2024 Summer VHF-UHF Field Day Rules

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2024 Event dates and times:	
Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 January	
Duration, all call areas other than VK6:	Duration in VK6 only:
0100 UTC Saturday to 0059 UTC Sunday	0400 UTC Saturday to 0359 UTC Sunday

A haiku for summer
Oh, CQ Contest
Streams across the upper bands
Five eight here OM.

The event has distance-based scoring only.

About your contest strategy

Note that all the Sections and Sub-sections featured in past events remain, as do the two-hour re-work period and the exchange of 6-character locators for all contacts. Any stalwart Rovers have to travel from Square to Square, but their scoring is based on 6-character locators.

The **Single-band only** Sub-section is designed to encourage newly-licensed operators, those new to the bands above 30 MHz, those returning to the hobby after a period of absence, or any operator who takes it in mind to join in casually.

If you're in this group, but have your act rather more together, consider entering the **Four-bands Sub-section**. At a minimum, you can operate on any two of the bands 6 m/2 m/70 cm/23 cm, or three, or the whole four.

A founding principle of the Field Days is to spend time outdoors and have fun, so the Single-band and Four-bands Subsections meets that philosophy and provides a taste of that for newbies. Look out, you might get hooked!

For those who are 'old hands' at VHF-UHF Field Day *shenanigans*, why not invite a Foundation licensee or Standard to join you in the field. Or, invite either (or both!) to your home QTH for a few hours of the contest.

Likewise, if you know someone returning to the hobby, get them involved and mentor them through the process of making contest contacts. You never know what might happen.

Acquaint yourself with the **Contest Radar** website (www.contestradar.com). Enter your planned portable location (6-character locator), or your home QTH, along with other salient station details. The website will display your details on a map – along with the fleet of other stations doing the same. You can see at a glance who's where. Notably, the website is integrated with the VKCL logging software.

THE RULES

Sections

A: Portable station, single operator, 24 hours (A1) OR 8 hours (A2).

B: Portable station, multiple operators, 24 hours (B1) OR 8 hours (B2).

C: Home station, 24 hours (C1) OR 8 hours (C2).

D: Rover station, 24 hours (D1) OR 8 hours (D2).

Note that 8 hours means any period up to 8 hours (but the period must be contiguous); i.e. you can submit a log for a few contacts (even just one!). Likewise, "24 hours" means any period of more than 8 hours and up to 24 hours.

Sub-sections

(a) Single-band only: any single band permitted on the operator's licence.

(b) Four-bands: 6m/2m/70cm/23cm – any two, up to the four – only.

(c) All-bands: all bands 50 MHz-up permitted on the operator's licence.

For a variety of reasons, the use of non-voice digital modes for contacts is up to operators, but there is no longer a Sub-section in the contest and separate logs, scored separately, are no longer required.

Stations entering the all-bands sub-section cannot enter additional logs for the four-bands or single-band sub-sections.

A station operating on any number of bands cannot enter the single-band section for each band they use. *That's not in the spirit of this section!*

General Rules

There are no Divisions.

A Square refers to the Maidenhead Locator system definition, as denoted by the 4-character locator. This matters to Rovers, but no-one else.

All stations are required to exchange Sub-Square locations (i.e. the 6-character locator).

Operating periods:
Stations may elect to enter either a 24-hour section or an 8-hour section, but not both. Those stations entering the 8-hour sections may operate for more than eight hours, and nominate which 8-hour period they wish to claim for scoring purposes, **but the 8-hour (or lesser) period submitted has to be contiguous.**

Rover stations:
The Rover section is for all portable or mobile stations that operate from more than two Squares, (as specified by a 4-character locator) or that change Squares more than twice; i.e. Square A to Square B to Square C, etc, or A-B-A-B etc. However, a station in the field that is not entering as a Rover may move from Square A to Square B and return to Square A; e.g. to check another site (which may prove no good) then return to the original site.

Entering more than one section:
If a Portable or Rover station spends part of the contest period operating from their home station, they may also enter the Home station section.

Two operators:
If two operators set up a joint station with shared equipment, they may choose to enter Section A or C as separate stations under their own callsigns, or Section B under a single callsign. If they enter as separate stations, they may not claim contacts with each other.

Multi-operator stations:
Portable stations with more than two operators must enter Section B under one callsign. Operators of stations in Section B may not make contest exchanges using callsigns other than the club or group callsign.

Home stations may enter as a multi-operator station, but only one callsign can be used, and only one operator at any one time.

Operating rules

One callsign per station. Operation may be from any location. A station is portable only if all of its equipment is transported to a place that is not the normal location of any amateur station. You may work stations within your own locator Square.

Portable stations may change location during the Field Day, provided that the station is dismantled and reassembled at each move.

Repeater, satellite, EME or crossband contacts are not permitted.

Except for CW, no contest operation is allowed below 50.150 MHz. Recognised DX calling frequencies must not be used for contest activity. Suggested procedure for SSB stations is to call on **.**150 or higher on each band, and QSY *up* to make the contest exchange.

