

## ARRL Radiosport Contesting Glossary

The following table is a list of terms commonly encountered during discussions about contests or contesting. More discussion of HF contesting issues is available in the document "HF Guidelines – Good Practices, Interpretations, and Suggestions" ([www.arrl.org/contests/hf-faq.html](http://www.arrl.org/contests/hf-faq.html)).

If you have a suggestion for additions to the table, email [contest@arrl.org](mailto:contest@arrl.org). Product and company names won't be accepted.

**10-minute rule** - refers to a limit on the number of band changes permitted in an hour or how long a station is required to operate on a band after making a band change

**3830** – the Web site for reporting claimed scores after the contest ([www.hornucopia.com/3830score](http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score))

**Alligator** - a station whose signal is loud, but can not hear calling stations well

**Assisted** – in ARRL contests, the category in which it is allowed to use information from outside the station boundary about the operation of other stations, "assisted" has nothing to do with the actions of others that may assist the station of the operator

**Band change** – making a QSO on a different band than the preceding QSO (see also "10-minute rule")

**BIP/BOP** – "Both In Phase / Both Out of Phase" referring to the phasing of signals to two antennas in a stack

**Bonus** - extra points added to a score for making a specific type of QSO, for contacting specific stations, or operating in a specified way

**Boxes** – slang for the "Top Ten Boxes" in contest results

**Breakdown** - a table showing the QSOs and multipliers worked on each band; also known as "hour-by-hour" or "band-by-band" or "HHBB" tables or sheets

**Busted** - a spot, call, or exchange that is determined to have been copied or logged incorrectly

**Cabrillo** - a log file format specification (see [www.kkn.net/~trey/cabrillo](http://www.kkn.net/~trey/cabrillo))

**Captive rover** – a rover station that only works one fixed station to increase a team score (the practice is unsportsmanlike and is discouraged)

**Check** – in Sweepstakes, check refers to the last two digits of the first year the station license was granted and is derived from a similar element in the header of a radiogram, on which the Sweepstakes exchange is based

**Checklog** - submitted logs that are only used in the log checking process and are not listed in the results

**Cheerleading** – spotting one or a few stations disproportionately, usual a club member or a friend

**Club circle** – a circle of a given radius that defines the maximum area for a contest club category

**CQ-contest** – an email reflector for discussing contest issues

([lists.contesting.com/mailman/listinfo/cq-contest](http://lists.contesting.com/mailman/listinfo/cq-contest))

**Cut Numbers** - letter abbreviations for Morse numerals, such as N for 9, A for 1, etc. (see [www.qsl.net/zs1an/contesting\\_faq.html](http://www.qsl.net/zs1an/contesting_faq.html) for a list of examples)

**DQ** – disqualify as a result of rules violations

**Dupe** - a station that has been worked before and can't be contacted again for point credit

**DX alerting assistance** – any source of information that provides call signs, frequencies, and time of operation (such as a DX spot or local voice net)

**Error rate** – the total of QSOs determined to be invalid as a percentage of the total QSOs in a checked log less all duplicate contacts

**Exchange** - the information required to be exchanged in a contest QSO

**Fill** - repeat part of an exchange to replace missing or garbled information

**Grid circling** – the practice of rover stations meeting at the corner of four grid squares and working each other on multiple bands in rapid succession

**Grid square (locator)** – the identifiers of the Maidenhead Grid Locator system ([www.arrl.org/locate/gridinfo.html](http://www.arrl.org/locate/gridinfo.html))

**Hired gun** - a guest operator, usually referring to someone highly skilled

**Hold** - in reference to a frequency, to maintain a presence on a frequency by calling CQ

**LCR** - Log Checking Report, the output of the log checking process for a submitted log

**MO, MS, MM, M2** - Multi-Operator, Multi-Operator Single-Transmitter, Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter, Multi-Operator Two-Transmitter

**Move** - in reference to station that counts as a multiplier, to coordinate a change to another band to contact them for additional multiplier credit

**Multiplier (Mult)** – special attributes, such as locations, that are multiplied with QSO points to determine score

**Not In the Log (NIL)** - a QSO that can not be cross-referenced to the submitted log of the station with which the QSO is claimed

