



International Amateur Radio Union, Region 1

26th General Conference - Zlatibor, Serbia

1 - 4 November 2023

Subject	IARU Region 1 ATV Contest – Modification of the rules		
Society	ARI	Country:	Italy
Committee:	C5	Paper number:	ZL23_C5_14
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Premise and objectives of the paper:

The final results of the IARU Region 1 ATV Contest 2022, presented by the ARI ATV Manager Guido IW6ATU to the Italian ATV community during the Italian MW & ATV Meeting, have generated unsatisfaction among all the participants. This could likely bring on creating disinterest for our activity that still reports little participation and difficulties in involving new-comers.

We also see that possible future changes to the rules could be proposed during this GC by the BATC group, which deserve further study and careful consideration. Considering that, not all the changes of the new proposal are in line with a spirit that generates a motivational drive to experimentation and technical innovation, which should distinguish and be the guideline of Ham Spirit, we are therefore going to propose a motivated analysis with our considerations on various points.

Reminding that in the last contest edition Italy was the country with the highest number of participants, we believe that the arguments here presented deserve an accurate valuation.

Key points and proposals:

These are the two points of the rules, currently in force, which have created unsatisfaction among the Italian participants, when the results of the 2022 edition have been published:

1. General Ranking:

The General ranking must be generated taking into consideration only the bands which are accessible to all the participants in the IARU Region 1, in particular the 9cm band (3.4 GHz) is not allowed in Italy, this means that the opportunities to gain points for all is not granted.

Of course we highly underline the importance on continuing to publish the 9cm only classification, but we ask to omit the 9cm points to the General Ranking for all the participants, to have a better democratical access to the same bands to all the participants.

2. Rover:

The current rules are allowing to the same station to move from a locator to

another and make contacts also with stations previously in log from the previous locations.

We believe that the possibility to change location is not in agreement with the guidelines dictated by ham-spirit for the following reasons:

- It does not go to incentivize the search for the DX in terms of improving the performance of antenna equipment and operating modes, since the move is in the order of few hundreds of meter.
- This rule brings a different goal for contesting activities, which should be on a technical basis, and not on a logistical level (more you move more points you gain).
- This rule is difficult to check when we need to evaluate the results, further, it is difficult to determinate if a rover station have moved or not.

For this reasons we reccomend to permit to participate on the ATV contest only from one location and don't permit roving.

New proposed rules to be implemented:

Dave G8GKQ, the IARU Region 1 ATV Contest Coordinator, in a recent email after the publication of the final results proposed some changes to the current rules.

- 1. Change of multiplier system for the General Ranking: Dave proposed to give a 2x multiplier to all the QSOs up to 10 GHz (3cm band) and assign an incremental multiplier system only for QSO on higher bands.**

We agree that the research and technical progress should be rewarded, but we must not forget the results achieved by those who have a lower technical knowledge and they are approaching microwaves starting from 23cm and 13 cm, and in particular, the 3cm band, which is still the preferable band, for several reasons, to the newcomers.

Further, accessing 24 GHz and higher bands requires the availability of instrumentation and sometimes even economic resources which is not always possible.

Therefore, we believe we need to find a formula for the multiplier system that gives the right satisfaction to the most advanced experimenters and that doesn't demotivate the less experienced operators.

Accordingly, we propose to keep the current multiplier system, increasing the multiplier only for the 24 GHz and higher bands as proposed :

A two-way exchange of the four-digit code group by vision together with the exchange of the other information shall score:

- for contacts on the 435 MHz band: 2 points/kilometre
- for contacts on the 1.3 GHz band: 4 points/kilometre
- for contacts on 2.3 GHz, 3.4 GHz, 5,7 GHz and 10 GHz: 8 points/kilometre
- for contacts on the 24 GHz band: 10 points/kilometre

- for contacts on the 47 GHz band: 12 points/kilometre
- for contacts on the 76 GHz band: 14 points/kilometre
- for contacts on the 122 GHz band: 16 points/kilometre

If only one station received the four-digit code group, and the other information was exchanged, the scores for both stations shall be reduced by 50%.

Dave proposed to divide the Contest into two dates by reserving a date for frequencies up to 6 cm and another date for bands higher than 6 cm.

The proposal finds us in total disagreement. Carrying out the competition on two separate dates requires a commitment in terms of time and resources. Given the fact that the majority of ATV operators work only on portable, the risk of a double date could bring less participation in one of the two events, with the result of a decrease in the total number of participants.

Separate ranking for analog ATV and digital DVB modes.

Dave G8GKQ didn't mention anything about Analog/Digital modes in his email.

We think that the implementation and spread of digital DVB modes is facilitating the success of the ATV itself compared to the use of analog ATV, especially with the use of some new devices which are easy to find in the market.

For this reason, we strongly recommend to have two separate rankings for the two operating modes in the ATV Contest.