THE BIG PICTURE

Contest Entry Categories Decoded

On-air contests offer a variety of entry categories to choose from, based on how you want to operate. Here's a quick guide to the basic entry categories.





Number of operators

1 Spotting not allowed

Spotting allowed





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Permitted number of bands



HF contest operating is limited to the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10-meter bands. Operators must observe the limitations of their operator licenses at all times.

Single Operator



SOHP: Single Operator, High Power Maximum 1500 watts PEP output. Spotting assistance is not permitted.



SOLP: Single Operator, Low Power 150 watts PEP output or less. Spotting assistance is not permitted.



SOQRP: Single Operator, QRP



5 watts PEP output or less. Spotting assistance is not permitted.



SOUHP: Single Operator Unlimited, High Power

Same as SOHP, but allower



SOULP: Single Operator, Unlimited, Low Power Same as SOLP, but allows spotting assistance.



SOUQRP: Single Operator, Unlimited, QRP Same as SOQRP, but allows spotting assistance.

Multioperator



MSHP: Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power Maximum 1500 watts PEP output. Only one transmitted signal is allowed at any time.



MSLP: Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power Same as MSHP, except power output is limited to 150 watts PEP output or less.



M2: Multioperator, Two Transmitter

Only two transmitted signals are allowed at any time and must be on different bands. There are no power sub-categories.



MM: Multioperator, Multi Transmitter

One transmitted signal is allowed per band at any time. There are no power sub-categories.



Single Operator

SOHP: Single Operator, High Power Maximum 1500 watts PEP output.



SOLP: Single Operator, Low Power 200 watts PEP output or less for 50 and 144 MHz; 100 watts PEP or less for 222 and 432 MHz; 50 watts PEP for 902 MHz and above.



SOP: Single Operator, Portable

Can operate on any band over 50 MHz. Limited to 10 watts PEP output.



SO3B: Single Operator, 3 Band

Limited to the 50, 144, and 432 MHz bands. Maximum 100 watts PEP output on 50 and 144 MHz; 50 watts PEP on 432 MHz.



SOFM: Single Operator, FM Only

All contacts must be made using FM voice or equivalent. Limited to the 50 MHz, 144 MHz, 222 MHz, and 432 MHz bands. Maximum 100 watts PEP output on all bands.





UM: Unlimited Multioperator

Stations may operate on any contest band. There are no power sub-categories.



LM: Limited Multioperator

Same as UM, but entry may include logs from up to four bands. Operation is permitted on all bands. Logs must be submitted from all bands on which contacts were made.

Rovers



R: Classic Rover

Limited to no more than two operators. May operate on any contest band.



RL: Limited Rover

Limited to no more than two operators. May operate only on the four lowest-frequency contest bands (50, 144, 222 and 432 MHz). Power output is limited according to the SOLP category rules.



RU: Unlimited Rover

The same as "Classic" Rover rules, but may have more than two operators. Maximum power output is the same as the SOHP category rules.