

# Rules: 2018 North American QSO Party (CW/SSB/RTTY)

1. **Eligibility:** Any Amateur Radio licensee may enter.
2. **Object:** To work as many North American stations as possible during the contest period.
3. **North American Station:** Defined by the ARRL *DXCC List*, with the addition of Hawaii.

4. Contest periods:

**January/February 2018 Events**

**CW:** 1800 UTC January 13 to 0600 UTC January 14, 2018 (second full weekend in January)

**SSB:** 1800 UTC January 20 to 0600 UTC January 21, 2018 (third full weekend in January)

**RTTY:** 1800 UTC February 24 to 0600 UTC February 25, 2018 (starts on last Saturday in February)

**July/August 2018 Events**

**RTTY:** 1800 UTC July 21 to 0600 UTC July 22, 2018 (third full weekend in July)

**CW:** 1800 UTC August 4 to 0600 UTC August 5, 2018 (first full weekend in August)

**SSB:** 1800 UTC August 18 to 0600 UTC August 19, 2018 (third full weekend in August)

5. **Entry Classifications:**

a) **Single-Operator (SO):**

i) One person performs all transmitting, receiving, and logging functions as well as equipment and antenna adjustments.

ii) Access to spotting information obtained directly or indirectly from any source other than the station operator, such as from other stations or automated tools, is prohibited.

iii) Only one transmitted signal allowed at a time.

iv) May operate 10 out of the 12 hours of the contest. Off-times must be at least 30 minutes in length. In order to count as off-time, the difference between the times of consecutive contacts must be greater than or equal to 31 minutes (i.e., 30 intervening minutes, during which no contacts occur). The contest period ends at 05:59:59 UTC.

v) Any use of assistance such as spotting networks, skimmers and the like will place the operation into the multioperator category.

b) **Multioperator, Two Transmitter (M2):**

i) More than one person performs transmitting, receiving and logging functions, etc.

ii) Single operators using assistance such as spotting networks and skimmers

iii) A maximum of two transmitted signals at any given time, each on a different band. Both transmitters may work any and all stations.

iv) Starting when the first QSO on a band is logged, a transmitted signal cannot transmit on a different band until 10 full minutes have passed. Any QSOs made on a different band before 10 minutes have passed will not count for scoring. The other station will receive full credit for the QSO.

v) May operate for the entire 12 hours of the contest.

vi) May use assistance such as packet spotting networks, skimmers and the like

vii) Multioperator stations are required to use one name throughout the entire contest.

6. **Output Power:** Maximum of 100 W from the output of the final amplifier. QRP (5 W) entries will be recognized in the results. Entries from stations choosing to use more than 100 W will be classified as check logs. Entries found to have used more power than claimed will be disqualified.

7. **Mode:** CW only in CW parties. SSB only in phone parties. RTTY only in RTTY parties.

8. **Bands:** 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters only, except no 160 meters in the RTTY contest. You may work a station once per band. Suggested frequencies are 1,815; 3,535; 7,035; 14,035; 21,035, and 28,035 kHz (35 kHz up from band edge for Novice/Tech) on CW; and 1,865; 3,850; 7,225; 14,250; 21,300, and 28,500 kHz (28,450 kHz for Novice/Tech) on SSB. See Rules FAQ on the *NCJ* website for suggested frequencies to avoid interfering with other non-contest activity.

9. **Station:** All radio transmitters, receivers and antennas used by an entrant must be associated with one station, either at a fixed geographical location or as a mobile/portable station. A station may be operated remotely. Use of multiple stations during the contest using the same call sign, whether directly or remotely operated, is prohibited. Operators must use only one call sign per station operated.

## The 2018 NAQP calendar.

	Times/Dates	Logs Due	Log Submittal
CW	1800 UTC Jan 13 to 0600 UTC Jan 14	0600 UTC January 19	<b>NCJ website:</b> <a href="http://www.ncjweb.com/naqplsubmit/">www.ncjweb.com/naqplsubmit/</a>  <b>Alternative submission methods:</b> See Rule 16 in text.
	1800 UTC Aug 4 to 0600 UTC Aug 5	0600 UTC August 10	
SSB	1800 UTC Jan 20 to 0600 UTC Jan 21	0600 UTC January 26	
	1800 UTC Aug 18 to 0600 UTC Aug 19	0600 UTC August 24	
RTTY	1800 UTC Feb 24 to 0600 UTC Feb 25	0600 UTC March 2	
	1800 UTC Jul 21 to 0600 UTC Jul 22	0600 UTC July 27	

10. **Exchange:** Operator name and station location (state, province, or country) for North American stations; operator name only for non-North American stations. Multioperator stations are required to use a single name throughout the entire contest. The use of non-Amateur Radio means of communication or the use of Amateur Radio modes or bands different than those specified for the contest to solicit contacts during the contest period is prohibited.

11. **Multipliers:** Multipliers are all 50 US states, including Alaska and Hawaii, the District of Columbia (DC), the 13 Canadian provinces/territories (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland-Labrador, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut) and other North American entities as defined by the ARRL *DXCC List*. Non-North American countries, maritime mobiles and aeronautical mobiles do not count as multipliers but may be worked for QSO credit. Multipliers count again on each band.

