to the national ATV Manager, VHF Manager or the national Contest Committee ~~postmarked~~ not later than the third Monday following the contest weekend. Late entries will not be accepted. The submission of the logs implies that the entrant accepts the contest rules.

'postmarked' is outdated because all logsheets come by email. Proposal: delete 'postmarked'.

### 5.7.10 Judging of entries

The 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 I bandplans shall be disqualified. Minor errors may result in loss of points.

The claimed contact will be disqualified for an obviously wrongly stated Locator, callsign, codenumber, or a time error of more than 10 minutes.

### 5.7.11 Awards

The winner in each of the two sections on each band and the overall leading station shall receive a certificate, within six weeks after due date for sending the logs.

Would it not be logical to mention also a timeframe here? For example add: 'within six weeks after due date for sending the logs'.

The organising society may also send certificates to all entrants if they so wish.

### 5.7.12 Logsheets

For every individual band, a separate logsheet should be used. A moving station (as defined in section 5.7.5), a separate logsheet should be used every time the station has been moved.

To identify on what band is viewed, for every band a separate logsheet should be used. This is not clearly mentioned. Proposal: add the following sentence: 'For every individual band, a separate logsheet should be used. A moving station (as defined at 5.7.5), a separate logsheet should be used every time the station has been moved'.

The logsheets used for the IARU Region I UHF/Microwaves ATV contest shall have an ~~upright~~ format not smaller than A4 and shall show the following columns in the order named:

Unclear why the logsheets must be 'upright'. Especially since the data is mostly sent as an (excel) file and it is hardly possible to have all reported data filled out in an upright format. Proposal: delete 'upright'.

- date
- time in UTC
- callsign of the station worked/seen
- report sent: B# report followed by serial number (~~not applicable for section 2~~)
- report received: code number (vision!) followed by B# report and serial number (~~sections 1 and 2~~)
- IARU Locator received (~~sections 1 and 2~~)
- number of points claimed

It would make sense to have clear that the report sent is not applicable for section 2 only. The rest is therefore applicable for section 1 and 2. Proposal: remove 'sections 1 and 2', replace 'section 1' by 'not applicable for section 2'

~~Note.— A contest entrant must clearly mark crossband QSO's on the logsheet for the band on which the transmission was made.~~

Since the only classifications are section 1 and section 2, the added value of this note is unclear. If a transmission is seen on one band, points are valid for that band. Proposal: delete note.

A standard cover sheet, containing the essential information required to judge the contest entry and with a separate space for the comments of the national Contest-manager should be used for each band. The following information should be submitted:

- name and address of the first operator
- station call sign
- contest section
- station IARU Locator
- bands used, with the four-digit code group used for each band
- ~~— multi- or single-operator~~
- ~~— call-signs of other operators, if any~~

Since no multi-operator section is applicable, it makes no sense to have this information added. Proposal: delete '- multi- or single-operator' and '- call-signs of other operators, if any'.

- claimed score for each band.

To add: 'for each band'.

The coversheet should show the signature of the first operator certifying the correctness of the log(s) submitted.

In case of digital delivery of the log, a typed name is the alternative of the signature.

Signature is impossible while delivering the logs in a digital manner.

Proposal: add a sentence like 'In case of digital delivery of the log, a typed name is the alternative of the signature'.