

## **OPERATING CODE OF PRACTICE FOR 50 MHz OPERATORS.**

### **50 MHz AS A DX BAND**

It should be recognised by all 50 MHz operators that 50 MHz is a DX band. All 50 MHz operators should always treat each other with respect and tolerance.

### **BAND PLAN**

Always respect the band plan as issued by IARU, taking into account the conditions of your license.

### **LOCAL QSO's**

Do not conduct local QSO's within the 50.100 to 50.130 MHz window for Intercontinental contacts.

### **LEARN TO LISTEN**

True 50 MHz band DX'ers spend about five percent of their time transmitting while ninety-five percent of time is spent listening and observing changing band conditions and propagation modes. This will be far more effective than just calling CQ DX at random.

### **50.100 - 50.130 MHz WINDOW FOR INTERCONTINENTAL CONTACTS**

This Window is widely accepted and should be used for Inter-continental QSO's only.

### **50.110 MHz INTERCONTINENTAL CALLING FREQUENCY**

This should be used for Intercontinental contacts only. Do not under any circumstances engage in local continental QSO's on this frequency even for a minute or two. Do not encourage pile-ups on 50.110 MHz.

### **50.110 MHz CQ'ING**

LISTENING is the first rule of working rare DX on the 50 MHz band. So think twice before calling CQ on 50.110 MHz. But the occasional CQ is good as it can discover an unrecognised opening.

### **QSO TECHNIQUES**

Follow the style and take the lead of the DX operator in providing information. Otherwise keep it simple as there are other stations waiting in line.

### **DX PILE-UP OPERATING**

You should listen to the DX stations carefully and not continue to call if they request a particular country or prefix if that is not you. You should NOT call if you cannot hear the DX station!

### **SPLIT FREQUENCY OPERATION**

When a DX station creates a large pile-up, split-frequency operation is recommended. To minimise interference with other DX stations operating simplex, it is recommended that a maximum split of 10 kHz is used.

### **DUPLICATE QSO's**

It is always tempting to call a rare DX station every time you hear it. This should be avoided as it means that you are taking away the opportunity for the DX station to work a new station and give them their first QSO with the DX country.

### **TELEGRAPHY OPERATION**

Telegraphy is probably the best mode of operation on the 50 MHz band due to the nature of many DX openings.

**FM QSO's IN EUROPE**

All FM transmissions should be made above 50.500 MHz for the obvious reason that FM is wideband and could wipe out weak DX signals.

**MUTUAL INTERFERENCE**

Proper adjustment of transmitters will minimise distortion and reduce interference with operators on nearby frequencies. The correct level of audio setting for the microphone in use is essential for readability and minimal distortion. Linear amplifiers should be only driven so that they operate in the linear region and in any case should only be used when propagation conditions require it. Please note that poor receiver performance with respect to adjacent channel rejection and overload will also limit your effectiveness.