Minnesota QSO Party Rules

NEW 2026

MNQP and Online Scoreboard join forces to advance their project Real Time Contesting to bring real time scoring to Radiosporting. Read about their project at https://blog.contestonlinescore.com/real-time-contesting-rtc-is-our-new-project/ . Instructions to set up your logger to participate are on the site. Go to https://hamscore.com/scoreboard/ to monitor your progress and score during the contest. Final results and awards will be determined by MNQP's log checking software published later.

Time:

Contest runs on the first Saturday of February from 1400 through 2359 UTC (8 AM through 5:59 PM CST).

QSO Rules:

MN stations work everyone; all other W/VE & DX work MN stations. Work stations once per band & mode. MN mobiles and rovers may be worked once per band & mode from each county, & MN mobiles and rovers may work stations once per band & mode from each county.

Bands:

HF: 160m - 10m (excluding WARC bands).

Modes:

Phone (SSB, DSB, FM, AM all count as Phone)
CW - only

A station may be worked once on CW and once on Phone.

Spotting Networks:

Use of Packet or Telnet spotting networks **is** permissible in all categories. Self-spotting is allowed.

Exchange:

MN Stations: First name & county (three letter designator).
W/VE Stations: First name and state / province (two letter abbreviation).
DX Stations: First name only. Section should be logged as DX.

MN ARES Stations: MN ARES groups using ARES as their name compete for a certificate. The top score ARES station will earn the certificate.

Use only one name throughout the contest. Multioperator stations shall use the same name on all transmitters during the contest.

** NOTE ** MN Mobile and Rover stations must sign their call sign with the county three letter designator, in addition to the exchange. For example, WØAA/DAK for Dakota County.

MN Fixed stations should not sign their call sign with the three-letter county designator to avoid being confused as a mobile or rover station.

Multipliers:

Multipliers for Minnesota Stations: 87 Minnesota counties, 49 states (does not include Minnesota), 1 District of Columbia, 10 Canadian provinces, 3 Canadian Territories, and 1 DX; **151 maximum.**

Minnesota stations may work DXCC countries for points and receive 1 multiplier for working a DX station.

Multipliers for W/VE and DX (outside Minnesota): MN counties: **87 maximum.**

Multipliers count once overall - not once per band or mode.

Scoring:

Score 2 QSO points for all QSO's, i.e. Phone and CW QSO's equal 2 QSO points each.
The final score is QSO points total times multiplier total.

Operating Classes-MN:

Output power for all Minnesota operating classes is limited to a maximum of 100 watts except QRP (5 watts).

- Single Operator Mixed (100 watts or less)
- Single Operator Mixed QRP (5 watts or less)
- Single Operator Phone (100 watts or less)
- Single Operator CW (100 watts or less)
- Multi-Operator (One or Two Transmitters - Multiple Operators) (100 watts or less)
- Mobile - Single Transmitter (No Limit on the Number of Operators) (100 watts or less)
- Rover - Single Transmitter (No Limit on the Number of Operators) (100 watts or less)

All classes (except Phone & CW Only) are mixed modes only. All classes are restricted to 160 through 10 meters (exclusive of WARC Bands). Mobile entries are strongly encouraged to have a separate driver and operator. Drivers and operators in the same vehicle may not work each other.

Mobile and Rover categories are stations that operate from two or more counties with the same call sign.

Mobile stations, including antennas, must be self-contained in or on a vehicle and capable of operating while moving.

Rover stations must operate stationery from at least two counties using portable, temporary or permanent antennas. In addition, Rovers may operate while mobile. An antenna used for mobile operation cannot be used for stationary operation. The intent of the Rover Category is for stations to operate primarily stationary and to use mobile operation while moving between stationary positions. Stations deemed to have operated outside the spirit of the category, such as primarily mobile while operating a minimum number of counties stationery, may be reclassified as a Check log by the MNQP committee.

Any station claiming Single or Multi-operator category that operated from more than one county with one call will be reclassified into a Mobile or Rover Category.

