



INTERIM MEETING OF VHF & up Committee of IARU REGION 1  
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Subject	IARU Contest rules not in all cases realistic and could be improved to gain future activity		
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## Introduction

The contest rules should be unambiguous with focus on the intention of the activity, not to make it unnecessary complicated.

## Background

For future continuity of the IARU contests, rules should be realistic and as less complicated as possible. Paragraph 5 should be evaluated to check if the described situation is realistic and helpful to get more activity in the future.

## Current situation

Hereunder just examples of the current situation by just going through the chapters. At 'proposal/recommendation' the corresponding suggestions could be found.

A. In paragraph 5.2.2 is mentioned the IARU-R1 contest robot will be used for contest evaluation. This is not the case for all contests since ATV is covered by paragraph 5.4, including rules and log sheet.

B. Paragraph 5.3.3 c mentions: "All the equipment of the station (transmitters, receivers and antennas, etc) must be located within a single circle of no greater than 500 metres diameter. OPERATOR may reside outside the station's area ("remote station"), connected to the station via a "remote control terminal". In such a case, the Locator for the contest is the Locator of the stations position. An operator may only operate one single station, regardless if it is locally or remotely operated, during the same event".

Transmitters, receivers are just equipment. It should not be relevant if they are placed nearby the antenna or not. The location of the used antenna should be the relevant location for the stations performance (then also covers 'remote station').

C. Paragraph 5.3.11 mentions: "Each VHF Manager and/or national Contest Committee shall be responsible for monitoring during contests. Additional monitoring stations may be appointed but these stations may not take part in the contest". This leads to unwanted situations because the contest

manager is enthusiastic for contesting, therefore he is a tester. If this rule is followed it is more difficult to guarantee continuity, finding national contest managers will likely be very difficult (if not impossible).

D. Paragraph 5.3.11 Judging of entries: "The claimed contact shall be disqualified for any error in the information logged by the station. Any error in the exchanged information logged by a station is liable to result in the loss of all points for that contact, subject to review and confirmation by the contest organiser". Individual judge of every mismatching contact is from a realistic point of view not possible. It also looks if the contest is judged in an arbitrariness way, this should be avoided.

E. In paragraph 5.4.2 is on page 64 pointed to Appendix 3B. This appendix is missing in the VHF managers handbook.

F. In paragraph 5.5 is mentioned that the use of the Electronic Contest Log distribution format is recommended. This format is not applicable for the ATV contests.

G. Also in paragraph 5.5: It is a limitation to have potential contest participants forced to use the EDI format. If we would like to gain activity, it would be very helpful to have an easy possibility to enter data. For example by developing an 'on-line log', an Excel log or an easy to install and use program for just entering the contacts. A kind of application to convert these data to EDI would be very helpful. This would make the threshold to join a contest (newcomers) low.

H. In paragraph 5.10.3 the extended locator system is mentioned. Especially in case of 'rather nearby contacts' in microwave bands, this extended locator system is not extended enough.

I. The winners of the challenge trophies in paragraph 5.11 are completed to 2003. This shows no one cares.

## Proposal/Recommendation

A. Add in paragraph 5.2.2 that this is applicable for phone/CW contests (ATV does not use the IARU-R1 contest robot).

B. Change 5.3.3 c in a way the stations location is defined by the location of the used antenna's during the same event.

C. Remove in paragraph 5.3.11 'but these stations may not take part in the contest'. Eventual the possibility to report a complaint in case of noticed misbehavior noticed by other stations could be considered to add.

D. Change text in paragraph 5.3.11 to a realistic, workable method. In fact, the robot checks the contact; make clear what the consequences of that check will be (losing points of both stations). If is defined on what aspects the robot checks, the following text could be "Claimed contacts are verified by a contest robot program which will justify errors in each contact. Therefore a claimed contact can be disqualified for log errors found by the program".

E. Connect the in page 64 mentioned 'Appendix 3B' in a way to the VHF managers handbook that it is part of the handbook or mention a link on the IARU website that contains the indented log sheet.

F. Change text in paragraph 5.5 that this is applicable for phone/CW (ATV is excluded).

G. If we would like to gain activity, it would be very helpful to have an easy possibility to enter data. For example 'on-line log', an Excel log or an easy to install and use program for just entering the contacts. A kind of application to convert these data to EDI would be very helpful. This would make the threshold to join a contest (newcomers) low.

H. Update paragraph 5.10.4 with an even more extended locator system (see <http://no.nonsense.ee/qth/map.html> that is successfully used for ATV (and IARU ATV contest)).

I. Completely remove paragraph 5.11 because the last 12 years it is not updated so considered as no added value to this chapter. If wanted, an updated version could be placed on the IARU-R1 website.