

WRTC 2018 Question and answer

Addendum to the official WRTC2018 Competition Rules

Below are questions and answers for the WRTC competition in 2018. Any further questions should be sent to competition@wrtc2018.de or to the [WRTC email list](#).

Last modified: 16th September 2017

Addendum: [Poor signal policy, wrtc2018 rules](#)

Version	Description	Date	Author
0.9	Initial version	16th Sept 2017	DL8OBF

Qualification/ Enrollment

1. **May a TEAM LEADER from one country select a TEAM MATE from another DXCC entity/country in WRTC 2018? Is this permitted?**

Yes, you can select a team mate from another DXCC country or even a different qualification area as long as he/she is qualified for the WRTC 2018 i.e. for instance not disqualified in any of the qualification events.

Operation

2. **What happens if an operator identifies himself?**

The judging committee reserves all means, up to and including disqualification from the contest. If an operator accidentally utilizes his callsign, it shows of good ham spirit if he does not take any advantage and immediately QSYs from frequency.

3. **What is regarded as 'unsportsmanlike behaviour' or 'illegal' in connection with frequency allocation or bandmap?**

There are several examples of unsportsmanlike behaviour, e.g. it is regarded as unsportsmanlike, if operators work within the internationally assigned beacon bands.

It is illegal if operators operate out of band, even if part of their signal is out of band (e.g. dial setting on 14350 kHz) in SSB/USB.

Encouraging Cheerleading, i.e. QSOs in which supporters make QSOs with only a favoured team or spot that team exclusively on the DX-cluster, is regarded as unsportsmanlike behaviour.

'Stealing a frequency' or intentional interference is also regarded as unsportsmanlike.

4. What happens if a judge supports a team in an unfair or illegal way?

The judging committee reserves all means against judge or team. This may include disqualification of judge and team and removal of additional benefits, such as costs for lodging. The judge may be excluded from further participation in WRTC 2018 events.

5. You have provided bandplans. What is the intention?

Bandplans are part of ham radio regulations in Germany. Contest preferred segments should be obeyed.

6. How often should I identify myself with my callsign?

German regulations ask for the own callsign in every QSO. Your callsign should be clear to someone listening to your operation and it is not a good practice to rely on DX-Clusters or other means to identify yourself. Unsportsmanlike behaviour might result in penalties, up to and including disqualification.

7. In SSB: Is it required to use the phonetic table (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie) or can callsigns be spelled in plain letters, e.g. W1AW instead of Whisky One Alpha Whisky ?

You may use plain letters in SSB (e.g. W1AW) or internationally accepted phonetic tables (e.g. Whisky 1 Alpha Whiskey), as long as they are in English language. Any other form that might identify the team is not allowed (e.g. Wilhelm Eins Anton Wilhelm).

8. Is it required to call CQ or can we call also "test de ..."?

You can call CQ any way you like, as long as it is a commonly accepted way to call CQ and is not used to identify yourself. "Test de" is OK.

9. I understand that the super check partial (SCP) database is not allowed for the WRTC competition. In Russia or Boston, this same rule was implemented but they allowed a filled database for use with headquarter exchanges. Will this be allowed?

All exchange- and frequency-information in the log must be filled during the contest. No pre-filled databases are allowed.

10. What is meant by “time period” in this rule? If Radio A is on 15M SSB, Radio B is not allowed on 15M SSB or 15M CW during the same time period).

Both radios cannot “flip flop” between bands. If Radio A makes a contact on 15M, Radio B cannot make a contact on 15M and then Radio A makes another on 15M. However, you can switch functions at any time. The requirement is that the other radio makes at least one QSO on another band.

Example:

Radio A 2305z QSO: 21007

Radio B 2306z QSO: 14250

Radio A 2307z QSO: 21008

Radio B 2308z QSO: 21250

Radio A 2309z QSO: 21009 <<<<<<<<<< Not allowed! Radio A must change bands now.

11. Is it permitted for Radio B to go the the same band as Radio A to work multipliers while Radio A is running (assume they are interlocked so there is only one signal transmitted at a time)?

No, you cannot transmit on the same band as the other radio. If Radio B makes a QSO on the same band as Radio A, the next QSO on that band must be made by Radio B. Radio A must go to another band, or not transmit. Additionally, they may not share the same antenna. (No alternate CQing etc on same band with same antenna.)

12: Is it permitted for Radio B to go the Radio A band just to tune around and fill up the band map on that band?

Yes, Radio B can listen anywhere at any time. Rule 16.2.4. limits the transmit operation and not the receive.

However, it cannot use the same antenna as Radio A (no splitting of RX line, see rule 16.2.1.). For this competition, the Tribander is considered as 3 separate antennas for 10/15/20 Meters. Radio B may also listen to the audio of Radio A if desired.

13: Do Maritime Mobile or Aeronautical Mobile stations count for multipliers?

Maritime Mobile stations can be worked for QSO credit, but do not count for Multipliers.

