



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1



2017 General Conference – Landshut, Germany
16 – 23 September 2017

Subject	Contests – 6 Hour Section Rules		
Society	RSGB	Country:	United Kingdom
Committee	C5	Paper Number	LA17_C5_47
Author	Andy Cook G4PIQ,		

1. Introduction

This proposal proposes changes to the 6-hour section time definition to make the rule simpler, and to provide more flexibility for entrants. In turn, we would expect this to increase activity and entry levels.

2. Background

The RSGB has run 6 hour sub-sections within major VHF contests for over 20 years. Following the IARU Region 1 rule change from Varna in 2014, we changed our rules to align with the IARU structure and split the operating period into a maximum of 2 sections, with a break of at least 2 hours.

We have received feedback that this structure is too inflexible for people with busy family or other commitments at weekends, and that a more flexible timing structure would encourage more activity and entries.

3. Key Points and Proposal

Limited time sections are very common in HF contests and a commonly used, simple and flexible structure is

Stations shall operate for no more than 6 hours, with each rest period being of a minimum of 1 hour.

We believe that this is a simple and flexible timing structure which is easily understood and in common use elsewhere, and that it should also be applied also to IARU Region 1 VHF / UHF contests.

This would result in a change to the contest rules along the following lines:

From 5.3.2. Contest Sections

6 HOURS section time rule:

~~the 6 hour time segment can be divided into maximum two periods.~~ Stations shall operate for no longer than 6 hours, with each rest period being a minimum of 1 hour. The time of the first QSO sets the start time of the operating period. ~~The pause between the two periods must be longer than 2 hours. The first t~~ Time differences of 1 hour or more between two consecutive

QSOs marks the pause segments. Only the QSOs that fall into the combined 6-hour time segment will be counted for points. (Varna 2014)

Participants are welcome to operate longer than 6 hours and in such cases, they shall send their complete log (the contest robot will automatically extract the 6 hours part from the log, while the rest of the log entries will be used for cross-checking purposes). (Vienna 2016)

4. Recommendation

Simplify the 6-hour section time definition in line with the proposal in this paper