

Announcing:

The 2009 CQ DX Marathon

2008 Logs Due By January 31, 2009

It's time to start wrapping up your 2008 DX Marathon score. Even if you haven't been keeping track so far, you still have time to go back through your log and see what you've worked, enter it on the DX Marathon spreadsheet, and then update it with your additional contacts through the end of the year. You may have worked more countries and zones than you realize. At the very least, you will give yourself a goal to beat in 2009! See Rule 5 in main text for details on how and where to submit your log. Remember, log submission deadline for the 2008 CQ DX Marathon is **January 31, 2009**.

The fourth running of the CQ DX Marathon begins at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2009, and runs through 2359 UTC on December 31, 2009. The goal, as always, is to work as many countries and CQ zones as possible at least once during the calendar year.

The only change from the 2008 rules is that the prohibition on assistance, such as lists and passes, for the Unlimited Class is deleted (the limitation remains in effect for the Formula Class). Once again we will use a downloadable Microsoft Excel® template which may be filled in and e-mailed to a special address as your log entry. Here are the 2009 rules for the CQ DX Marathon:

Rules, 2009 CQ DX Marathon

(1) Activity period: The CQ DX Marathon is a year-long activity, beginning at 0000 UTC January 1 and ending at 2359 UTC December 31. Each year's event is separate.

(2) Frequencies: Any authorized amateur frequency may be used. Contacts through repeaters or satellites are not allowed for credit, nor are contacts with maritime or aeronautical mobile stations. All contacts must be made entirely over amateur radio frequencies—i.e., Echolink-type contacts do not count.

(3) Categories: All awards are for single operator only. There are two entry classes, "Formula" and "Unlimited."

(a) Formula: An entrant may choose one of two options in this class: (1) All contacts must be made with a maximum output power of 10 watts, regardless of band or mode; or (2) the operator may run a maximum of 100 watts output to a simple antenna, such as a vertical or dipole (see the appendix below for further rules on antennas used in either option for Formula class). An operator in Formula Class must select either QRP or 100 watts and limited antennas at the beginning of the year's DX Marathon, and may not switch between entry modes during the year. All contacts must be made without assistance of any sort, including but not limited to lists, passes, or use of higher power or prohibited antennas to initially secure the contact. Use of spotting nets such as a DX Cluster® is allowed.

(b) Unlimited: Any antenna may be used, along with any power level for which the operator is licensed. Use of spotting nets such as a DX Cluster® is allowed.

(4) Scoring: Each country worked is worth one point. Each CQ zone worked is worth one point. The total score is the sum of zones and countries worked, on any mode and any authorized band. There are no multipliers of any kind. Each country and zone count only once. A single QSO may count for both a country and a zone. If in the course of the year you work 238 countries and 37 zones, your score is 275. If you work all 40 zones and 150 countries, your score is 190. The CQ DX Countries List and the CQ Zone List constitute the official lists. In the case of ties, the operator whose last scoring contact was earlier chronologically will be judged the winner. Decisions of the Marathon Manager are final.

(5) Submissions: Submissions must be made electronically, via e-mail to <scores@dxmarathon.com>. A Microsoft Excel® template

into which contacts may be entered is available for download from the CQ DX Marathon website at <<http://www.dxmarathon.com>>. All scores must be received by January 31 following the close of each DX Marathon.

(6) Verification: QSLs are not required. The operator is expected to claim contacts only from stations the operator has every reason to believe are legitimate, and only to claim contacts in which an accurate two-way exchange was clearly accomplished (see Appendix for further explanation). Scores will be adjusted by the DX Marathon committee for claimed contacts with pirates or any station not considered legitimate. Submissions may be penalized or voided in cases of fraud or poor sportsmanship.

(7) Clubs: Clubs are strongly encouraged to use the framework of this contest for intramural and regional competitions.

(8) Claimed Scores: Competitors will be encouraged to post claimed scores to the DX Marathon Web page. These claims will be updated regularly, and may be published periodically in CQ magazine.

(9) Results: The final listing of scores will be posted each year on the CQ website as well as the DX Marathon website. In addition, CQ magazine will publish an annual summary of the winning scores and details.

(10) Awards:

(a) Certificates: Certificates will be issued to the winners from each CQ zone and each CQ country. Where there is sufficient activity, additional certificates will be issued for other high scorers or for scores using a single mode. Other awards may be offered at the discretion of the DX Marathon Committee.

(b) Plaques: The CQ DX Marathon Committee will award plaques to the top scorer in each class. Sponsors are solicited.

(c) Special recognition: The CQ DX Marathon Committee is also examining the possibility of special prizes for DX stations that appear in the greatest number of submitted logs.

(11) In all cases, the rulings of the CQ DX Marathon Committee and the CQ DX Marathon Manager are final.

Appendix

(a) Formula Class antennas, option 1: Operators selecting the 10-watt option are limited to antennas on a single tower and whose height does not exceed 65 feet above ground elevation within 330 feet or 100 meters of the tower base. Wire antennas may also be used but must meet the criteria of the 100 watt option, and may be tower-supported at only one point.

(b) Formula Class antennas, option 2: Antennas for operators choosing the 100-watt option must be either simple verticals or wire antennas lacking significant gain. No arrays are allowed, whether vertical or horizontal, nor are long wires exceeding 130 feet in length, except on 80 and 160 meters. Vertical antennas used must not be more than 33 feet higher than the station floor at their base, while dipoles or other wire antennas must not be more than 60 feet above ground. Yagis, quads, or tower-mounted antennas (except wire antennas meeting the height limits above) may not be used in this category.

(c) Contacts: The DX Marathon Committee believes that each contact for a claimed country or zone must be a solid contact. The station claiming a contact with another station is expected to have had his or her callsign fully and accurately received and transmitted by the other station, and to have copied his/her own call being correctly sent by the other station. For example, K2MGA may not claim credit for a QSO with a DX station who had his call as K3MGA, even though in many cases the DX station would QSL the contact with the correction made (after receiving a card from K2MGA, realizing the error and correcting his/her log). For a contact to count, both stations must correctly copy all of both callsigns.