

# RTTY Roundup Contest Rules

Version 1.11 – DC and Labrador were mistakenly removed from the multiplier list in version 1.1. They have been restored in this update.

## Introduction and How to Operate

**Contest Objective:** To encourage amateurs worldwide to contact and exchange QSO information with other amateurs using digital modes on the HF bands.

Your [ARRL membership](#) helps support the ARRL Contest Program – the world’s largest with many different events from HF through microwave. Along with your membership, you’ll get free access to the National Contest Journal, the ARRL’s online archive of QST articles, and the Technical Information Service. Contesting builds skills and understanding – come join the fun!

**Contest Period:** (All dates are maintained in the [ARRL contest calendar](#)):

First full weekend of January (but never on January 1)

**Contest Period:** Begins 1800 UTC Saturday and runs through 2359 UTC Sunday. Single-Op stations may operate for 24 hours out of the 30-hour contest period. Multioperator stations may operate the entire 30 hours. See the Special Rules for information about off times.

**Log Deadline:** Upload your log at [contest-log-submission.arrl.org](http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org) no later than **SEVEN (7)** days after the contest is over at 2359 UTC.

**Bands and Modes:** Use only the 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz bands. Use any digital mode, attended operation only. Log RTTY QSOs with the RY mode abbreviation and Digital QSOs with DG.

**Categories:** Single Operator – RTTY-Only in all power categories; Single Operator Unlimited – Mixed-Mode, RTTY-Only, or Digital-Only in all power categories. Multioperator-Single, -Two, and Multitransmitter – Mixed-Mode only, see Special Rules and HF Categories for power categories.

**Contacts:** All stations may contact any other station. Contact stations only once per band.

**Exchange:** W/VE stations send a signal report and their US state or Canadian province. (See the [ARRL Contest Multipliers List](#) for a list of abbreviations.) DX stations send a signal report and serial number.

This is a typical contest contact:

CQing Station: CQ RU DE W1PY

Answering Station: K9CT

CQer: K9CT 599 CT

Answer: 599 IL

CQer: TU RU DE W1PY

Or

CQing Station: CQ RU DE JH3HHT  
Answering Station: WK6I  
CQer: WK6I 599 428  
Answer: 599 CA  
CQer: TU JH3HHT

As the answering station, it is not necessary to send the CQing station's call before the exchange unless you think there might be some confusion about which station you are responding to.

**Scoring:** Each contact counts for one (1) QSO point. Multiply total QSO points by the number of DXCC entities (not including the US and Canada), plus US States, and Canadian Provinces and Territories contacted to get your final score. Each multiplier counts only once, not once per band.

**Club Competition:** You can contribute your score to your ARRL Affiliated Club by selecting the club name when you upload your log. Club Competition rules are available here: [Affiliated Club Competition Rules](#).

**Feedback about the contest:**

Send us your stories and photos! Tell us what fun you had, how you did, and what challenges you faced at the ARRL Contest Program's "[Soapbox](#)" page.

**Additional Resources:**

[DXCC Entities List](#)

All contest queries should be directed to [contests@arrl.org](mailto:contests@arrl.org) or 860-594-0232.

## Special RTTY Roundup Rules

1. Operating Period: 1800 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday.
  - 1.1 Single Operator stations may operate up to 24 hours out of the 30-hour contest period. Multioperator stations may operate the entire 30 hours.
  - 1.2 Off time must be taken in one or two breaks that are at least 30 minutes long.
  - 1.3 After 24 hours of operating time is reached, Single Operator stations may continue to make and log QSOs but they will not count toward the final score. See the [ARRL RTTY Roundup](#) web page for more information about the off-time rule.
2. Contacts
  - 2.1 Use only the 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz bands.
  - 2.2 Use RTTY or any Digital mode.
  - 2.3 Contact each station only once per band regardless of mode.
  - 2.4 In the Cabrillo formatted log, RTTY contacts use RY and all other digital modes use the DG mode abbreviations.
3. Categories
  - 3.1 See the HF Categories section for power sub-categories.
  - 3.2 Single Operator – enter as RTTY-Only in any power category.
  - 3.3 Single Operator Unlimited – enter as RTTY-Only, Digital-Only, or Mixed-Mode in any power category.
  - 3.4 Multioperator-Single Transmitter (LP and HP), -Two Transmitter (HP), and Multitransmitter (HP) – enter as Mixed-Mode only.
4. Contest Exchange - the required exchange consists of:
  - 4.1 Signal report
  - 4.2 Location or Power
    - 4.2.1 W/VE stations send a signal report and their state or province. (See the [ARRL Contest Multipliers List](#) for a list of abbreviations.)
    - 4.2.2 DX stations send a signal report and serial number beginning with 1.
5. Scoring
  - 5.1 QSO points: Each contact counts for one (1) point.
  - 5.2 Multipliers:
    - 5.2.1 Multipliers count only once, not once per band.
    - 5.2.2 All stations count DXCC entities (except USA and Canada), US states plus the District of Columbia, and Canadian Provinces and Territories plus Labrador. (See the [ARRL Contest Multipliers List](#).) Hawaii (KH6) and Alaska (KL7) count as DXCC entities.
  - 5.3 Final score equals the total QSO points times the total multipliers contacted.
6. Operating Restrictions:
  - 6.1 See the HF Category section for band change limits.
7. Awards
  - 7.1 [Online certificates](#) will be available to all eligible participants. This includes:
    - 7.1.1 Top High Power, Low Power, and QRP Single Operator and Multioperator station in each ARRL/RAC Section.
    - 7.1.2 Top High Power, Low Power, and QRP Single Operator and Multioperator station in each DXCC entity other than W/VE.
  - 7.2 Plaques (if sponsored) Top High Power, Low Power, and QRP station in each category overall, each ARRL Division, and Canada.

