

## The Language of Contesting

“Running” -- Refers to staying on one frequency and calling CQ to solicit new contacts. Many times, it is the fastest way to accumulate contacts.

“S&P” – Short for “Search and Pounce.” This is the operating method where you tune the band or use spots and respond to stations who are running (calling CQ). Band maps and panadapters are used in this approach.

“Mults” or “Multipliers” – Most, but not all, contests compute the final score as the product of 1) QSO points/contacts and 2) a tally of zones, countries, prefixes or other unique characteristics. Since they impact the score multiplicatively, the second category are called the multiplier. You are multiplying your total QSO’s by the multiplier. To get a high score you need to get as many multipliers as you can.

“rates” – Refers to the speed of making contest QSO’s. It is typically measured in QSO’s per hour. Most contest software will show you what your rate speed is.

“dupes” – Short for duplicate. It is a second contact with a station that does not count for additional points. Most contest software will let you know if a station is a dupe.

“ITU Zones” – Established by the International Telecommunication Union – There are currently 90 ITU Zones. These are used in the IARU HF Championship each July.

“CQ Zones” – Established by CQ magazine. There are 40 CQ Zones. You can get a very nice award for working all 40 CQ Zones. One of the most prestigious awards is 5-band Worked all Zones. These are used in the three CQ Worldwide DX Contest (CQ, Phone and RTTY) each fall.

“Assisted” – Sometimes called unlimited, in most contest means you are using a spotting network.

“spotting” – When a program list all the spots, usually from the internet or packet. Most contest logging program include a DX spotting feature.

“Cabrillo log” – Cabrillo is a standardized computer file that is submission for a contest. Most Contest programs will prepare this for you.

“ADIF files” – Stands for Amateur Data Interchange Format. A file that can be imported/exported between logging programs. It is not the same as a Cabrillo log.

“SO2R” – Single operator, two radios involve using audio feeds from two radios simultaneously, but with only one radio transmitting at a time. While they are transmitting on one radio (usually running), they are looking for other stations (Search and Pounce) with the other radio.

“Q’s” – contacts

“Super Check Partial” – This is a contest logging feature that suggests a correct call sign from a partial call sign typed in the entry field. In using this feature, you upload a current database before each contest.