About contest exchanges

For a valid contact, operators must exchange RS or RST reports, a serial number, and your **6-character** Maidenhead locator (the Sub-Square). The Maidenhead locator is optional if it has already been exchanged in a previous contact during the Field Day and neither station has moved since then.

For digital contacts, as RS or RST reports plus serial number make for a cumbersome exchange, it is sufficient to exchange callsigns and 6-character locators, plus two further digits that cannot be predicted by the other station.

This is similar to the practice used in the annual Ross Hull contest. However, when compiling your log to enter the contest, include a unique serial number for each successful contact.

Repeat Contacts – re-work period

Stations may be worked again on each band **after two hours has elapsed**.
If either station moves to a new location in a different Square, repeat contacts may be made immediately.

If the station moves back into the previous locator Square, the re-work period limit of two hours still applies to stations worked from that Square previously.

Your log

Your log should cover the entire operating period and include the following information for each contact: UTC time, Frequency, Station worked, Serial numbers and locators exchanged.

- All-band stations cannot submit a separate log for a single-band or four-band entry.
- Logs for a single-band operation must not include any contacts on other bands.
- Logs for a four-band operation must not include any contacts on other bands.

Scoring

All contacts are scored on the basis of one point per kilometre, multiplied by the scoring Multiplier for each band in Table 1, with points/100 km applied after 700 km for 6m, 2m and 70cm, to 'flatten' scores for DX experienced under enhanced propagation conditions. A 200 km contact on 432 MHz would be 200 x 2.7 = 540 points. A 1000 km contact on 50 MHz would be 703 x 1.7 = 1195.1 points[1]. (The score is rounded up to the nearest point).

For Single-band and Four-bands entrants, note that the Multiplier for 6m is greater than that for 2m!

The distance error of using Sub-Square (6-character) locators is small and accuracy is sufficient for the purposes of this event. Distance is calculated from the Sub-Square centre.

Table 1

Band	Multiplier	Distance Scoring
50 MHz	1.7	1 point / km to 700 km; thereafter 1 point / 100 km or part thereof
144 MHz	1.0	1 point / km to 700 km; thereafter 1 point / 100 km or part thereof
432 MHz	2.7	1 point / km to 700 km; thereafter 1 point / 100 km or part thereof
1296 MHz	3.7	1 point / km
2.3/2.4 GHz	4.4	1 point / km
3.4 GHz	5.4	1 point / km
5.7 GHz	6.4	1 point / km
10 GHz	7.4	1 point / km
24 GHz & up	10	1 point / km ~ given recent advancements, this is to be updated in future.

Total the scores for the band or bands used.

Submitting Your Logs

For direct import into log-checking software with no transcription, **only electronics logs in ASCII text format** as produced by VKCL, or Cabrillo, are accepted now. No cover sheet is required with these logs.

Please ensure that your callsign is included in the log.

Note: If any operator participating in the contest has a genuine disability or other impediment preventing submission of an electronic log, a paper log will be

accepted, provided it reaches the WIA National Office via post or fax by the deadline time and date.

The free VK Contest Log (VKCL) software, from Mike VK3AVV (SK), caters for the VHF-UHF Field Days as well as a host of other contests. You can download it from: http://www.vkcc.com/2022/11/09/vk-contest-logger-version-4-15/

Logs prepared by other electronic means, such as Word, PDF, etc are no longer accepted as they require re-typing into logging software, which is error prone.

Logs prepared using other than VKCL must contain the following details: –

- the Contest event (i.e. 2024 Summer VHF-UHF Field Day) and its date;
- the relevant Section–Sub-section and the Period (24 hr or 8 hr);
- Name and Callsign of operator submitting the entry; Names and Callsigns of <u>other operators</u> for Multi-operator stations;
- contact email address; mailing address, and
- a declaration that the operator/s abided by the rules.

Upload your logs via the WIA website Field Day Log File Uploader, at: www.wia.org.au/members/contests/upload/. VKCL provides auto-upload.

If you need to revise your log, upload it again. Only the last log uploaded is used.

Logs must be received by midnight EDST, Monday 29 January 2024.

Early logs would be appreciated.

Certificates

When certificate production can be re-instated, each top-scoring station in each Section–Sub-section is eligible to receive a colour certificate in PDF format, sent to the contact email address in their log details.

In addition, colour certificates will also be sent to the top-scoring Foundation station.

Check Website for Updates

Check for any updates or advisories on the VHF-UHF Field Days website at: www.wia.org.au/members/contests/vhfuhf/

The Next Event

Using "*An Algorithm to Determine VHF-UHF Field Day Dates*" (on the website), the **2024 Winter event** will be held over **Saturday 22** and **Sunday 23 June.**

References

1. Roger Harrison VK2ZRH, *The basis of distance-based scoring for the VHF-UHF Field Days*, Amateur Radio, June 2014, pp 11-13. Also posted on the VHF-UHF Field Days web page.