7.2.1 Entrants who qualify for unsponsored plaques may purchase them from the ARRL Contest Branch.

8. Log Submission

8.1 Logs are due SEVEN (7) days after the event is over at 2359 UTC. If an extension of the log deadline is needed, contact the ARRL Contest Program Manager. All entries received are displayed on the [Logs Received](#) page.

## Categories for HF Contests

Version 1.11 – 22 Oct 2020

### Entry Categories for HF Contests

<b>Category Summary</b> <i>(See Special Rules of each contest for Mode-based Categories)</i>						
Categories	QRP <sup>5</sup>	Low Power (LP) <sup>5</sup>	High Power (HP) <sup>5</sup>	Band Change Restrictions	Spotting Assistance	Number of Simultaneous Signals <sup>4</sup>
Single Operator (SO)	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	No	One
Single Operator Unlimited (SOU)	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	Yes	One
Single Operator, Single Band (SOSB) <sup>2</sup>	No	No	Yes	Not Applicable	No	One
Multioperator, Single Transmitter (MS)	No	Yes	Yes	10 per clock hour	Yes	One
Multioperator, Two Transmitter (M2) <sup>1</sup>	No	No	Yes	10 per clock hour for each transmitter	Yes	Two
Multioperator, Multitransmitter (MM) <sup>1</sup>	No	No	Yes	None	Yes	One per Band
School Club (S) <sup>3</sup>	No power sub-categories			None	Yes	One
Checklog	n/a			n/a	n/a	n/a

1 — Not supported in Sweepstakes, 10-Meter Contest, 160-Meter Contest, IARU HF Championship

2 — Only supported in ARRL DX

3 — Only supported in Sweepstakes

4 — Multiple signals are not allowed on the same band, regardless of category or mode.

5 — See Definitions and Glossary for power category definitions

#### HCAT.1. Single Operator (SO)

HCAT.1.1. Use of spotting assistance is not permitted.

HCAT.1.2. Only one transmitted signal is permitted at any time

HCAT.1.3. Power sub-categories include QRP (SOQRP), Low Power (SOLP), and High Power (SOHP).

#### HCAT.2. Single Operator Unlimited (SOU)

HCAT.2.1. Use of spotting assistance is permitted. Exception: spotting information obtained from any source outside the station circle via a closed or dedicated communication link may not be used.

HCAT.2.2. Only one transmitted signal is permitted at any time, not including transmissions on a spotting net or network.

HCAT.2.3. In contests that do not have SOU categories, Single Operator entries from stations using spotting assistance will be changed to the Multioperator, Single Transmitter (MS) category.

HCAT.2.4. Power sub-categories include QRP (SOUQRP), Low Power (SOULP), and High Power (SOUHP).

#### HCAT.3. Single Operator Single-Band (SOSB)

HCAT.3.1. A participant may submit only one SOSB entry from a single call sign. If contacts are made on other bands, they should be included in the log.

HCAT.3.2. There are no power sub-categories for SOSB.

HCAT.3.3. Only contacts from the band of entry are counted towards the final score. Contacts from other bands will be used for log-checking but will not result in log-checking penalties.

HCAT.3.4. SOSB from stations using spotting assistance will be changed to the Single Operator, Unlimited, High Power category.

