

## Programs and Services Committee Teleconference Minutes – October 21, 2020

1. The Programs and Services Committee of the ARRL Board met by teleconference on Wednesday October 21, 2020 at 7:30 PM EDT with Chairman Matt Holden, KØBBC, presiding. In attendance were committee members Rod Blocksome, KØDAS; David Norris, K5UZ; Mike Ritz, W7VO; Mickey Baker, N4MB; Ed Hudgens, WB4RHQ; and Vice President Bob Vallio, W6RGG. Also on the call were ARRL Director of Operations Norm Fusaro, W3IZ; Radiosport & Field Services Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ; and Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, serving as secretary to the committee. Present as guests were Public Service Enhancement Working Group Chairman Director Bud Hippisley, W2RU; ARRL Director of Emergency Management Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW; and Vice-Director Lee Cooper, W5LHC.
2. On the motion of Mr. Vallio seconded by Mr. Baker, the minutes of the September meeting were approved as corrected.
3. Mr. Hippisley gave an update on the work of the Public Service Enhancement Working Group. Mr. Gilbert was invited to share his initial comments with the Committee since taking over the job. He is still evaluating and reserving any recommendations on changes for ARES 2.0 and ARES Connect. He will be making a trip to Headquarters in November. He is observing that the role of ARES in EOCs appears to be evolving less towards communications and more towards situational awareness roles to support emergency services. After the discussion, Mr. Gilbert left the meeting.
4. Mr. Jahnke discussed several strawman proposals for possible rule changes in score allocations for Multioperator entries in the ARRL International DX Contest. After discussion, the committee tasked Mr. Jahnke to prepare a final rule proposal to allow scores from a DX multi-operator entry to be allocated to each participant's qualifying affiliated club score, such modification to begin with the 2022 International DX Contest for final consideration at its next teleconference.
5. Mr. Jahnke next discussed the proposal to expand the ARRL International DX Contest categories in the Single Band entries to differentiate by power and assisted/unassisted status. Mr. Ritz moved, seconded by Mr. Holden, to change the rules for the International DX Contest to add power level and assisted/unassisted differentiated categories for Single Band entries beginning with the 2022 running of the event. After further discussion, the motion was adopted. Mr. Holden will notify the full Board of Directors as laid out in the standing order adopted by the Board in July 2020.
6. After discussion and on the motion of Mr. Vallio, seconded by Mr. Norris, the Multi-Single band-change limit was increased to 10 band changes per hour. Mr. Holden will notify the full Board of Directors as laid out in the standing order adopted by the Board in July 2020.
7. It was noted that the working group tackling the issue of appropriate guidelines for using social media during ARRL contests was still gathering input and drafting their recommendation.
8. Mr. Blocksome and Mr. Henderson presented the proposal to add a VHF Mentor/Student rule to ARRL VHF and above events. The rule would mirror the intent of the current family-station rule in the General Rules for all ARRL Contests. On the motion of Mr. Blocksome, seconded by Mr.

Norris, the rule change was adopted, to begin with the June 2021 VHF QSO Party. Mr. Holden will notify the full Board of Directors as laid out in the standing order adopted by the Board in July 2020.

9. Mr. Blocksome and Mr. Henderson presented a white paper on the revamping of the Advisory Committee structures. The PSC will continue internal discussion of the issue, with the goal to have a position moving forward by the next teleconference. Committee members were requested to send ideas, proposed additions/changes to Mr. Henderson, who will continue to compile and update the proposal.
10. Mr. Holden presented the issue raised by a member to offer differential point values for digital versus CW/phone contacts in VHF and above contests, with CW and Phone contacts being worth more points than digital. The member's intent was to encourage use of the older, traditional modes. After discussion, the committee declined to pursue the topic further.
11. The PSC next moved to consideration of Awards and DX issues. Mr. Ritz shared there was no recent activity from the DXAC. The PSC will consider Mr. Ritz's proposal for a signal quality rule addition to the General Rules for ARRL Contests at its next teleconference.
12. The committee deferred action on Mr. Norris's DXCC fixed location endorsement to a future meeting, allowing the DXAC time to comment on a specific proposal.
13. Mr. Norris brought up the issue of reviewing the scoring for the Public Service Honor Role topics. After discussion, the decision was made by consensus to raise the point value for serving as a net control station to 5-points.
14. On the motion of Mr. Ritz, seconded by Mr. Blocksome, the committee adopted a one-year rule waiver for the 2021 ARRL International DX Contest which would allow multi-multi stations to operate from multiple locations, to accommodate Covid-19 social distancing and safety concerns for participants. All locations must: a) be located in the same DXCC entity or W/VE state, province or territory; b) operate using the same callsign; c) logging software must be networked real-time so that all participants are using a common log; d) stations must be within 100 km (62 miles) of the regular multi-operator station location; e) all other multi-operator station rules still apply; and f) procedures must be in place and followed that ensure no more than one station is transmitting on each band.
15. The next PSC teleconference will be held on Monday November 23 at 7:30 PM EST.
16. There being no further business, on the motion of Mr. Vallio, seconded by Mr. Blocksome, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Henderson, N1ND