



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

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Subject	Penalisation for a QSO completed via other communication methods		
Society	ARI	Country:	Italy
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1. Introduction

In 2014 at the IARU Region 1 GC in Varna, it was decided to rewrite the paragraph 5.3.6 about valid contacts during a Contest.

2. Background

After Varna VHF Handbook was updated and now we can read in the paragraph 5.3.6:

Competitors are obliged to follow the common definition for a valid QSO (described in the VHF Managers Handbook – Chapter 7.1). The contest exchange (call, report, QSO number and locator) shall be sent and confirmed on the band where the contact started and only during the QSO.

No attempt should be made during the QSO to obtain any part of the required exchange information via other communication methods such as the Internet chat channel, DX Cluster, talk-back on another amateur band, telephone, etc. Such a secondary method invalidates the contest QSO. Self-spotting (advertising its own frequency) on any other communication means, like DX Cluster, chat rooms, etc., shall not be used during the contest. (Varna 2014)

Acceptable examples when using a secondary method:

- "Shall we make a sked on 144.388?"
- "I have QRM, let's move to 144.218 kHz and start again"
- "Nothing received, please try again" and the QSO starts again
- "Thank you for a nice QSO" - Note: Only after the QSO has completed on the radio!

Unacceptable examples when using a secondary method:

- "I need your serial number"
- "Please repeat all information"
- "Please confirm <report>, <serial number>, <locator> etc."

3. Proposal

At today there are no decisions if we found someone that is contravening such rules using secondary methods to complete a QSO.

We propose to add a paragraph like follows:

5.3.6.1 Penalisations

If an entrant will attempt to complete a QSO with a secondary method as Internet chat channel, DX Cluster, talk-back on another amateur band, telephone, etc., his final score will be penalized with an amount of points five times of the QRB of that QSO.

Contest Committee of the organising society will be responsible of these actions; every National VHF Contest Manager could suggest such penalizations to the Contest Committee.