General DARC Contest Rules

These rules apply to all ham radio competitions (contests) organized by the DARC Contest Committee. The rules became effective on January 1, 2025.

Introduction

The following rules define the framework and conditions for all contests organized by the DARC Contest Committee. They are supplemented by the "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)", containing important explanations, clarifications, and additional information.

Station

1. All technically relevant installations, e.g. transmitters, receivers, and amplifiers, must be located within a single 500-meter diameter circle of the station location.

2. It is not permitted for multiple contest entries to use the same station simultaneously on the same band. However, it is allowed to share a station location sequentially. For this purpose, operating time can be split into several slices by entrants.

Each slice must have a duration of at least 30 minutes.

Entry Categories

1. Single Operator: One person (the operator) performs all relevant operating and logging functions.

2. Multi Operator: Any number of operators performs all relevant operating and logging functions. German Multi Operator participants must use a German club call.

3. Trainee: Participants with trainee call signs only, e.g. in Germany this refers to call signs with the prefix "DN1" ... "DN8" or suffix "/T". Any number of operators is allowed.

4. Checklog: Entry submitted to assist with the log checking. The entry will not have a score in the results and the log will not be made public.

Operating

1. The actual IARU band plans have to be followed. Contest operation on contest free frequencies is not permitted.

2. Cross band contacts are not permitted.

3. Only one transmitted signal may be present on a given band at any time.

4. Alternating CQ calls on different frequencies in the same band are not permitted.

5. The use of DX-Cluster and/or skimmer networks is permitted for all contest entries.

6. Self-spotting is not permitted.

Data Exchange and Scoring

1. All requests for contacts, responses to calls, and copying of call signs and contest exchanges must be accomplished during the contest period using the mode and frequencies of the contest.

2. Date, time, call sign, band or frequency, and the contest-specific exchange must be recorded correctly for a contact to be valid.

3. All contacts, including multiple ones, have to be included in the log submitted.

Contest Logs

1. Correction of logged call signs, contact date and time, and exchanges after the contest, by use of any database, recordings, email or other methods, is not allowed.

2. Contest logs have to be submitted by web upload in the correct format not later than the log deadline, i.e. within 7 days of the contest.

3. When using a club call, all operators shall be named.

General Provisions

1. All participants are expected to follow the rules provided and operate according to best amateur radio practices.

2. Violation of these rules or unsportsmanlike conduct may lead to disciplinary action by the Committee.

3. The decisions of the DARC Contest Committee are final.

Terms and Conditions

By submitting a log, the participants expressly, unconditionally, and irrevocably agree to and accept the following terms and conditions. They:

1. have operated according to all rules and regulations that pertain to amateur radio for the station transmitter location,

2. accept that the log entry and UBN reports may be made open to the public,

3. accept that the log entry is processed by the DARC Community Logbook (DCL),

4. accept that the log entry is made available to other IARU member societies,

5. accept the decisions of the DARC Contest Committee, and

6. agree to describe their contest station by means of written text or photographs upon request.