Rules: 2026 North American QSO Party (CW/SSB/RTTY)

1. Eligibility: Any amateur radio licensee may enter.
2. Object: To work as many North American stations as possible during the contest period.
3. North American Station: Defined by the ARRL *DXCC List*, with the addition of Hawaii.
4. Contest calendar:

Mode	Times/Dates	Logs Due	Contest Weekend
CW	1800 UTC Jan 10 to 0559 UTC Jan 11	0600 UTC January 18	2nd full weekend January
	1800 UTC Aug 1 to 0559 UTC Aug 2	0600 UTC August 9	1st full weekend August
SSB	1800 UTC Jan 17 to 0559 UTC Jan 18	0600 UTC January 25	3rd full weekend January
	1800 UTC Aug 15 to 0559 UTC Aug 16	0600 UTC August 23	3rd full weekend August
RTTY	1800 UTC Feb 28 to 0559 UTC Mar 1	0600 UTC March 8	Starts last Saturday in February
	1800 UTC Jul 18 to 0559 UTC Jul 19	0600 UTC July 26	3rd full weekend July

Submit logs via www.ncjweb.com/naqplogsubmit — See Rule 16

5. Entry Classifications:

A) Single Operator (SO):
- i) One person performs all transmitting, receiving, and logging functions as well as equipment and antenna adjustments.
- ii) Access to spotting information obtained directly or indirectly from any source other than the station operator, such as from other stations or automated tools, spotting networks, skimmers, social media, watching participating stations live streaming, etc., is prohibited. Spotting other stations and self-spotting are prohibited.
- iii) Use of a CW decoder or wide-band multi-channel RTTY decoder (RTTY Skimmer) is prohibited.
- iv) Only one transmitted signal allowed at a time.
- v) May operate up to 10 out of the 12 hours of the contest. Off-times must be at least 30 minutes in length. To count as off-time, the difference between the times of consecutive contacts must be greater than or equal to 31 minutes (i.e., 30 intervening minutes, during which no contacts occur). The contest period ends at 05:59:59 UTC.

B) Single Operator Assisted (SOA):
- i) One person performs all transmitting, receiving, and logging functions as well as equipment and antenna adjustments.
- ii) May use spotting information obtained directly or indirectly from any source such as from other stations, automated tools, spotting networks, skimmers, social media, watching live streaming, etc. Soliciting contacts via social media is not allowed. Spotting other stations and self-spotting are allowed.
- iii) May use a CW decoder or wide-band multi-channel RTTY decoder (RTTY Skimmer).
- iv) Only one transmitted signal allowed at a time.
- v) May operate up to 10 out of the 12 hours of the contest. Off-times must be at least 30 minutes. To count as off time, the difference between the times of consecutive contacts must be greater than or equal to 31 minutes (i.e., 30 intervening minutes, during which no contacts occur). The contest period ends at 05:59:59 UTC.

C) Multioperator Two-Transmitter (M2):
- i) More than one person performs transmitting, receiving, and logging functions, etc.
- ii) May use assistance such as packet spotting networks, skimmers, social media, live streaming and the like. Soliciting contacts via social media is not allowed. Spotting other stations or self-spotting is allowed.
- iii) May use a CW decoder or wide-band multi-channel RTTY decoder (RTTY Skimmer).
- iv) A maximum of two transmitted signals at any given time, each on a different band. Both transmitters may work any and all stations.
- v) May operate for the entire 12 hours of the contest.
- vi) Starting when the first QSO on a band is logged, a station may not transmit on a different band until 10 full minutes have passed. Any QSOs made on a different band before 10 minutes have passed will not count for scoring. The other station will receive full credit for the QSO.
- vii) Multioperator entries are required to use only one name throughout the entire contest.

viii) Multioperator entries with only one operator may be reclassified to Single Operator Assisted (SOA).

6. Output Power: Maximum of 100 W from the output of the final amplifier. QRP (5 W or less) entries will be recognized in the results. Entries from stations choosing to use more than 100 W or entered as High Power will be classified as check logs. Entries found to use more power than claimed will be disqualified. Power categories are:
A) 5 W or less – QRP
B) 5 – 100 W – Low Power
C) Over 100 W – Check Log

7. Mode: CW only in CW parties. SSB only in phone parties. RTTY only in RTTY parties.

8. Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters only, except no 160 meters for the RTTY contest.

9. Station: All radio transmitters, receivers, and antennas used by an entrant must be associated with one station. A station may be operated remotely. Use of multiple stations during the contest using the same call sign, whether directly or remotely operated, is prohibited. Entrants must use only one call sign per station operated and may not work themselves.

10. Exchange: Operator name and station location (state, province, or country) for North American stations; operator name only for non-North American stations. Each entrant is required to use a single name throughout the entire contest period, including multi-operator entries.