#### HCAT.4. Multioperator

HCAT.4.1. Use of spotting assistance is permitted. Exception: spotting information obtained from any source outside the station circle via a closed or dedicated communication link may not be used.

##### HCAT.4.2. Multioperator, Single Transmitter (MS)

HCAT.4.2.1. Only one transmitted signal is allowed at any time.

HCAT.4.2.2. Unless stated otherwise in a contest's Special Rules, stations are limited to a maximum of 10 band changes during any clock hour. Violation of this rule will result in the entry category being changed to Multioperator, Multitransmitter.

HCAT.4.2.3. Power sub-categories include Low Power (MSLP) and High Power (MSHP).

##### HCAT.4.3. Multioperator, Two Transmitter (M2)

HCAT.4.3.1. Only two transmitted signals are allowed at any time and must be on different bands.

HCAT.4.3.2. Each transmitter is limited to a maximum of 10 band changes in any clock hour. Unused band changes may not be transferred between transmitters. Violation of this rule will result in the entry category being changed to Multioperator, Multitransmitter.

HCAT.4.3.3. Both transmitters may contact any station. A station may only be contacted once per band regardless of which transmitter is used.

HCAT.4.3.4. The submitted log must indicate which transmitter made each contact.

#### HCAT.4.4. Multioperator, Multitransmitter (MM)

HCAT.4.4.1. One transmitted signal is allowed per band at any time.

#### HCAT.5 School Club

HCAT.5.1. School Club stations may be grouped by the type of institution:

HCAT.5.1.1. College and University

HCAT.5.1.2. Technical School

HCAT.5.1.3. Secondary and other school

HCAT.5.2. Only currently enrolled students and faculty/staff of the institution are eligible to operate a School Club station. Alumni may participate on the air with students. It is not, however, in the spirit of the category for alumni exclusively to use the club station. Alumni should make every effort to act in a mentoring role to current student club members.

HCAT.5.3. There are no sub-categories for School Club entries.

HCAT.5.4. School Club stations must operate from stations located on-campus. A club may operate from an off-campus station only if no on-campus station exists.

HCAT.5.5. Spotting assistance may be used by School Club stations.

## Rules for Entry

Version 1.03 – 22 Oct 2020

### Conditions of Entry

COND.1. By submitting a log, entrants agree to be bound by the contest rules. Violation of the contest rules or engaging in prohibited conduct may result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the ARRL Awards Committee up to and including disqualification.

#### COND.2 Multiple entries

COND.2.1 In HF contests: Individuals and stations may submit multiple entries per contest under different call signs.

COND.2.2 In VHF+ contests: Individuals and stations are limited to one entry per contest. Rover operators may submit one separate entry as a Single Operator (fixed station) in addition to their rover entry.

COND.3. Log contents used to determine final score and awards will be available to the public.

COND.4. Entrants agree to follow the regulations of their operating licenses and station licenses at all times.

COND.5. Entrants agree to be bound by the decisions of the ARRL Awards Committee.

COND.6. All entries become the property of the ARRL and are not returnable.

### Operating and Entry Restrictions

OPRG.1. Call signs and exchange information must be sent, received, acknowledged and logged correctly for a complete contact.

OPRG.2. An operator may not use more than one call sign from any given location during the contest period.

OPRG.3. Alternating CQs on two or more frequencies using the same band and mode is prohibited.

OPRG.4. Each contact must include contemporaneous direct initiation by both operators making a contact. Initiation of a contact may be by either local or remote control.

#### OPRG.5. Aeronautical and Maritime/Marine Mobile stations

OPRG.5.1. In contests in which DX stations may be worked by W/VE stations, contacts with aeronautical mobile and maritime mobile stations outside the US and Canada count for contact credit only.

OPRG.5.2. In VHF+ contests, contacts with aeronautical mobile stations do not count for contest credit.

OPRG.5.3. In VHF+ contests, Maritime/Marine mobile stations will be listed separately as "Marine Mobile" in the listings and compete separately for awards.

OPRG.6. 50.110 MHz is the DX SSB calling frequency and W/VE stations are expected to only answer CQs from DX on that frequency. W/VE stations can call CQ DX on SSB from 50.100 to 50.125 MHz with 50.125 MHz being the current calling frequency for W/VE stations. If contest activity is present, W/VE stations should move higher in the band from the calling frequency. CW activity is concentrated from 50.080 to 50.100 MHz with no specific calling frequency. 50.313 MHz is the current carrier frequency for FT8 AFSK signals and 50.318 MHz for FT4.

