



International Amateur Radio Union, Region 1

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Subject	Update to IARU-R1 ATV Contest Rules in the VHF Handbook		
Society	RSGB	Country:	UK
Committee:	C5	Paper number:	ZL23_C5_17
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Introduction:

The paper proposes that the IARU-R1 ATV Contest Rules are updated to take account of the addition of wideband digital modes to the 50 MHz band and likely future restrictions on the 1.2 GHz band. It also adjusts the scoring to take account of technological advances and adds some minor limitations to encourage beginners to amateur television.

Background:

The current IARU ATV Contest Manager is stepping down after 7 years and wants to formalise some of the processes that have become commonplace and to make adjustments to the rules to encourage beginners.

The opportunity is also taken to add 50 MHz to the contest and to make the 1.2 GHz band rules more likely to be acceptable within the terms of the forthcoming restrictions to transmissions in the band to protect RNSS.

The attached paper shows the deletions and additions that are proposed to the existing rules.

A new IARU ATV Contest Manager will need to be identified for 2024.

Key points and proposal:

- At the 2021 Virtual General Conference the 50 MHz band plan was amended to include wideband digital modes including ATV; this band has been added to the contest.
- The forthcoming recommendations for co-existence with RNSS in the 1.2 GHz band do not permit the continuation of FM ATV in the band. This restriction has been added to the rules.
- For the last 5 years, almost all of the contest entries have been submitted on an Excel spreadsheet issued as a blank by the IARU ATV Contest Manager in advance. This process has been formalised and mandated.

- d) The high scoring rate (points per km) given to the lower microwave bands (to encourage technical innovation) has caused some very high scores which has been disheartening for beginners. The scoring rates have been amended to only reward innovation on 24 GHz and above. This also reduces that effect of national disadvantages due to some of the lower microwave bands (such as 3.4 GHz) not being available in all R1 Countries.
- e) The number of locations that a station could enter as a “Roving Station” has been limited to 4 to prevent distortion of the results through the use of excessive multiple locations.
- f) The old rules mandated that fixed stations having second or subsequent contacts with roving stations needed to change their transmitted numbers. This was poorly understood and proved difficult for all involved. Given the very small risk of cheating, the requirement has been dropped. The requirement for Roving stations to change their transmitted numbers for each new location remains.
- g) It had been noticed that some teams of operators were entering twice from the same location, each using the same equipment. Whilst teams operating a single entry are perfectly acceptable, the sharing of equipment in this way distorts the results. The practice has been prohibited.
- h) The previous rules contained some outdated references; these have been corrected.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that C5 accept the amendments to the ATV Contest Rules proposed and amend the text in the VHF Handbook accordingly, using the separately attached document.

Financial implications:

There is modest financial implication that an additional award (for the 50 MHz band winner) will need to be purchased and presented each year. Currently at least 10 such awards are presented each year - this recommendation adds one more.