**Off-time** - enforced periods of non-operation during a contest

**Packet cluster (or packet)** – originally a program written by AK1A (PacketCluster™) to allow DX and contest stations to share information (spots) via VHF packet radio systems about stations on the air, now generally refers to any source of spots, whether over the air or terrestrial networks

**Pass** – at a multioperator station, ask a calling station to work one of the other station operators on a different band

**Penalty** – QSO points removed during the log checking process in response to errors (see contest rules for the exact nature of the penalty)

**Precedence** - in Sweepstakes, precedence refers to the category of the station - A,B, C, M, Q, or U – and is derived from a similar element in the header of a radiogram, on which the Sweepstakes exchange is based

**QSO Party** – a contest focused on a specific location or style of operating, generally of lower intensity than major contests

**QSO Points** - the point credit for a specific QSO

**QTC** – a list of logged QSOs exchanged during contests such as the Worked All Europe

**Rate** - the equivalent number of stations that would be worked in an hour, based on various time periods (last hour, last 10 minutes, last 10 stations, last 100 stations, etc)

**Rate sheet** – an output from contest logging software showing QSO rate versus time

**Reclassify** – changing of the category of a submitted log by the contest sponsor to correctly reflect the category of operation

**Robot** - a software program that processes logs submitted by email

**Rover** - a mobile station that operates while in motion or from multiple locations in a contest

**Run** - work stations by calling CQ, a run also means a steady stream of callers in response to CQs

**S&P** - search-and-pounce, the technique of tuning for stations to work instead of calling CQ

**Section** – in Sweepstakes, the ARRL/RAC section of the station ([www.arrl.org/sections](http://www.arrl.org/sections))

**Self spot** – spotting one's own frequency and call sign on a spotting network, generally prohibited by contest rules, including requesting to be spotted by another station

**Serial Number** - the sequential number of the contact in the contest. I.e. - first contact, second contact, 199<sup>th</sup> contact, etc.

**Single band** – operating a contest exclusively on one band

**Skimmer** – software that extracts call signs and frequencies from a receiver's audio or IF (VE3NEA wrote the program "CW Skimmer" – see [www.dxatlas.com](http://www.dxatlas.com))

**SO, SOA, SOAB, SOSB** - Single Operator, Single-Operator Assisted, Single-Operator All-Band, Single-Operator Single Band

**SO2R** – Single-operator, two radio; the practice of using two radios to both call CQ and tune for stations at the same time, usually on different bands

**SPC or S/P/C** - State, Province, Country, the most common three location-based types of multipliers

**Spot** - an announcement of a station's call and frequency via a spotting network

**Spotting Network** – Any method of distributing information about the frequency and call sign of stations on the air, including voice, packet radio, or the Internet

**Sprint** - a short contest, usually six hours or less

**Sprint QSX Rule** – sprint contests sponsored by the National Contest Journal ([www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com)) require a station to QSX 5 kHz before calling CQ or 1 kHz before answering another CQ

**Stack** – a set of antennas for one band on a common tower or mast, used to increase forward gain and to control the vertical angle of radiation

**Sunday Driver** - casual operators that appear late in the contest (usually Sunday afternoon) to make a few QSOs

**Sweep** – to work all available multipliers, such as all ARRL/RAC sections in the ARRL Sweepstakes

**UBN** - Unique, Busted, Not In Log, the three ways in which a QSO can be declared invalid

**Unique** - a call sign that was not in any other submitted log (QSOs with unique call signs are generally accepted at face value by the sponsors, but excessive numbers attract scrutiny)

**Unlimited** – In Sweepstakes, Unlimited category is the same as SOA in other contests

**WARC bands** – refers to the amateur bands allocated during the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference; 30, 17, and 12 meters (also sometimes used to refer to the 60 meter band)

**Zone** – an area defined by contest sponsors, such as the ITU or CQ Magazine (see [www.ac6v.com/zones5.htm](http://www.ac6v.com/zones5.htm) for zone maps and definitions)