Summary of Rule Changes for 2013 CQ World-Wide DX Contest

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This issue of *CQ* contains revised and updated rules for the 2013 CQ WW DX Contest. These changes represent months of work by the CQ WW Contest Committee, as well as input from the contesting public. The public comment period produced over 280 emails with very helpful corrections, suggestions, and requests.

The CQ WW DX Contest rules have evolved for over 50 years. Changes in technology, operating practices, and enforcement efforts caused the rules to become increasingly complex. In some cases, the wording was difficult even for native English speakers to fully understand. The translators were also having trouble with the text. The major goal of the rewrite was to make the rules simpler and easier to understand.

At the same time, we took advantage of this opportunity to remove some categories that had not been attracting much activity. This includes the Team Competition and the Xtreme category. We also added some new *Overlay* competition categories. The new *Classic Overlay* category is in direct response to the CQ WW Survey comments that asked for a time-limited category. The *Rookie Overlay* category is based on the success this category has had for many years in the CQ WPX Contest. These categories are explained more fully below. As one commenter put it, "The rules are evolutionary, not revolutionary." If true, then we have achieved our goal.

Below are a few general comments and explanations about the new rules.

• The basic information about bands, exchange, and scoring has been moved to the beginning. We wanted everyone to quickly grasp the basics so they could get on the air and join the fun. There is no change to the scoring.

• The entry categories are substantially unchanged. We still have separate Single Operator and Single Operator Assisted categories for high, low and QRP power levels. The wording for the multi-operator categories has changed, but the definition of the categories is the same.

• *Xtreme Contesting* and *Team Competition* categories have been removed. The Xtreme Contesting concept, which only began in 2009, had special rules and a very low number of entries. The Team Competition was not attracting many entries and we decided that we would rather put more effort into promoting the club competition.

• *Checklog* is now listed as a category. Checklogs are not a competition category, but we wanted to help everyone understand Checklogs and how they are counted. Checklogs are very important in helping us with the log checking.

• A first for CQ WW, there are now two new *Overlay* categories. The Overlay categories are a second contest within a contest. Entrants receive a score in their traditional entry category and will also have a second score listed in the Overlay results. It is like entering two contests for the price of one!

• The *Classic Overlay* category is intended for the radio purists who want to participate in the most traditional way. It is one operator, one radio, no outside assistance, and only the first 24 hours of actual operating time (with breaks a minimum of 60 minutes with no QSO) will count for the score. Of course, Classic operators are welcome to operate as much as they want, but only

first 24 hours of "on time" will count for the score. It should be interesting to see what the winning strategy of this new competition will be. The traditional single operator categories remain with no time limit.

• The *Rookie Overlay* category is for anyone first licensed within three years of the date of the contest. It's a great opportunity for new operators to compete with others who are also learning. We have enjoyed watching new operators in the CQ WPX Contest build their skills each year and make significant efforts in their final year of eligibility.

• Award certificates are now being offered to each category winner in every country plus each call area in the USA, Canada, Japan and Russia. Plaques continue to be offered for categories where they are sponsored.

• The *Club Competition* rules have been changed to create two separate competitions; one for clubs within the USA and one for clubs in the rest of the world (DX). The concept of a club being defined by a 175-mile circle is well established in the USA, but has not worked so well in other parts of the world where the contesting population is more spread out. The DX club area is now defined as *the country where the club is located AND the area within a 275-kilometer radius of the club's selected location*. For example, the Bavarian Contest Club may have members from any part of Germany as well as others who fall within the 275-km circle around Munich, which may include Austria and Switzerland.

• The general rules define some of the specific requirements that govern all entries. Each entry must use a different callsign, only one signal on a band at a time, etc. Entrants are required to log QSOs as they occur and not edit the log after the contest.

• Log submission instructions are unchanged. We do ask high scoring stations to include exact frequencies in their logs. The log deadline remains at five (5) days after the end of the contest.

• The judging section spells out examples that are considered unsportsmanlike conduct, how disqualifications are managed, and the log-checking deductions for logging errors (there are some changes here). Signals with excessive bandwidth may be considered as being unsportsmanlike and earn disqualification.

• Red and Yellow cards have been removed in favor of one action – disqualification.

• The declaration section reminds all CQ WW entrants of their responsibility to obey the rules and to accept the decisions of the CQ WW DX Contest Committee.

