



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1



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Subject	New SO LP section in IARU Region 1 VHF contest		
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IARU Region 1 VHF Contest is the largest 2 m contest in the world! Analysis of contest showed (<http://slovhf.net/vhfmanager/modules/results.php?ContestID=133&language=S5>) that split between MO (Multi Ops) and SO (Single Op) is around 1:3.

Number of Logs									
Year	SO	SO6H	SO all	Y over Y	MO	MO6H	MO all	Y over Y	SO:MO Ratio
2013	690	-	-	-	267	-	267	-	2,6
2014	784	-	-	+13%	291	-	291	+9%	2,7
2015	660	87	747	-5%	246	8	254	-13%	2,9
2016	724	154	878	+17%	245	27	272	+7%	3,2

We can see that some 700 to 900 participants are grouped in the same section (=same rules). It should be noted that those are participants that sent the logs. Taking into account 25% submission rate, about 3 200 participants are of a SO category.

All major HF contests include more than just two sections per band, mostly split by the output power limit or other technical capabilities. It is therefore proposed to introduce new section, the SO LP (Single Op Low Power), to increase the motivation of single operator entrants and to collect more logs for contest adjudication. The aim is to receive at least 5% more logs from single operator “contest community”.

The above-mentioned analysis showed that about 50% of all participants use less than 100 W of output power. Taking into account that, for example, in 2014 only about 15% of MO entrants (44 stations) declared less than 100 W of output power, it is clear that almost half of the SO contesters actually operate with 100 W or less. It is therefore proposed that the “Low Power” limit is set at 100 W PEP.

Analysis also revealed a growing trend of using more than one antenna system for transmitting and receiving. Although it is true that this technique is mostly used among MO teams, there are also SO entrants using more antenna systems. The intention of SO LP section is to offer more fair competition to the amateurs with modest equipment (i.e. one antenna (or stack of two antennas) and bare foot transceiver). Therefore, it is further proposed that beside 100 W PEP limit the SO LP section also limits the number of antenna systems to one.

Proposed new text to the 5.3.2 chapter (Contest Sections) of the current VHF Managers handbook:

Section SINGLE – LOW POWER: stations operated by a single operator, with no operational

assistance of another person during the contest, transmitting with less than 100 W PEP and using only one antenna system for transmit and receive (144 MHz only). Definition of “antenna system”: it is a single directional antenna or a group (array) of single directional antennas, grouped together to achieve maximum obtainable gain in a given direction (that is, all the antennas in the group are pointing to the same direction).