



RAC Canadian Portable Operations Challenge Rules - 2025

Valid Activations

Portable operations are those in which Amateurs take their equipment, antennas and power supply to a location away from their home station to operate. To be considered valid for the RAC Portable Operations Challenge, an activation must meet the following criteria:

- It must take place within Canada.
- The operator must be a RAC member at the time of the activation.
- It must be made away from the operator's main home station.

For example, operating from your backyard does not count.

- The station equipment must not be permanently installed at the operating location. It must be brought to the site and deployed for the purpose and duration of the operation.

For example, hiking to the operating area with portable radio equipment and setting up, or driving to the area with a mobile station mounted in a vehicle.

- At least one contact must be made.
- If operating from a single location for a period of more than one day, the operation counts as a single activation for as long as you and your equipment are there.

For example, if you participate in a DXpedition that takes place over five days, this counts as a single activation.

- Portable multi-operator operations using a group callsign, like Field Day or a DXpedition, can count as an activation but are subject to their own scoring rules (*see Scoring section below*).
- Portable operations involving a public service event or emergency communications (real or simulated) can count as an activation but are subject to their own scoring rules (*see Scoring section below*).

Scoring

Each contact made has a base point value as follows:

- 1 point for every contact made between 3.5MHz and 902MHz using regular commercial power.
- 2 points for every contact made between 3.5MHz and 902MHz from a motor vehicle, or powered by a motor vehicle.

For example, if you are physically inside your vehicle during your operation, or if the radio is powered by a vehicle's batteries, regardless of whether or not you are in the vehicle.

- 3 points for each contact made between 3.5MHz and 902MHz using an independent power source like a generator, or batteries not part of a motor vehicle.
- 5 points for each contact made above 902Mhz or below 3.5Mhz, regardless of your power source.

Multipliers

Multipliers can be claimed for operating from the following locations:

- Parks on the Air (POTA) entity – <https://parksontheair.com>
- Islands On The Air (IOTA) island - <https://www.iota-world.org/>
- Summit in the Summits On the Air (SOTA) summit - <https://www.sota.org.uk/>
- Lighthouse in Canada – see the World List of Lights provided by the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS) - <https://arlhs.com/>
- Worldwide Flora And Fauna (WWFF) entity - <https://wwff.co/>
- Maidenhead Grid locator (4-digit grids only) - https://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php
- Province or Territory
- St Paul Island or Sable Island

Bonus Points

- Each contact made with an independant power source using “green” energy is worth 1 additional point.

For example, contacts made using batteries that were charged with solar or wind power, or

some other form of purely independent and non-polluting power.

NOTE

If you aren't sure whether or not the source of power you used for your activation would be considered "green", please email the Awards Manager at awards@rac.ca

- Each contact made at QRP power levels (5 watts or less at radio output, regardless of mode) is worth 1 additional point.
- Each contact made through a satellite is worth 1 additional point.

Miscellaneous

- For contacts made during a multi-operator operation under a shared callsign, you may claim a share of the contacts equal to the total number of contacts divided by all the operators who were present.

When entering your activation in the submission form, it will do the calculation for you, so you must enter the total number of contacts and the total number of operators.

- For contacts made during a public service event or during emergency communications (real or simulated), you may claim a lump sum of 100 points per day of deployment.

The formula for calculating the monthly score is the following:

$$(\text{total base points} + \text{total bonus points}) \times \text{multipliers} = \text{monthly score}$$

Report Deadlines

All reports of portable operations must be submitted within seven days of the activation.

For example, your operation ending on January 10 must be reported by January 17, your operation ending on February 28 must be reported by March 7, and so on.

Coureur des Bois Award

At the end of each month, the Coureur des Bois award will be awarded to participants who have reached a certain number of activations, based on the number of reports submitted to the RAC Canadian Portable Operations Challenge. There are three levels of this award:

1. Bronze – Awarded to participants who have submitted at least 25 reports to the RAC Challenge.
2. Silver – Awarded to participants who have submitted at least 50 reports to the RAC Challenge.
3. Gold – Awarded to participants who have submitted at least 100 reports to the RAC Challenge.

The awards will be digitally signed by the RAC Awards manager and emailed to the recipients.

Publication

The results of the RAC Canadian Portable Operations Challenge as well as the names of the Coureur des Bois award recipients will be periodically published in The Canadian Amateur magazine and will be available on the RAC website.

Golden Rule

The RAC Portable Operations Challenge operates on the honour system. We expect every participant to play fairly, honestly, and within the spirit of the rules. This program is meant to encourage and promote portable operations within Canada, and to create friendly competition between all of the participants. The main objective is to have fun! However, the adjudicator may request logs or other evidence to validate your operation and verify compliance.

Latest update: 2025-03-30

For any questions about the rules, please contact the RAC Awards Manager at awards@rac.ca