We are currently working to have the new rules translated into German, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Japanese, Russian, Chinese, and Arabic. If you would like to help with translation into other languages, please send an email to <questions@cqww.com>.

The frequently asked questions (FAQ) page at <http://cqww.com/rules_faq.htm> will be expanded to answer the most common questions about the new rules. The interpretations on the FAQ page explain how we will be judging the new rules, so everyone is encouraged to read this page carefully.

Thanks to everyone who provided input or feedback into the rule change process.

We look forward to another record year of entries, fun, and excitement in the CQ WW DX Contest. Please read the new rules carefully before the contest and have fun!

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Announcing:

2013 CQ WW DX Contest
SSB: October 26–27
CW: November 23–24
Starts 0000 UTC Saturday
Ends 2359 UTC Sunday

I. OBJECTIVE: For amateurs around the world to contact as many other amateurs in as many CQ zones and countries as possible.

II. BANDS: Six bands only: 1.8, 3.5, 7, 14, 21 and 28 MHz. Observance of established band plans is strongly encouraged.

III. CONTEST EXCHANGE: SSB: RS report plus CQ Zone number of the station location (e.g., 59 05). CW: RST report plus CQ Zone (e.g., 599 05).

IV. SCORING:

A. Score: The final score is the result of the total QSO points multiplied by the sum of zone and country multipliers. Example: 1000 QSO points * (30 Zones + 70 Countries) = 100,000 (final score).

B. QSO Points: Stations may be contacted once on each band. QSO points are based on the location of the station worked.

1. Contacts between stations on different continents count three (3) points.

2. Contacts between stations on the same continent but in different countries count one (1) point. *Exception:* Contacts between stations in different countries within the North American boundaries count two (2) points.

3. Contacts between stations in the same country have zero (0) QSO point value, but are permitted for zone or country multiplier credit.

C. Multiplier: There are two types of multipliers.

1. Zone: A multiplier of one (1) for each different CQ Zone contacted on each band. The CQ Worked All Zones rules are the standard.

2. Country: A multiplier of one (1) for each different country contacted on each band. The DXCC entity list, Worked All Europe (WAE) multiplier list plus IG9/IH9, and WAC boundaries are standards. Maritime mobile stations count only for a zone multiplier.

V. ENTRY CATEGORIES:

A. Single Operator Categories: One person (the operator) performs all operating and logging functions. There is no limit on operating time or band changes. Only one transmitted signal is permitted at any time.

1. Single Operator: QSO alerting assistance of any kind is prohibited (see VIII.2).

a. High Power (All Band or Single Band): Total output power must not exceed **1500 watts.**

b. Low Power (All Band or Single Band): Total output power must not exceed **100 watts.**

c. QRP (All Band or Single Band): Total output power must not exceed **5 watts.**

2. Single Operator Assisted: Entrants in this category may use QSO alerting assistance (see VIII.2).

a. High Power Assisted (All Band or Single Band): Total output power must not exceed **1500 watts.**

b. Low Power Assisted (All Band or Single Band): Total output power must not exceed **100 watts.**

c. QRP Assisted (All Band or Single Band): Total output power must not exceed **5 watts.**

B. Single Operator Overlay Categories: Any Single Operator All Band entrant above may ALSO submit his/her log for one of the categories shown below by adding the appropriate CATEGORY-OVERLAY line in the Cabrillo log file header. Overlay category entries will be listed separately in the results; grouped by high power and low power.

1. Classic Operator (CLASSIC): The entrant will use only one radio, no QSO alerting assistance, and may operate up to 24 of the 48 hours—**off times are a minimum of 60 minutes during which no QSO is logged.** If the log shows more than 24 hours of operation, only the first 24 hours will be counted for the overlay score. The one radio must not be able to receive while transmitting.

2. Rookie (ROOKIE): The operator was first licensed as a radio amateur less than three (3) years before the date of the contest. Indicate the date first licensed in the SOAPBOX field.

C. Multi-Operator Categories (all-band operation only): Any number of operators is allowed. QSO alerting assistance is allowed. Only one transmitted signal per band is permitted at any time. Total output power must not exceed **1500 watts** on any band at any time.

1. Single Transmitter (MULTI-ONE): Only one transmitted signal on one band permitted during any 10-minute period (run transmitter). Exception: One—and only one—other transmitted signal (multiplier transmitter) may be used during any 10-minute period, if—and only if— it is on a different band than the run transmitter **and** the station worked is a new multiplier. The run and multiplier transmitters are governed by independent 10-minute rules. Ten-minute periods begin with the first QSO on a band. The log must indicate which transmitter (run or multiplier) made each QSO. The multiplier transmitter may not call CQ (solicit contacts).