12. **Valid Contact:** A valid contact consists of a complete, correctly copied, legibly logged two-way exchange between a North American station and any other station. Proper logging requires including the time in UTC and band for each contact.

13. **Scoring:** Multiply total valid contacts by the sum of the number of multipliers worked on each band.

14. **Team Competition:** You may wish to form a team with fellow NAQP participants. If so, your team must consist of two to five Single-Operator stations whose individual scores are combined to produce a team score. Although clubs or other groups having more than five members may form multiple teams, there are no distance or meeting requirements for a team entry. Teams must be registered prior to the start of the contest. Use one of these online forms to register your team:

CW team registration:

[www.ncjweb.com/cwnaqpteamreg/](http://www.ncjweb.com/cwnaqpteamreg/)

SSB team registration:

[www.ncjweb.com/ssbnaqpteamreg/](http://www.ncjweb.com/ssbnaqpteamreg/)

RTTY team registration:

[www.ncjweb.com/rttynaqpteamreg/](http://www.ncjweb.com/rttynaqpteamreg/)

These team registration forms automatically provide confirmation of team registration by return e-mail. Inclusion of team information in submitted Cabrillo logs is not required, as teams are determined ahead of time through the team registration system.

15. **Log Formatting:** All logs containing more than 100 QSOs must be submitted electronically via web upload. The file format for electronic logs for NCJ-sponsored contests is Cabrillo. For participants logging on paper, please use the manual log entry web-to-Cabrillo online forms available at the links below to submit your logs. Paper log forms are available on the NCJ website, [www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Paper-Log-Form.pdf](http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Paper-Log-Form.pdf), for the convenience of those who log on paper during the contest. Printouts of computer logs will not be accepted, regardless of the number of contacts. Please confirm that your output power is properly stated in the header portion of the Cabrillo log before submission. "LOW" indicates the use of 100 W or less, while "QRP" indicates 5 W or less. Submissions that indicate the use of high power will be used as check logs.

Single-Operator entries should have a Cabrillo line that reads: "CATEGORY-ASSISTED: NON-ASSISTED." Some logging programs default to "CATEGORY-ASSISTED: ASSISTED." Be certain to change this to NON-ASSISTED, or you will be placed in the Multi-Two category.

16. **Log Submission:** Entries must be date-stamped or post-marked no later than 5 days after the contest. Methods of log submission in order of preference are:

a) Upload Cabrillo-formatted log via web form (use for all modes), [www.ncjweb.com/naqplogssubmit/](http://www.ncjweb.com/naqplogssubmit/)

b) Manually convert paper or computer log to Cabrillo log using one of these tools:

**CW:** [www.b4h.net/cabforms/naqpcw\\_cab.php](http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/naqpcw_cab.php)

**SSB:** [www.b4h.net/cabforms/naqpsb\\_cab.php](http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/naqpsb_cab.php)

**RTTY:** [www.b4h.net/cabforms/naqprtty\\_cab.php](http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/naqprtty_cab.php)

c) Mail original paper logs to the appropriate address listed below.

**CW logs:** Chris Hurlbut, KL9A, 3117A Fen Way, Bozeman, MT 59718 USA

**SSB logs:** Bill Lippert, ACØW, 2013 6th Ave SE, Austin, MN 55912-4321 USA

**RTTY logs:** Mark Aaker, K6UFO, 300 Berry St – Unit 1009, San Francisco, CA 94158-1668 USA

17. **Disqualifications:** Entries with score reductions greater than 5% may be disqualified. Any entry may be disqualified for illegibility or for illegal or unethical operation. Such disqualification is at the discretion of the contest manager.

18. **More Information:** Questions regarding the contests, including requests for Log Check Reports may be addressed to the appropriate contest manager at these e-mail addresses:

**CW:** Chris Hurlbut, KL9A, [cwnaqpmgr@ncjweb.com](mailto:cwnaqpmgr@ncjweb.com)

**SSB:** Bill Lippert, ACØW, [ssbnaqpmgr@ncjweb.com](mailto:ssbnaqpmgr@ncjweb.com)

**RTTY:** Mark Aaker, K6UFO, [rttynaqpmgr@ncjweb.com](mailto:rttynaqpmgr@ncjweb.com)

19. **Awards:** Plaques will be awarded for the high score in each of the categories given below, provided there are a minimum of five entries in the category. If a plaque is not sponsored, the winner may purchase it. Certificates of merit will be awarded to the highest scoring single operator entrant with at least 200 contacts from each state, province, or North American country. Certificates of merit will also be awarded to the overall second and third-place finishers in the Multioperator category for each mode. Plaques to be awarded and their sponsors are:

CW Single-Op, North America — Florida Contest Group  
CW Multiop, North America — Minnesota Wireless Association in memory of Dave, KTØR

CW Team — CWOps

SSB Single-Op, North America — South East Contest Club  
SSB Multiop, North America — Tennessee Contest Group  
Combined (operator) CW/SSB Single-Op, North America — Southern California Contest Club

RTTY Single-Op, North America — Icom

RTTY Multiop, North America — Icom

RTTY Team — Icom