RAC Canada Winter Contest: December 27, 2026

RAC Contest Managers
Jim Roberts, VE7ZO and
Vlad Milutinovic, VE3JM

Radio Amateurs of Canada sponsors two radiosport contests each year.

The RAC Canada Day Contest celebrating Canada's Birthday on Confederation Day (July 1) and a celebration of the winter holiday season with the RAC Canada Winter Contest.

Amateurs all over the world are invited to join us in these celebrations.

Please review the contest rules carefully to ensure full understanding of the contest categories and requirements.

If you have questions about these rules, need help with preparing or submitting your log or have any other questions, please contact the contest manager for each contest:

- **Jim Roberts, VE7ZO, at canadaday@rac.ca for the Canada Day Contest**
- **Vlad Milutinovic, VE3JM, at canadawinter@rac.ca for the Canada Winter Contest**

For the previous year's contest results, visit the RAC website in the Contest section at:

https://www.rac.ca/contests/

Contest Periods:

RAC Canada Day Contest:
Canada Day Wednesday, July 1, 2026 – 00:00:00 UTC to 23:59:59 UTC

RAC Canada Winter Contest:
Sunday, December 27, 2026 – 00:00:00 UTC to 23:59:59 UTC

Objective: For Amateurs around the world to contact Canadian and other Amateurs within the framework of the contest. Contacts with Canadian provinces and territories provide multipliers and result in increased QSO point value.

Table 1: Score Calculation

Description	Examples		
Canada QSOs (excluding RAC)	QSOs X 10	50 X 10	500
RAC QSOs	QSOs X 20	12 X 20	240
QSOs outside Canada	QSOs X 2	35 X 2	70
Sub-Total	**Sum of Points**		**810**
Multiplier	Times Mults	20	20
Claimed Score	**Sum of Points X Mults**		**16,200**

Bands and Modes: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 metres, CW and phone (SSB, FM, AM, etc.)

Suggested frequencies: CW – 25 kHz up from the band edge and for SSB – 1850, 3775, 7060*, 7225, 14175, 21250 and 28500 kHz. Check for CW activity on the half-hour.

***Note:** For 7060 kHz please watch for conflicts in the band plan where there are overlaps with other modes of operation.*

Exchange: Stations in Canada send RS(T) and province or territory. VEØs (maritime mobile Canadian stations) and stations outside Canada send RS(T) and a serial number.

QSOs: Contacts with stations in Canada or VEØs are worth 10 points. Contacts with stations outside Canada are worth 2 points. Contacts with RAC official stations are worth 20 points. RAC official stations are: VA2RAC, VA3RAC, VE1RAC, VE3RHQ, VE4RAC, VE5RAC, VE6RAC, VE7RAC, VE8RAC, VE9RAC, VO1RAC, VO2RAC, VY0RAC, VY1RAC and VY2RAC.

You may work any station once on each of the two modes, on each of the eight contest bands. It is **prohibited** to make CW contacts in the conventional phone sub-bands and phone contacts in the conventional CW sub-bands.

Contacts or soliciting QSOs through a repeater during the contest period is not allowed.

Contacts in the RAC Canada Contests also count towards the RAC Canadian Portable Operations Challenge Award.

Multipliers: Thirteen in total, Canada's 10 provinces and three territories. Each multiplier may be counted once on each mode on each of the eight contest bands. The multipliers, with their postal abbreviations and prefixes are:

- Nova Scotia [NS] (VE1, VA1, CY9, CYØ)
- Quebec [QC] (VE2, VA2)
- Ontario [ON] (VE3, VA3)
- Manitoba [MB] (VE4, VA4)
- Saskatchewan [SK] (VE5, VA5)
- Alberta [AB] (VE6, VA6)
- British Columbia [BC] (VE7, VA7)
- Northwest Territories [NT] (VE8)
- New Brunswick [NB] (VE9)
- Newfoundland and Labrador [NL] (VO1, VO2)
- Nunavut [NU] (VYØ)
- Yukon [YT] (VY1)
- Prince Edward Island [PE] (VY2)

Certain special Canadian prefixes in use at the time of the contest may also apply; however, there may be no more than 13 multipliers on each band/mode. Please use the multiplier abbreviations, in square brackets, noted above.

***Note:** in the event a station is unable to make a contact with a Canadian station, there will be granted a multiplier count of 1 to facilitate the proper calculation of the final score since a multiplier of zero (0) would not create a valid calculation of a final score.*

Final Score: The total sum of QSO points (2, 10 and 20-point QSOs) from all bands multiplied by the total number of multipliers from all bands. Table 1 above provides an example score calculation.

– For the complete rules visit: https://www.rac.ca/contests/ –

Categories:

All categories are designed to be multi-mode, Phone and CW categories, except for the two single operator single mode categories. It is required that single operator all bands categories have at least one contact in both modes to differentiate those categories from the single mode categories. All other categories may operate single mode if so desired recognizing that it reduces their potential contacts and multipliers.

Special thanks to all of our sponsors for their support of the RAC Canada Day and RAC Canada Winter Contests. The following categories are eligible for plaques or certificates as detailed in the Awards section of the rules.

