

INTERIM MEETING OF THE IARU REGION 1 VHF/UHF/MICROWAVE COMMITTEE
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Subject	CONTEST RULES – Definition of a contest
Society	IARU Region 1
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Status	Proposal

BACK GROUND

According to the Ham Spirit, a contest is a competition between radio amateurs which takes place exclusively on the bands allocated to amateurs.

This is implicit and is not written in the contest rules which have been established several decades ago.

Since then, new technologies have appeared which allow to easily exchange through other means than radio amateur.

This can be seen in the traffic on some chats during or after the contests.

IARU R1 contests rules have remained quite unchanged since they were written.

However, some societies have already clarified this point in their own contest rules :

“Use of non amateur means (telephone or internet for example) in order to request one or more contacts during the contest period is not compatible with the spirit and the letter of these rules.”

“So is the use selfspotting on the packet or on any other network.”

“A complete exchange must be logged for each valid QSO.”

PROPOSAL

In order to take into account evolution of technologies together with the spirit of amateur radio contests, it would be useful to add the definition of a contest.

Definition of a Contest

A contest is a competition between radio amateurs that takes place exclusively on the bands allocated to amateurs. During the contest period, only amateur radio means are allowed.