OPRG.7. Only one transmitted signal per band is permitted at any time, not including signals for the purposes described in OPRG.8.

#### OPRG.8. Spotting Assistance in VHF+ contests

OPRG.8.1. All entrants, regardless of category, are permitted to use spotting assistance or nets including but not limited to DX-alerting nets, internet chat rooms, APRS and other packet, reverse beacon networks and repeaters to identify stations available for contacts and to announce (self-spot) their availability for contacts.

OPRG.8.2. Announcements shall be limited to call sign, location, band or frequency, mode and — if applicable — transmitting sequence and listening direction.

OPRG.8.3. These methods of spotting assistance may also be used to coordinate antenna peaking prior to initiation of the contact and to explain contest rules, such as the exchange required, for those who need clarification.

OPRG.8.4. Such assistance may not be used to facilitate the completion of any contact once the contact has commenced. This means such assistance may not be used to convey receipt or non-receipt of any required element of a contact or to request a repeat of any required element of a contact.

#### Station and Equipment Restrictions

STTN.1. A transmitter used to contact one or more stations may not be subsequently used under any other call sign during the contest period, except for family stations where more than one call has been issued, and then only if the second call sign is used by a different operator. *(The intent of this rule is to accommodate family members who must share a radio and to prohibit manufactured or artificial contacts.)*

STTN.2. All transmitters and receivers must be located within a 500-meter diameter circle, excluding antennas.

STTN.3. Remote receiving installations outside the 500-meter circle are prohibited. Stations remotely controlled by radio link may use necessary equipment at the control point. This does not allow using the control point as another receiving location.

STTN.4. A station located precisely on a dividing line between grid squares must select only one as the location for exchange purposes. A different grid-square location cannot be given without moving the complete station (including antennas) at least 100 meters.

STTN.5. Above 300 GHz, contacts are permitted for contest credit only between licensed amateurs using mono-chromatic signal sources (for example, laser and LED) and employing at least one stage of electronic detection on receive. Laser usage is restricted to ANSI Z136 Class I, II, IIa, and IIIa (i.e.; output power is less than 5 mW).

STTN.6. While no minimum distance is specified for contacts, equipment should be capable of communications at a range of at least 1 km.

## Prohibited Conduct

Examples of prohibited conduct include, but are not limited to:

PROH.1. Claiming cross-band contacts.

PROH.2. Use of systems such as repeaters, gateways, or digipeaters to relay on-the-air signals. Satellites may be used only if permitted by the contest rules. This does not apply to the remote control of a station.

PROH.3. In HF contests, arranging, soliciting, or confirming any contacts during or after the contest by use of any non-amateur radio means such as telephone, text messaging, websites, email, or social media. In VHF+ contests, see rule OPRG.8. "Spotting Assistance in VHF+ Contests".

PROH.4. Spotting your own station ("self-spotting") or asking to be spotted by another station.

PROH.5. Misrepresenting contact times ("rubber clocking") to meet band change or off time rules.

PROH.6. Claiming excessive unverifiable contacts or multipliers ("log padding").

PROH.7. Transmitting signals with excessive bandwidth (e.g., spurious emissions) or harmonics.

PROH.8. Failure to identify transmissions in a timely manner (i.e., for longer periods than 1 minute).

PROH.9. Repeater input or output frequencies may not be used without the permission of the repeater owner.

## Log Checking Penalties

Logs are cross-checked using custom software and human judgment.

LGCK.1. Duplicate contacts are removed with no additional scoring penalty.

LGCK.2. Contacts with call sign errors ("Busted") or that are not found in the corresponding log ("NIL") are removed from the log and an additional scoring penalty of the QSO point value of that contact is assessed.

LGCK.3. Contacts with an incorrectly received exchange are removed with no additional scoring penalty.

## Disciplinary Actions

DSCP.1. Disqualified entries will be listed in the published results, are not eligible for an award, and are not eligible to submit an entry in the next running of that contest.

DSCP.2. Notification of Award Committee actions will be sent by email to the address provided with the log submission. The entrant has five days to appeal the decision to the Contest Program Manager. If there is no response, after that time the decision is final.

DSCP.3. The Awards Committee reserves the right to change the category of any entry based on its examination of the log or other information.



# Log Submission Rules

Version 1.01 – 30 April 2020

## Electronic Log Submission

ELOG.1. The official ARRL format for electronic logs is the Cabrillo format ([wwwrof.org/cabrillo](http://wwwrof.org/cabrillo)).

ELOG 1.1. A paper printout of an electronic log file is not an acceptable substitute. A utility for converting log files in non-Cabrillo format to Cabrillo is available at [www.b4h.net/cabforms](http://www.b4h.net/cabforms).