2. Two Transmitters (MULTI-TWO): A maximum of two transmitted signals on two different bands may be used at any time. The log must indicate which transmitter made each QSO. Each transmitter may make a maximum of 8 band changes in any clock hour (00 through 59 minutes).

3. Multi-Transmitter (MULTI-UNLIMITED): The six contest bands may be activated simultaneously. Only one transmitted signal per band is permitted at any time.

D. 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.

VI. AWARDS:

A single-band log will be eligible for a single-band award only. A log containing more than one band will be judged as an all-

band entry unless specified as a single-band entry. A Single Operator station must operate a minimum of 4 hours to be eligible for an award. Multi-operator stations must operate a minimum of 8 hours to be eligible for an award.

A. Certificates: First-place certificates will be awarded in each category for every participating country and in each call area of the United States, Canada, Russia, and Japan.

B. Plaques: Plaques and trophies are awarded for top performance in a number of categories. View the current list of plaques and sponsors at <www.cqww.com/plaques.htm>. Only one plaque will be awarded per entry. A station winning a plaque will not be considered for a sub-area award; the plaque will be awarded to the runner-up in that area.

VII. CLUB COMPETITION:

The club score is the total aggregate score from logs submitted by members. There are two separate club competition categories.

A. USA Clubs: Participation is limited to club members living and operating within a 175 mile radius circle from the center of club area (except for DXpeditions to other countries conducted by members who live within the club circle).

B. DX Clubs: Participation is limited to club members living and operating within the DXCC country where the club is located OR within a 275 km radius circle from the center of club area (except for DXpeditions to other countries conducted by members who live within the club area).

C. General club rules:

1. National organizations (e.g., JARL, REF or DARC) are not eligible for the club competition.

2. Single-operator entries may only contribute to one club. Multi-operator scores may be allocated to multiple clubs as a percentage of the number of club members participating in the operation. The log entry must spell out the full club name (and club allocations if multi-op).

3. A minimum of four logs must be received for a club to be listed in the results. Checklog entries are not counted for the club score.

VIII. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS:

1. Station location: The area in which all the transmitters, receivers and antennas are located. All transmitters and receivers must be within a single 500-meter diameter circle. Antennas must be physically connected by RF transmission lines to the transmitters and receivers.

2. QSO alerting assistance: The use of any technology or other source that provides call sign or multiplier identification along with frequency information to the operator. It includes, but is not limited to, use of DX cluster, packet, local or remote call sign and frequency decoding technology (e.g., CW Skimmer or Reverse Beacon Network), or operating arrangements involving other individuals.

IX. GENERAL RULES FOR ALL ENTRANTS:

1. Entrants must operate within the limits of their chosen category when performing any activity that could impact their submitted score.

2. A different call sign must be used for each entry. Only the entrant's call sign may be used to aid the entrant's score.

3. Do not exceed the total output power limitation of the chosen entry category on any band. Total output power on any band at any time is measured at the output of the active amplifier(s).

4. Self-spotting or asking to be spotted is not permitted.

5. Remote operation is permitted if the physical location of all transmitters, receivers, and antennas are at one station location. A remotely operated station must obey all station license, operator license, and category limitations.

6. Remote receivers outside the station location are not permitted.

7. Only one signal on a band is allowed at any time. When two or more transmitters are present on the same band, a hardware device MUST be used to prevent more than one signal at any one time. Alternating CQs on two or more frequencies on a band is not permitted.

8. 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.

9. Correction of logged call signs and exchanges after the contest by using any database, recordings, email or other methods of confirming QSOs is not allowed.

10. Call signs logged must be the same as those exchanged over the air by the entrants during the QSO.

X. LOG INSTRUCTIONS:

Electronic submission of logs is **required** for all entrants who use a computer to log the contest or prepare contest logs.

1. The log MUST show the following for each contact: correct date and time in UTC, frequency (or band), call sign of the station worked, exchange sent, and exchange received. A log without all required information may be reclassified to Checklog. Contacts should be logged immediately as they are completed. Stations competing for World and Continent awards should provide accurate frequencies for all contacts in the log.

