

Rule Change Proposal White Paper 2015

Change History

22-05-2015 Issue 1

This document outlines suggestions and proposals for rule changes for both HF and VHF contests in 2016. Comments on these items are invited. Please send your comments to committee@rsgbcc.org no later than 7th August 2015. All comments will be reviewed by the RSGB Contest Committee (CC) during August and September and revised rules for all RSGB contests will be published as soon as possible after the review. All rule changes will take effect on 1st January 2016.

The rule change suggestions in this document are taken from several sources: from suggestions made in the responses to the 2014 White Paper, from suggestions made direct to the Chairman or CC members during 2014 and 2015 and from CC members.

Sections 1 to 5 contain suggestions for changes to the contest rules or for the introduction of additional facilities for contest entrants. In your reply to this White Paper, please indicate if you agree or disagree with each proposal. If you have no opinion on any proposal, please indicate this. Comments on each proposal are welcome but a response to a proposal that does not contain either an agreement or disagreement with the proposal will not be included in the analysis of the White Paper.

Section 6 contains rules changes that the Contest Committee intends to implement for the 2016. These changes are mainly administrative in nature. However, comments on these changes are still welcome.

Please note that the collective response to this White Paper is only one of the inputs that the RSGB Contest Committee considers when setting the rules for RSGB contests in 2016. The proposals contained herein are also subject to change depending on the outcome of the President's Review on Contesting.

1. Overall general proposals

1.1. Establish a facility to publish HF and VHF logs to permit propagation analysis subject to:

- 1.1.1. Entrants have to give permission during log submission for the information in their log to be made publicly available. The default will be that permission is granted.
- 1.1.2. Reports and serial numbers are removed from the logs
- 1.1.3. All personal information will be removed from the logs
- 1.1.4. Logs will be released only after the results have been published
- 1.1.5. Caveat release of information to prevent its use in any appeal for reversal of adjudication decisions

1.2. Investigate the potential for verified QSOs in adjudicated contest logs to automatically become valid for the RSGB VHF/UHF Award programmes.

1.3. Introduce a 16 hour Restricted category to all NFD (CW, SSB and VHF) to permit overnight shutdown to encourage participation by smaller clubs.

1.4. Reduce the entry period for all contests (except IOTA) to 7 days except by prior arrangement with the contest adjudicator. The entry period for IOTA will remain at 21 days.

2. HF proposals

2.1. IOTA – Introduce a 6 hour duration section to IOTA.

2.2. IOTA – Introduce a Rookie category. A Rookie is an operator who was first licensed as a radio amateur less than three (3) years before the date of the contest.

2.3. IOTA – Introduce a Multi-2 category for Island entries only. A maximum of two transmitted signals on two different bands may be used at any time. Each station is each limited to 6 Band or Mode Changes in every 60-minute Clock Hour.

2.4. RoPoCo – Change timing of RoPoCo2 from Sunday morning to Sunday evening to be the same as RoPoCo1.

2.5. 80mCC – Extend the 80mCC series to November

2.6. Sprints – Discontinue the 80m Sprints

2.7. Sprints – Replace 80m Sprints with EU Sprints rebranded as RSGB EU Sprints

2.8. CW AFS – Add 40m to CW AFS, same rules as SSB AFS (including band change time limit)

2.9. NFD – Align certain aspects of the SSB NFD and CW NFD rules (specifically Restricted Section mast height and introduction of inspections) to follow the CW NFD rules.

2.10. Commonwealth Contest – Change the format so that the World can work the Commonwealth

3. VHF general proposals

3.1. Add MGM sections to all VHF/UHF/SHF contests (Open-MGM and Single Op-MGM) to allow experimentation with these modes during contests. These new sections will permit the use of conventional modes (CW/Phone) as well as MGM.

3.2. Permit the 6 hour duration VHF sections to be split into a maximum of two time periods with minimum of 2 hours rest between operating periods.

Note: IARU R1 contest rules for the new 6 hour category for all IARU R1 VHF contests specify a minimum of 2 hours off between sessions so this change brings the RSGB rules into line with IARU R1 rules.

3.3. Specify preferred 6 hour time periods for 6 hour duration sections to concentrate activity. A free choice of time period(s) for the 6 hour section will still be permitted.