14: Is it allowed to call CQ in SSB-segments, while using the CW-Mode ?

No, a station may only be worked for credit in the portion of the band that is generally accepted for the mode used.

Station Setup

15. Can you explain the paragraph on ‘sharing antennas’ in more detail? Is the tribander considered the same antenna for sharing (triplexer)?

Our intention is to allow a triplexer as in 2014 (Boston), i.e. you can share the triband-beam and use it for the two radios (different bands).

Rule 17.1.11 (not sharing the antenna) refers to sharing the antenna on the same band. Any hardware past the T/R-Relays, which shares the antenna with the other radio - and allows flip-flop operation on the same or on two different bands - is not allowed. These are the same rules as in 2014.

For purposes of WRTC2018, the tribander in conjunction with the triplexer is considered 3 discrete (separate) antennas. You can think of it as having 3 monobanders for 10/15/20 Meters. There are a total of 5 antennas for use between radios, one at a time for each radio.

16. Rule 16.2.5 and 16.2.5.4. speak about ‘suitable devices’ to display the spectrum. May a second PC per radio be used, e.g. solely for spectrum visualization? May the PC-Soundcard be connected to the Transceiver’s Audio output ?

Yes, an additional PC may be used for spectrum visualization and is regarded a suitable device. It can be connected to an audio-output or can be connected to an additional SDR. But it may only show current or past signal strength (spectrum, peak hold or waterfall). Actual signal processing (demodulation, analysis or decoding, e.g. for the purpose of content analysis, CW-decode, station identification, alarm generation, Skimmer, etc.) is not allowed.

17. Rule 15.1. requests a file with stereo-signals but also suggests two different files. What is correct?

Both is correct. You may either provide a stereo file (with audio of radio A and B on left and right channel). Alternatively you can provide us separate files for both radios. In any case it needs to be clear which audio belongs to which radio.

17. Some transceiver (e.g. Hilberling PT-8000) have the possibility to disable the subreceiver by disconnecting the receiver input. Is that a valid method to disable the second receiver?

Yes, for subreceivers the rule 16.2.2. applies. The subreceiver needs to be clearly disabled. Removal of the antenna-connection for the subreceiver is satisfactory, as long as this connection cannot be easily restored.

18. What are the limitations to connect SDR-receivers for the scope-function? Can a separate SDR (such as the Perseus) be connected after the T/R-Relais of the transceiver?

It is acceptable to utilize an additional SDR-receiver (such as the Perseus) for bandscope and/or waterfall, provided that they are solely used for spectrum visualization. SDR-receivers can either be connected after the T/R-relais of the transceiver or be connected to the IF-output. Additionally it is OK to use internal SDR-modules, e.g. if the transceiver has the capability to show the spectrum.

It is not acceptable to have an additional connection to the antenna or triplexer network. All transmit- and receive signals must pass through the provided power monitors.

19. Is it allowed to use a QRP TX and a 100W amp to achieve 100W or does it have to be an all in one transceiver? E.g., Elecraft KX3 + KXPA100

Absolutely. Teams are allowed to bring any equipment they want or need to transmit 100W. The organizers will provide power monitors at the output of the transmitter or amp in this case. The only requirement is that you do not exceed the power limit. Any losses through bandpass filters, etc must be accepted, since filtering must be connected between the power monitors and antennas.

20. Is it allowed to use a 200W transceiver (e.g. FT2000D or Hilberling PT8000A) to achieve 100W ? E.g., operate the transceiver at lower drive.

Absolutely. Teams are allowed to bring any equipment they want or need to transmit 100W. The organizers will provide power monitors at the output of the transmitter in this case. The only requirement is that you do not exceed the power limit. Any losses through bandpass filters, etc. must be accepted, since filtering must be connected between the power monitors and antennas.

21. Is there a limitation w.r.t. PC monitors? Can we use 2 monitors for each of the PC?

There is no direct limitation w.r.t. the number of monitors. But there is an indirect limitation due to power- and space limitations. Please refer to the station description for details (<http://www.wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/competition/wrtc-rules/station-description-en>)

22. Can we use the IF output (e.g. of the Elecraft K3) to connect external SDRs ? The intention is to connect SDRs like Afedri, softrock, QS1R, and use the SDR as panadapter.

Absolutely, the IF output of the transceiver can be used to connect an SDR-receiver.

23. In Moscow the organizers offered an external computer monitor to each team. Will those be available in Germany or should we bring our own?

There is no current plan to make monitors available. 20" monitors can be purchased for less than 100 Euro at local stores like Mediamarkt (<http://www.mediamarkt.de>, Medimax (<https://www.medimax.de>) or Staples (www.staples.de). We suggest that the teams who feel they need a monitor plan on purchasing one.

24. My transceiver offers the possibility to have two or more bandscope. Is it allowed to have a second bandscope on the transceiver ?

Yes, but all signals must pass the provided power monitor and only one receiver is allowed. No additional connection for receive is allowed, see 16.2.1. in the rules.