2. Single band entrants are required to include all contacts made during the contest period, even if on other bands. Only contacts made on the band specified in the Cabrillo header or summary sheet will be considered for scoring purposes. Logs with contacts only on one band will be classified as single band entries.

3. The CABRILLO file format is the standard for logs. See <www.cqww.com/cabrillo.htm> for detailed instructions on filling out the CABRILLO file header.

Failure to fill out the header correctly may result in the entry being placed in the wrong category or reclassified as a Checklog. Note: U.S. stations must indicate the station location in the CABRILLO header (e.g., LOCATION: OH).

4. E-mail or Web upload is the expected method of log submission. SSB logs in CABRILLO format should be sent to ssb@cqww.com. CW logs in CABRILLO format should be sent to cw@cqww.com. Include only the entry call sign in the "Subject:" line of the e-mail. Web upload of logs is available at <www.cqww.com/logcheck/>. All logs received will be confirmed via e-mail. A listing of logs received can be found at <www.cqww.com>.

5. Instructions for NON-CABRILLO electronic logs: If you are not able to submit a CABRILLO format log, please contact the Contest Director for assistance with submitting another format.

6. Instructions for paper logs: Paper logs may be mailed to CQ WW DX Contest, P.O. Box 481, New Carlisle, OH 45344, 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 and mailing address in BLOCK LETTERS.

XI. LOG DEADLINE:

1. All entries must be sent WITHIN FIVE (5) DAYS after the end of the contest: no later than 2359 UTC November 1, 2013 for SSB and 2359 UTC November 29, 2013 for CW. Resubmitting an entry after the deadline will result in it being considered as a late log.

2. An extension may be requested by e-mail to **questions@cqww.com.** The request must state a legitimate reason and must be received before the log deadline. Extensions are granted only upon confirmation by the Contest Director.

3. Logs submitted or postmarked after the deadline may be listed in the results, but are not eligible for awards.

XII. JUDGING:

The CQ WW DX Contest Committee is responsible for checking and adjudicating the contest entries. Entrants are expected to follow the rules and best amateur radio practices. Violation of the rules of the contest or unsportsmanlike conduct may lead to disciplinary action by the Committee.

A. Unsportsmanlike Conduct: Examples of unsportsmanlike conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. ARRANGING or CONFIRMING any contacts during the contest by use of ANY non-amateur radio means such as telephones, Internet, instant messaging, chat rooms, VoIP, social media or web sites.

2. Transmissions by the entrant on frequencies outside of license limitations.

3. Changing times in the log to meet band change or off time rules.

4. Taking credit for excessive unverifiable QSOs or unverifiable multipliers.

5. Signals with excessive bandwidth

(e.g., splatter, clicks) or harmonics on other bands.

B. Observer Program: The Committee may request of any entrant to accept a visit by an observer during the contest. Failure to allow a Committee appointed observer full access to the station during the contest period may result in the entry being disqualified.

C. Disciplinary Actions: In the event of a violation, the entrant is subject to disqualification at the discretion of the Committee.

1. DISQUALIFICATION: Entry will be listed at the end of the published results and is not eligible for an award.

2. Notification of 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 Director. After that time the decision is final.

3. An entrant may withdraw the submitted log for any reason within 30 days of the log deadline. Contact the Contest Director for instructions.

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

D. Log Checking: All logs are checked using custom software and human judgment.

1. Duplicate contacts are removed with no additional penalty.

2. Contacts with an incorrectly received exchange are removed with no additional penalty.

3. Call sign errors or call signs not found in the other log are removed and receive a penalty of two times the QSO point value for that contact.

4. Contacts that do not meet the band change rules for multi-operator entries are removed with no additional penalty.

XIII. DECLARATION:

By submitting a CQ WW DX Contest log, and in consideration of the efforts of the CQ WW DX Contest Committee to review and evaluate that log, an entrant unconditionally and irrevocably agrees that he/she has: (1) read and understood the rules of the contest and agrees to be bound by them, (2) operated according to all rules and regulations that pertain to amateur radio for the station location, (3) agreed the log entry may be made open to the public, and (4) accepted that the issuing of disqualifications and other decisions of the Committee are official and final. If an entrant is unwilling or unable to agree to all of the foregoing, the entrant should not submit the entry or submit the entry as a Checklog only.

Questions pertaining to the CQ WW DX Contest rules may be submitted by e-mail to **questions@cqww.com.** Answers for many frequently asked questions can be found at <www.cqww.com/rules_faq.htm>.