



# International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

## 2020 General Conference – Virtual Part

### 11-16 October 2020

|                   |                                                 |                      |            |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Subject</b>    | 50/70 MHz contest categories                    |                      |            |
| <b>Society</b>    | IARU Region 1                                   | <b>Country:</b>      | N/A        |
| <b>Committee:</b> | C5                                              | <b>Paper number:</b> | NS20_C5_25 |
| <b>Author:</b>    | Alessandro Carletti, IV3KKW Contest WG Chairman |                      |            |

#### Abstract :

During the last Vienna Interim Meeting 2019 on C5 session it has been presented the VIE19 C5-019 document by ARI.



## International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

### Interim Meeting – Vienna Austria

#### 27-28 April 2019



**Document number:** VIE19 C5-019  
**Source:** ARI – Alessandro Carletti IV3KKW  
**Subject:** FT8 use in contest  
**Committee(s):** C5

#### *Background*

The growth of FT8 activity seems endless on all HF bands and we have seen that during the last spring/summer also on 50 MHz all the activity was focused mainly on FT8 mode, despite propagation conditions were good enough to complete contacts also on traditional modes like CW or Phone.

FT8 was born for weak Tropo-scatter or multi-hop sporadic E qso's, but now it seems that is used for any kind of contacts, even for some meteor scatter qso's. This behaviour, maybe due to the curiosity toward a new mode or maybe due to generally poor propagation conditions, has been observed also by our regulators that in CEPT meetings sent a report about our band usage on 6m, where they underline that amateur radio activity is focused mainly around 50,313 MHz, only during some contest weekends they noted a different use of the band with signals spread on the first 200 kHz.

FT8 activity is growing now also on 2m band around 144,174 MHz.

#### *Proposal*

Contest days are the periods where we have the highest activity on the amateur bands and in particular on VHF and higher bands. At that time there is a concentration of activity that you can't find on other days so it is the period with more possibilities to make excellent qsos due to the presence of well equipped stations taking part to the contest in a competitive manner.

Then, it is important to use all the available band and if we allow FT8 qsos also during contest, we will see an increase of this mode against traditional ones (already happened on Italian Activity Contest 2018 on 6m), and soon we would see a use of only 3 kHz of the bands.

We should keep in mind that we need to protect our bands and the only realistic way is to use all of them (Use them, or lose them !).

During last ARI VHF Meeting in October it has been decided that all FT8 contacts will not be allowed on any ARI contest on all VHF and higher bands.

We propose not to allow FT8 mode on any IARU R1 contests, and we don't encourage the use of it.

After a discussion with the representatives in Vienna, it has been decided with to carry the handling of FT8 in contests to CWG (VIE19\_C5\_Rec\_11).

## **Proposal :**

The C5 Contest Working Group after discussing it, come to the following decision:

In 2017 it has been conducted a survey among the testers and at that time FT8 and FT4 modes were still at the beginning of their popularity.

After three years these fast MGM modes became very popular among the amateur radio community and their use in contest, although still not so popular, demonstrate that is not compatible with traditional SSB/CW modes.

For these reasons the C5CWG decided to modify the categories in the IARU R1 50/70 MHz starting from the 2021 edition, in the following way :

SOP without MGM (only CW/SSB)

MOP without MGM (only CW/SSB)

SOP with MGM (CW/SSB/MGM)

MOP with MGM (CW/SSB/MGM)

6H with MGM (CW/SSB/MGM)

And amend the VHF Handbook Paragraph 1.5.1 in this way :

The contests shall comprise the following sections for:

- 50 MHz band:
  - o SINGLE (SO): single operator entries without MGM (only CW/SSB)
  - o MULTI (MO): multi operator entries without MGM (only CW/SSB)
  - o SINGLE (SO-MGM): single operator entries with MGM (CW/SSB/MGM)
  - o MULTI (MO-MGM): multi operator entries with MGM (CW/SSB/MGM)
  - o 6HOURS (6H): 6 hours entries (CW/SSB/MGM)
- 70 MHz band:
  - o SINGLE (SO): single operator entries without MGM (only CW/SSB)
  - o MULTI (MO): multi operator entries without MGM (only CW/SSB)
  - o SINGLE (SO-MGM): single operator entries with MGM (CW/SSB/MGM)
  - o MULTI (MO-MGM): multi operator entries with MGM (CW/SSB/MGM)