

Australia Day Contest Rules - 2022

Contest Introduction

This *trial contest* is to encourage Amateur Radio promotional Activity in Australia New Zealand and Papua New Guinea and is designed to encourage friendly participation and help improve the operating skills of participants. It is held on the Australia Day Public Holiday that being the 26th January.

Objective

Amateurs in VK, ZL and P2 will endeavour to contact other amateurs in VK, ZL and P2.

VK, ZL, and P2 mean any station operating within Australia, New Zealand or Papua New Guinea and their external territories. Points are only awarded for valid contacts between VK, ZL and P2 stations.

(rules will be adjusted next year to include DX contacts)

Contest Date & Time

Australia Day, January 26th Every year

22:00 UTC 25th January to 1000 UTC 26th January.

(Gives all VK call areas a full 12 hours of AX prefix use at the same time.)

Categories

1. Single Operator
2. Single Operator – QRP
3. Multi-Operator – Single Transmitter (Multi-Single)
4. Multi-Operator – Unlimited (Multi-Multi)

NOTE: Multi stations please respect relevant COVID lockdown rules in your area.

* QRP stations are limited to 5 Watts average (CW) or PEP (SSB) at the transmitter output.

Sub-Category Modes for Single Operators

1. Phone (AM, FM & SSB)
2. CW
3. Mixed

Multi-operator Stations

Multi-operator *single transmitter* stations

1. Are only allowed one transmitted signal on air at any time.

Multi-operator *Unlimited* stations

2. Are only allowed two transmitted signals on any band, one per Phone and one per CW.
3. Simultaneous transmissions on different bands are permitted.

Multi-operator stations are mixed mode only.

Permitted Bands

1. Contacts may be made on MF (160M), HF and VHF & above bands *except* for WARC bands (10, 18 & 24MHZ) which are excluded by IARU agreement from all contest operations.
2. To avoid QRM to digital stations, HF SSB Voice transmissions should be within:
 - a. 1843-1875, 3535-3570 and 3600-3700, 7080-7300, 14112-14300, 21150-21450, 28300-29100KHz, otherwise disqualification or points reduction may result.

Contacts

1. Suggested Call: "CQ Australia Day", "CQ Contest", "CQ AX" or "CQ Test"
2. **Exchange:** A valid exchange consists of RS(T) followed by a number as follows:
 - a. For a single operator, the number of years you have been a licenced Ham. For example, if this is your 1st year as a ham then you will sign RS(T) 001. Round off to the nearest whole number. All zeros are not accepted.

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- b. For a multi-op or club station, the number of licenced years of the longest licenced Amateur present at the start of the contest.
3. On all bands, stations may be contacted at intervals of not less than THREE hours since the previous contact on that band and mode.
4. FM, AM, & SSB count as one mode. Therefore, one cannot QSO with a station in FM and work them on SSB on the same band before the three hours is up.
5. No cross-band contacts are allowed.
6. Exchange of contact information via satellites, telephones, repeaters, Echolink, IRLP, or the internet is not in the spirit of the contest.
7. Contacts via satellites are not allowed for scoring purposes.
8. Contacts within the same call area are permitted.

Scoring

1. On 160 metres two points per completed valid contact.
2. On 23cm or higher bands two points per completed valid contact.
3. On all other bands one point. (No WARC bands allowed)
4. On CW, irrespective of band, double points.

General Rules

1. W.I.A. General Rules for All Contests apply unless otherwise specified.
2. All operators of single operator stations must perform all operating and logging without assistance.
3. Use of clusters, Skimmers, and /or SDR Technology is allowed.
4. Holders of more than one licence or callsign MUST use only ONE callsign for the contest duration.
5. Fully automated operation is not permitted; however, computers can be used for logging or CW reception and/or keying.
6. All operations must be in accordance with the band plan for the band in use.
7. Any station observed as departing from the generally accepted codes of operating ethics or licence conditions may be disqualified.
8. 2x1 contest callsigns are prohibited from using the AX prefix in lieu of VK.

Remote Station Operation

1. Both receiving and transmitting antennas must be co-located and be in Australia.
2. If your remote station is interstate, you must sign VKn??/VKn or VKn/VKn??
3. The remote site location must be shown by a maiden head six figure grid square in your soapbox comments. General Rule 5(c) applies regarding 500m circle.
4. All calls and exchanges must be obtained through the TX/RX remote site. Only the remote site can be used during the contest. I.E. Using your personal physical local location for use of local TX/RX operations is not allowed and will result in disqualification.

Log Submission

1. Use of logging software is preferred as the output file will be in Cabrillo format which suits the log checking software. See below for logger links.
2. **Submit Log via <https://vklogchecker.com> MANUAL submission.**
3. Or failing b. above, attach your '*callsign.log*' file to your email to axlogs@wia.org.au and put your callsign in the subject.
4. If logs are sent directly to the manager, receipt of your log, will be receipted by the manager. Just to be sure, it is advised that you flag your email for "confirmation of receipt".
5. **PAPER logs are not accepted.**
6. Emailed Logs are to be received by the contest manager no later than **midnight on the 31st of January** after the contest ends.
7. All logs will be receipted by email provided an email address is supplied.
8. Logs received after the closing date will not be eligible for processing.

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Contest Results

1. Results will be published 30 days after the close of the contest on the W.I.A. website and winners announced in AR magazine as soon as practical. vklogchecker.com will show winners and statistics once results are released.
2. **This trial contest does not qualify for contest champion points.**

Contest Awards

PDF Certificates will be awarded to:

1. Single Operator Phone
2. Single Operator CW
3. Single Operator Mixed
4. Single Operator QRP Phone
5. Single Operator QRP CW
6. Single Operator QRP Mixed
7. Multi-operator – Single Transmitter
8. Multi-operator – Multi Transmitter

Logging Software

(Note: The Australia Day Contest rules are loosely derived from the RD Contest, and VKCL users should select the RD contest to use for this trial contest and submit log manually. Ignore the triple point score, it will be corrected on log submission.)

1. VK Contest Log (VKCL) by Mike Subocz VK3AVV, [Link](#)
2. RD Logger
3. N1MM Support files WIA-AXDAY.zip from vk4sn dot com/contests/N1MMVK
4. **Remember to check for updates immediately prior to contests to make sure you have the latest software** that will contain up to date scoring and rule changes.

FAQ's Answered

- For this trial contest, One can work with a club and go home and use their own call and submit a log under their call..
- QRP stations are limited to 5 Watts average (CW) or PEP (SSB) at the transmitter output.
- In your log you can log 'rounded frequencies' Like 3500 instead of 3565.
- Output power is as per your licence conditions.

How to Log Correctly

Logging incorrectly will result in zero points like these examples:

- VK1ABC/P4 - P4 is Aruba South America, NOT portable in VK4
- VK2ABC/P3 - P3 is Cyprus
- The correct way to log is VK4/VK1ABC and VK3/VK2ABC or LIKE VK1ABC/VK4
- Points are not awarded for DX stations.

Other examples of correct logging are:

- VK2ABC/M1 is not mobile VK1, Logging this puts them in England!
- VK1/VK2ABC/M is the correct way to log this.
- VK1ABC/P is portable in VK1
- VK1ABC/M is mobile in VK1
- VK1ABC/Q is QRP in VK1
- VK4/VK1ABC/Q is QRP in VK4