



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

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Subject	Contest IARU Reg. 1 50 – 70 MHz		
Society	MARL	Country:	Malta
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Introduction:

As defined by IARU, the main objectives of contest are to make as many contacts as possible and to have fun whilst improving your operating skills, testing new equipment configurations and techniques, expanding your horizons by operating on the microwave bands and exploring radio propagation.

Background:

Contests also enable new hams to log QSOs with stations that outside the contest tend not reply to their calls, keep our allocations busy and are a good input to propagation forecasts. Contest rules remind participants of the correct operating practices and band plans. These must be adhered to, else end up disqualified.

Key points and proposal:

One anomaly is that both the 50 MHz and 70 MHz contests are held on the same date and time. Since the majority of those working on 70 MHz are also fond of the 50 MHz, this limits those active on both bands to be competitive on just one band. This is resulting in a low participation and low QSO count in the 70 MHz.

After publishing the final results, the majority of other contest organisers, avail e-certificates to all participants which can be printed and shared on the social media. IARU Reg 1 so far does not offer this service. Every time an e-certificate is shared on the various social media platforms, it automatically promotes our hobby and adds prestige to the contest. Adding e-certificates would increase participants and generate more interest for the next contest especially in the young generation.

The 50MHz and 70 MHz contests have a conservative number of sections mainly:

- 50 MHz band: SINGLE (SO): single operator entries.
- MULTI (MO): multi operator entries.
- 6HOURS (6H): 6 hours entries.
- 70 MHz band: o SINGLE (SO): single operator entries.
- MULTI (MO): multi operator entries.

Adding also a 6h section in the 70 MHz might encourage more participants in the contest especially for those who need to operate in portable due to QTH restriction or QRM levels and those living a busy life with family and QRL commitments.

Nowadays, for various reasons many are just operating in digi modes on both 50 MHz and 70 MHz. Currently, these are made to compete in the same section of operators who operate in SSB and CW. This is posing an unlevelled playing field. Separate sections would play justice and enable everyone to express their preferred operating modes.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

1. the 50 MHz and 70 MHz contests are held on separate week-ends
2. e-certificates to be issued to all participants
3. a 6h section is added to the 70 MHz
4. separate sections for ssb/cw , digital modes and mixed modes per band

Financial implications:

Upgrading of contest robot hardware and software.