

SUB-REGIONAL VHF/UHF/MICROWAVES CONTEST COORDINATION WITHIN REGION 1

To stimulate activity on all VHF/UHF/Microwave bands, sub-regional contests, organised and judged by national societies, have been held since 1956. In many countries these contests have developed into national annual Trophy competitions.

The rules for the national contests are up to the national society which organises the contests. They may use the IARU Region 1 contest rules or design their own rules, deviating for instance in the manner of scoring etc.

However, experience has shown that a certain amount of international coordination is required, and hence the following rulings were adopted at various IARU Region 1 Conferences.

A. All-band sub-regional contests

At the IARU Conference in Folkestone (1961) it was agreed that during sub-regional contests code numbers and Locator should be exchanged according to the rules for IARU Region 1 VHF/UHF/Microwaves contests.

In view of the rather different contest conditions in the various parts of Region 1 the following minimum co-ordination, adopted at the Region 1 Conference in Malmö (1963) and later slightly amended at the Scheveningen Conference (1972) and the Brighton Conference (1981) has been agreed:

All sub-regional contests will be held between 14.00 UTC on Saturday and 14.00 UTC on Sunday.

All VHF/UHF/Microwaves Field Days, organised within Region 1, shall coincide as to dates and time limits with sub-regional or official IARU Region 1 contests. At the San Marino 2002 conference it was agreed to recommend that such field days should coincide with the IARU Region1 VHF/UHF/Microwave contest in July.

At the IARU Region 1 Conference in Brussels (1969) it was agreed that the sub-regional contest during the first weekend of November shall be a Telegraphy contest, run according to the rules of the official Region 1 contests¹.

Furthermore, at the IARU Region 1 Conference in Cefalu (1984) it was agreed that

Sub-regional contests on the coordinated dates shall be all-band events, 145 MHz through 240 GHz.

On this basis in many countries member societies of IARU Region 1 organise national contests during the first weekends of March, May, July, September, October and November, whereby the September and October national contests are run concurrently with the IARU Region 1 contests on these weekends.

In view of the fact that in an appreciable number of countries the 50 MHz band had become available to the Amateur Service, the meeting of the IARU Region 1 VHF/UHF/Microwaves Committee in Vienna, March 1992, adopted the following recommendation:

From 1993 national societies are encouraged to establish 50 MHz sections in the sub-regional contests.

This recommendation was approved by the Executive Committee of Region 1 at their meeting in April 1992, and ratified by the 1993 IARU Region 1 Conference.

At the same conference an IARU Region 1 50 MHz contest was established.

B. Microwave contest

At the IARU Region 1 Conference in Scheveningen (1972) it was agreed that National societies shall organise sub-regional contests on the microwave (1.3 GHz and higher) bands during the third weekend of June.

¹ Since 1974 ARI has organised the Marconi Memorial Telegraphy contest during this weekend and has invited all Region 1 amateurs to participate (see also IIIa).

At the IARU Region 1 Conference in Noordwijkerhout (1987) it was decided that from 1988 onwards the sub-regional microwave contests will take place on the first weekend of June.

C. Experiment with scoring system: Locator bonuses

On the subject of scoring at the IARU Region 1 Conference in Noordwijkerhout the following recommendation was adopted:

- Societies are encouraged to try out a system of locator bonuses, such as proposed by EDR, in their national VHF/UHF/Microwaves contests.

The EDR proposal can be found in Appendix 1 to this section.

D. Information exchange on contests

To ensure that participants in the various contests will know on which times or time intervals they may expect activity in other countries on the bands, at the Conference in Malmö (1963) and at later Conferences the importance of exchanging information on contests was stressed. At the IARU Region 1 Conference in Warsaw (1975) the following recommendation was adopted:

In order to promote greater uniformity in the timing (and perhaps style) of Region 1 VHF/UHF/MICROWAVES contests, all member societies are invited to send well in advance of the contest dates, say annually, details of their contest calendar - dates and times - in English to the Hon. Secretary of Region 1 for publication in Region 1 News and for forwarding to all VHF Managers for information.

The Hon. Secretary of Region 1 has requested to send this information to the Region 1 Secretariat not later than the 31st December of each year.