3.4. Alter the 6 hour section rule to read: If entering this section, operation of the same station by the same operator(s) after the end of the 6 hour period is permitted but only contacts in the first 6 hours count. All contest QSOs made outside of the entry period must be in the submitted log.

3.5 Add the following to the VHF General Rules to regulate the use of remote stations: All transmitters and receivers used by the entrant must be located within a single 500-metre diameter circle or within the property limits of the station address, whichever is greater. All antennas used by the entrant must be physically connected by wires to the transmitters and receivers used by the entrant. An entrant's remote station is determined by the physical location of the transmitters, receivers, and antennas. Only one station may be used by the entrant during the contest period. That means, for example, that an entrant may not work himself by use of a second, remote, station nor may that second station be used to aid the operation of the entrant's station.

4. UKAC proposals

4.1. UKAC club teams – add distance limitation similar to AFS contests: Either the home QTH of the station must be within 80 km of the Virtual Meeting Place of the affiliated society (the station may be located anywhere to permit /P operation and holiday operation) or the station must be located within 80km of the Virtual Meeting Place of the affiliated society (including /P and /A locations).

4.2. Add a FM only (10W) section to the UKAC to encourage newcomers with modest equipment.

5. Internet proposals

5.1. Remove internet restrictions in all VHF and up RSGB contests to align the RSGB rules with the IARU R1 internet rules.

Remove Rule 4j/k and replace with: No attempt should be made during the QSO to obtain any part (including asking for a repeat of information) of the required exchange information via other communication methods such as an Internet chat facility, DX Cluster, talk-back on another amateur band, telephone etc. Any such attempt to use a secondary method (internet chat, DX Cluster etc.) invalidates the contest QSO. Self-spotting (advertising your own frequency) on the DX Cluster network shall not be permitted during the contest.

Acceptable Examples when using secondary method:-

"Shall we make a sked on 144.388?"

"I have QRM, let's move to 144.218 kHz and start 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"

"Nothing received, please try again"

Note: if this change is adopted, the AX section in the UKAC will no longer exist.

6. Intended rules changes for 2016

6.1. Simplify contest rules because the RSGB contest rules are over complicated and put off newcomers. The rules will be simplified by moving all but the actual rules into a 'FAQ' section.

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- 6.2. Award certificates to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place station subject to minimum entry level in section e.g. more than 5 entrants for 1st & 2nd, more than 10 entrants for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. A 1st place certificate will always be awarded irrespective of the number of entrants in a section.
- 6.3. In the HF and VHF General Rules, change UK to UK & CD (UK & Crown Dependencies)
- 6.4. Add to HF General Rules: All information must be copied at the time of the QSO and on the band in use. The log must not be materially edited after the contest.
- 6.5. Change all references to 'power' to 'power output' because a non-UK station's license may specify power as 'power input'; this change will make the meaning of power clear to all entrants.
- 6.6. Instigate a HF claimed scores page for all HF contests.
- 6.7. IOTA – Add new awards for North America and Japan to encourage greater participation in these regions.
- 6.8. BERU – To assist identifying QRP stations, remove the requirement to put QRP in the Cabrillo header and add a requirement to enter the power output used when submitting the log.
- 6.9. BERU – In the rules, change all references to BERU to Commonwealth Contest and suggest entrants call CQ CC not CQ BERU.
- 6.10. UKAC – Remove minimum power restrictions in UKAC to allow all entrants to freely choose their entry section.
- 6.11. HF Championship – In HF Championship, scores are combined on the basis of the operator of the station (HF Championship is single operator only) thus scores made under an individual call, club call or a Special Contest Call (SCC) are combined. The rules for the HF Championship will be altered to make it clear that scores are combined on the basis of the call sign of the operator of the station and not on the call sign of the station thus permitting the use of a club call or a SCC.
- 6.12. Add a statement to the HF and VHF General Rules that all submitted logs become the property of the RSGB.
- 6.13. Add 'centre of activity' to the list of protected frequencies in VHF General Rule 1b
- 6.14 The current wording of the rules for the MS section of VHF NFD does not make it totally clear that the maximum operating time is limited to 16 hours. The rules for the MS section will be clarified for 2016.

Please send your responses to the proposals/suggestions to committee@rsgbcc.org no later than 7th August 2015.

73,

RSGB Contest Committee