Operating in two or more classes requires separate unique call sign to be used for each class.

Any station submitting a log whose operating method does not meet one of the above categories will be reclassified as a check log.

Operating Classes-W/VE:

- Single Op Mixed Low Power (100watts or less)
- Single Op Mixed High Power (1500 watts or less)
- Single Op Mixed QRP (5 watts or less)
- Single Op Phone (1500 watts or less)
- Single Op CW (1500 watts or less)
- Multi-Op (One or Two Transmitters - Multiple Operators) (1500 watts or less)

All classes (except Phone & CW Only) are mixed modes only. All classes are restricted to 160 through 10 meters (exclusive of WARC Bands).

Operating Classes-DX:

- Unlimited

Suggested Frequencies

CW: 1.850, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050. **CW QSOs in the SSB Portion of the HF Bands are not allowed.**
SSB: 1.870, 3.850, 7.250, 14.270, 21.350, 28.450.

Logs:

Logs must be submitted within 7 days of contest completion. Upload electronic logs at mnqp.contesting.com/mnqpsubmitlog.php (link available on MNQP website) according to the following guidelines:

- Cabrillo format is required (CALL.LOG or CALL.CBR extensions, i.e. KØAD.LOG), see example below.
- Separate summary sheet not required with Cabrillo submitted logs (standard for major contests).
- Confirmation e-mails will be sent; however you should check the logs received page to verify that the log has been received mnqp.contesting.com/mnqplogsrcvd.php

Electronic logs are preferred. Change your paper log to electronic with this on-line log converter: www.b4h.net/cabforms/mnqp_cab3.php If you must paper logs can be sent to MNQP, 4745-170th Lane NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304-5233 postmarked no later than 14 days after the contest. Log and scoring summary sheets are available on the Internet at WWW.WØAA.ORG/MNQP under the Resources link. Paper logs generated by a logging program will require submission of electronic file to be considered for awards.

Cabrillo format template:

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                         ----------info sent------------- ----------info rcvd----------
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QSO: freq  mo date       time call      ex1       ex2 call      ex1       ex2 t
QSO: ***** ** yyyy-mm-dd nnnn ********** aaaaaaaaaa aaa ********** aaaaaaaaaa aaa n
QSO: 14042 CW 2010-02-06 1200 AC0W       BILL      MOW N2CU       TOM       NY
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o   ex1: Name
o   ex2: 3 letter county designator for MN, Two letter QTH designation for W/VE, DX for
    non-W/VE

Prizes and Awards:

1st place in each MN & W/VE class receives plaque or certificate depending on the number of entries.
The top ten single operate W/VE entries outside Minnesota and top six Minnesota single operator entries
will receive a special gift of Premium Wild Rice from the State of Minnesota. First place single operator
winners in each State/Province will receive a certificate. Certificates will also be sent to Minnesota
stations that set new a scoring record for the county they operate in. The top score in each DXCC country
will receive a certificate. The Contest Committee reserves the right to limit prize distribution based on the
level of financial support received by sponsors. Certificates will be emailed unless a paper certificate is
requested.

See MNQP Award Policy on the MNQP website, https://www.w0aa.org/mnqp , for full details.

Minnesota Three Letter County Designators:

The 87 counties of Minnesota are each assigned a 3-letter designator. A list of these counties is available
at WWW.WØAA.ORG/MNQP under the resources link. These should be used if designing a template for
your contest software of choice. The following programs support the Minnesota QSO Party: N1MM
Logger Plus, N3FJP, WriteLog, TR4W Logger, CQ/X de NO5W, GenLog, and SkookumLogger (MAC
Computers).

County Line Operation:
Mobile or rover stations that change geographic area (counties for Minnesota stations, state or province
for others) are considered to be a new station and may be contacted again for QSO points and multiplier
credit. No station may claim simultaneous operation in more than one county, state, or province. A
mobile, rover or portable station must move to a location clearly within the new county before claiming a
county change. Common sense and safety should be considered when making county changes.