11. Multipliers: Multipliers are all 50 US states, including Alaska and Hawaii, the District of Columbia (DC), the 13 Canadian provinces/territories (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland-Labrador, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut) and other North American entities as defined by the ARRL *DXCC List*. For other North American entities, please use the standard DXCC prefix for the country in the received location field in your log. See multiplier list included with sample paper logs. Multipliers count again on each band. Non-North American countries, maritime mobiles, and aeronautical mobiles do not count as multipliers but may be worked for QSO credit; these should be entered as DX in the received location field.

12. Valid Contact: Stations may be worked once per band. Duplicate contacts on a band will not receive credit as a valid contact. A valid contact consists of a complete, correctly copied and logged two-way exchange between a North American station and any other station. Contacts with an incorrectly received exchange are removed with no additional penalty. Call sign errors (bust) or call signs not in the other log (NIL) are removed and receive a penalty of one QSO point value. Proper logging requires including the time in UTC and band for each contact.

13. Scoring: Multiply total valid contacts by the sum of the number of multipliers worked on each band.

14. Team Competition: You may wish to form a team with fellow NAQP participants. If so, your team must consist of two to five Single Operator and Single Operator Assisted stations whose individual scores are added together to produce a team score. Although clubs or other groups having more than five members may form multiple teams, there are no club membership, distance, or meeting requirements for a team entry. Teams must be registered prior to the start of the contest. Use one of the following online forms to register your team:
CW team registration: **www.ncjweb.com/cwnaqpteamreg**
SSB team registration: **www.ncjweb.com/ssbnaqpteamreg**
RTTY team registration: **www.ncjweb.com/rttynaqpteamreg**
These team registration forms automatically provide confirmation of team registration by return e-mail. Inclusion of team information in submitted Cabrillo logs is not required, as teams are determined ahead of time through the team registration system.

15. Log Formatting: All logs must be submitted electronically via web upload. The file format for electronic logs for *NCJ*-sponsored contests is Cabrillo; see **wwrof.org/cabrillo/** for details. For those participants logging on paper, please use the manual log entry Web-to-Cabrillo online forms available at the links below to submit your logs.

16. Log Submission: Entries must be received no later than 7 days after the end of the contest.
A) Cabrillo-formatted logs must be uploaded via web form (use for all modes): **www.ncjweb.com/naqplogsubmit**
B) To manually convert paper or non-Cabrillo log to Cabrillo log, consider using one of the following tools:
CW: **www.b4h.net/cabforms/naqpcw_cab.php**
SSB: **www.b4h.net/cabforms/naqpssb_cab.php**
RTTY: **www.b4h.net/cabforms/naqprtty_cab.php**

17. Disqualifications: Any entry may be disqualified for illegal operation, unethical operation, excessive score reduction, excessive error rates, or rules violation. Such disqualification is at the discretion of the contest manager.

18. More Information: Questions regarding the contests, including requests for Log Check Reports, may be addressed to the appropriate contest manager at the e-mail address listed below:
CW: Dave Mueller, N2NL, **cwnaqpmgr@ncjweb.com**
SSB: Bill Lippert, ACØW, **ssbnaqpmgr@ncjweb.com**

RTTY: Mark Aaker, K6UFO, **rttynaqpmgr@ncjweb.com**

19. Awards:

A) Plaques will be awarded for the high score in each of the categories given below, provided there are a minimum of five entries in the category. If a plaque is not sponsored, the winner may purchase it. Plaques will be awarded as follows:

Mode	Category	Sponsor
CW	Single Op, North America	Florida Contest Group
CW	Single Op QRP, North America	Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado
CW	Single Op Assisted, North America	Arizona Outlaws Contest Club
CW	Multiop, North America	Minnesota Wireless Association in memory of Dave, KTØR
CW	Team	The CW Operators' Club
SSB	Single Op, North America	South East Contest Club
SSB	Single Op Assisted, North America	Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado
SSB	Multiop, North America	Tennessee Contest Group
SSB	Team	No sponsor
Combined Score CW/SSB	Single-Op unassisted, North America	Southern California Contest Club
RTTY	Single Op, North America	Icom America, Inc.
RTTY	Single Op Assisted, North America	Icom America, Inc.
RTTY	Multiop, North America	Icom America, Inc.
RTTY	Team	Icom America, Inc.

i) Combined score plaque recognizes the single unassisted operator producing the highest total combined normalized score from the CW and SSB events separately by season (January/August). Scores are normalized to 500 points for the top scorer and added together.

B) Certificates of merit will be awarded to all participants with a final score greater than zero.

i) Single operator certificates will display the top 20 ranking by category; call area; and state, province, or North American country.

ii) Multi-operator certificates will display overall ranking for the top 10 multi-operator logs.