ELOG.2. Electronic logs must be submitted via [contest-log-submission.arrl.org](http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org) with the exception of Field Day, Straight Key Night, 10 GHz and Up, ARRL EME, Rookie Roundup, and School Club Roundup.

ELOG.3. Electronic logs are assumed to be signed as complying with all contest rules and conditions when they are submitted.

ELOG.4. Multioperator logs must include the complete list of operators in the Cabrillo OPERATORS: field.

ELOG.5. Multioperator, Two Transmitter (M2) category logs must indicate which transmitter makes each contact in the log.

## Paper Log Submission

PLOG.1. Entrants must use the most current official contest forms or an acceptable facsimile, as scoring rules, ARRL sections, etc., do change periodically. See the ARRL website for downloadable forms.

PLOG.2 Paper logs may be mailed to ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111, USA. Each paper log entry must be accompanied by a Summary Sheet listing all scoring information, the category of competition, and the entrant's name.

PLOG.3. Paper entries with 500 or more contacts must include an official dupe sheet for the contest.

## Log Submission Deadline

LGDL.1. Entries must be sent to the ARRL by the log deadline published in the rules for each contest. For electronic submissions, the submission date and time is determined by the app confirmation. For paper entries submitted by mail, submission date and time is determined from the postmark.

LGDL.2. Submitted entries will be listed on the [Logs Received](#) page until final results are published.

LGDL.3. Logs not submitted or postmarked by the contest deadline are not eligible for awards.

LGDL.4. Entries received at the ARRL after the contest submission deadline may not be included in the contest results.

# Definitions and Glossary

Version 1.03 – 12 Oct 2020

**Automated Multi-Channel Decoder:** Device such as *CW Skimmer* software that provides information about the identity and frequency of contest station transmissions while functioning independently of the operator’s direct control and participation. Software that displays multiple decoded signals at the same time is considered to be a multi-channel decoder.

**Band Changes:** A band change consists of two consecutive contacts on different bands. For example, making a contact on 20 meters then on 40 meters and then on 20 meters counts as two band changes.

**Clock Hour:** A clock hour is from zero to 59 minutes on the clock, not any 60 consecutive minutes.

**Digital (mode):** Any mode defined as “data” in the FCC Part 97 rules (§97.3(c)(2)).

**Dupe Sheet:** An alphanumerically sorted list of all contacts made during the contest, sorted by band and mode as appropriate. A list of duplicate contacts does not meet this requirement.

**DX Stations:** Any non-W/VE station. This includes US possessions and territories in the Caribbean and Pacific and St. Paul Island (CY9) and Sable Island (CYØ). Exceptions such as the status of Hawaii (KH6) and Alaska (KL7) are stated in the Special Rules for each contest.

**DXCC Entities:** defined by ARRL DXCC List

**Electronic Log or Entry:** consists of any log submitted by electronic means.

**High Power (HP):** 1500 watts PEP output or the maximum allowable power level established by the national licensing authority issuing the operator and/or station license, whichever is less.

**Low Power (LP):**

Below 30 MHz:	150 watts PEP output or less
50 MHz and 144 MHz bands:	200 watts PEP output or less
222 MHz and 432 MHz bands:	100 watts PEP output or less
902 MHz and above:	50 watts PEP output or less

**Maritime Mobile:** For the purposes of ARRL contests, maritime mobile is defined as shipboard operation, outside of the territorial waters of the country (defined for these purposes as 12 miles offshore).

**Maximum Number of Signals:** This Maximum Number does not include a signal necessary to provide spotting assistance, i.e. 2m packet connection. Other than that exception, it is the maximum number of signals that a station may emit at any time.

**Multioperator:** More than one person performs all transmitting, receiving, and logging functions as well as equipment and antenna adjustments.

**Off Time:** A period during which no contacts are logged. Unless otherwise specified, to count as off time, there must be at least 30 consecutive minutes in the log without a contact. During off time, operators may not listen to contest activity.

**QRP:** 5 watts PEP output or less

**RTTY (mode):** Any mode defined as “RTTY” in the FCC Part 97 rules (§97.3(c)(7)).

**Single Operator:** One person performs all transmitting, receiving, and logging functions as well as equipment and antenna adjustments.

**Spotting Assistance:** Use of any operating arrangements involving other individuals, DX-alerting nets, packet, Internet, automated multi-channel decoders, chat rooms, etc. Generating spotting information for use by other stations is not considered to be spotting assistance.