



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1



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Subject	Contests – MGM within IARU Contests		
Society	RSGB	Country:	United Kingdom
Committee	C5	Paper Number	LA17_C5_49
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1. Introduction

The current IARU Region 1 contest rules state that MGM can only be used in the 50 and 70 MHz events, the exchange uses an RSQ mechanism, and MGM entries are categorised separately. We believe that allowing a more widespread use of MGM will encourage activity from more remote areas, but will not fundamentally change the nature of these major contests.

2. Background

In the current IARU rules, MGM can only be used on 50 and 70 MHz in IARU contests, and entries made including MGM contacts are categorised into separate sections. RSGB has allowed MGM QSOs within the normal sections of all VHF / UHF contests for over a year. While some stations are making small numbers of QSOs using these modes, these QSOs are in no way changing the nature of the contest. They are typically made by the major stations during the quiet periods of the contest (e.g. Overnight), or by stations who are far from the centres of activity (e.g. Northern GM), and so have limited opportunity to make conventional troposcatter QSOs in the contests.

Any threat of the leading stations making large numbers of MGM QSOs and changing the structure of the contests has not been seen to be real because the speed of completing MGM QSOs is very slow compared to conventional contest QSOs.

We believe that it would be beneficial to activity levels from the more remote parts of Region 1, and not detrimental to the format of contest in the high activity areas, to allow MGM QSOs within the normal sections of all IARU VHF and UHF contests.

The current contest exchange proposed within the Contest handbook for MGM QSOs is an RSQ exchange. This is not an exchange which is used in any common practice. MGM QSOs are typically made using Meteor Scatter, and consequently, we recommend that the exchange should be a standard meteor Scatter exchange such as 27 as is normal practice or a continuous signal report (e.g. 419) if that is more appropriate to the propagation mode in use.

3. Key Points and Proposals

In the current IARU rules, MGM can only be used on 50 and 70 MHz in IARU contests and entries made including MGM contacts are categorised into separate sections. RSGB has allowed MGM QSOs within the normal sections of contests for over a year. The experience of this has demonstrated that the introduction of MGM does not significantly change the nature of the contest, but it does make the contests more accessible for stations remote from the

centres of activity.

We therefore propose that MGM QSOs are allowed in the general section of all IARU VHF and UHF contests to encourage activity from more remote parts of Region 1.

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4. Recommendations

We therefore propose the following changes to the handbook

From 5.3.2. Contest Sections:

DELETE

- **Section SINGLE without MGM:** stations operated by a single operator, with no operational assistance of another person during the contest (50 MHz and 70 MHz only).
- **Section SINGLE with MGM:** stations operated by a single operator, with no operational assistance of another person during the contest on (50 MHz and 70 MHz only).
- **Section MULTI without MGM:** stations operated by multiple operators (50 MHz and 70 MHz only).
- **Section MULTI with MGM:** stations operated by multiple operators (50 MHz and 70 MHz only).

Modify 5.3.7 Type of Emission:

5.3.7 Type of emission

Contacts may be made in A1A, J3E or F3E (G3E) or MGM mode ~~is allowed during the 50/70 MHz contest. (Varna 2014)~~

Modify 5.3.8 Contest Exchanges:

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Code numbers exchanged during each contact shall consist of the RS, RST or ~~RSQ(MGM mode)~~ meteor scatter report (e.g. 27), followed by a serial number commencing with 001 for the first contact on each band and increasing by one for each successive contact on that band. This exchange must immediately be followed by the complete Locator of the sending station (examples: 59003 JO20DB or 579123 IN55CC).