Single Operator Categories:

One person (the operator) performs all operating and logging functions. There is no limit on operating time or band changes. Only one transmitted signal is permitted at any time.

1) Single Operator All Bands High Power (SOABHP) >100 watts – **Radioworld**

2) Single Operator All Bands Low Power (SOABLP), <= 100 watts output – **Contest Club Ontario**

3) Single Operator All Bands QRP (SOABQRP)*, <= 5-watts output All Bands & Single Band – **Radioworld**
***Note:** QRP entries from Single Band and Single Mode will be reclassified to this category.*

4) Single Operator All Bands CW only (SOABCW only), any authorized power – **Gary Bartlett VE1RGB Memorial by the Maritime Contest Club (see Note 3)**

5) Single Operator All Bands Phone only (SOABPH only), any authorized power – **Saskatchewan Contest Club (see Note 3)**

6) Single Operator Single Band (SOSB), any authorized power – **Radioworld (see Note 3)**

Single Operator Assisted:

Entrants in this category may use QSO finding assistance.

1) Single Operator Assisted High Power (SOAHP) > 100 watts – **Radioworld Central**

2) Single Operator Assisted Low Power ** (SOALP), <= 100 watts output – **Radioworld Central**

Multi-Operator Categories:

More than one person (operator) perform all operating and logging functions.

1) Multi-Operator Single Transmitter High Power (MOSTHP), >100 watts – **Alfa Radio**

2) Multi-Operator Single Transmitter Low Power (MOSTLP), max. 100 watts output – **Tony Allsop VE3FTA Memorial by the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club**

3) Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter (MOMT), any authorized power – **Radioworld**

Contest Sponsors

Radioworld

GPS CENTRAL

contest club ONTARIO

MCC Maritime Contest Club

Alfa Radio Ltd.

RAC affiliated MISSISSAUGA amateur radio club VE3MIS

Saskatchewan Contest Club

Radio Amateurs of Manitoba

Table 2: Summary of Category Elements, Limitations and Eligibility							
Category	**Power Level**	**Logged Band Requirement**	**Mixed Mode Contacts Required**	**Assisted Use Allowed**	**Transmitted On-air Signals**	**10 Minute Rule Applies**	**Rookie Plaque Eligible**
SOABHP	>100 W [2]	2 or more	Yes	No	1 at any given time	No	Yes
SOABLP	>5 to<=100 W	2 or more	Yes	No	1 at any given time	No	Yes
SOABQRP	<5 W	1 or more	Yes	No	1 at any given time	No	Yes
SOABCW only	Any legal power [1,2]	1 or more	No, CW only	No	1 at any given time	No	No
SOABPH only	Any legal power [1,2]	1 or more	No, Phone only	No	1 at any given time	No	No
SOSB	Any legal power [1,2]	1 only	Optional	No	1 at any given time	No	No
SOAHP	>100 W [2]	1 or more	Optional	Yes	1 at any given time	No	No
SOALP	<=100 W	1 or more	Optional	Yes	1 at any given time	No	No
MOSTHP	>100 W [2]	1 or more	Optional	Yes	1 run, 1 multiplier on different band	Yes	No
MOSTLP	<=100 W	1 or more	Optional	Yes	1 run, 1 multiplier on different band	Yes	No
MOMT	Any legal power [1,2]	1 or more	Optional	Yes	1 per band	No	No

[1] QRP stations that enter in the SOABCW, SOABPH or SOSB categories will have their entry reclassified and recorded as part of the SOABQRP category as none of the mentioned categories have a suitable power class.

[2] Maximum high-power levels used must comply with legal requirements of the entrant's jurisdiction.

Sub-Categories:

1) Rookie:

For the Canada Day and Canada Winter Contests there is a **"Rookie"** subcategory plaque sponsored by **Radio Amateurs of Manitoba**. For detailed information regarding the qualifications for the Rookie Plaque, please refer to item 6 of the General Rules. Previous rookie winners of this contest are ineligible for an additional Rookie Plaque in this contest.

Additional details on contest categories, limitations, exceptions, callouts and Rookie Plaque eligibility appear in the Category Notes and in Table 2 above.

2) Foreign Entries:

For the Canada Day Contest, the **Bart Ritchie VE5CPU Plaque** is awarded for the highest Single Operator (no power classification, assisted or unassisted categories) Foreign Entrant. (Sponsor, **Jim Roberts VE7ZO**)

For the Canada Winter Contest, the **Sam Ferris VE5SF Plaque** is awarded for the highest Single Operator (no power classification, assisted or unassisted categories) Foreign Entrant. (Sponsor **Vlad Milutinovic, VE3JM**)

3) Team Competition:

The new team competition component of the contest allows the creation of teams of two to four Amateurs to compete for a certificate for the top three team scores from around the globe.

Participants in any of the Single Operator categories can form part of the team whose individual scores are added together to produce a team score. There are no club membership, distance or meeting requirements for a team entry.

Teams must be registered prior to the start of the contest.

The team's registration form is directly available at https://contest.rac.ca/team_registration.php or from the main menu at https://contest.rac.ca.

Contest Awards:

Special thanks to our sponsors for their support of the RAC Canada Day and RAC Canada Winter Contests!

Plaques will be awarded to the top-scoring entrants in each category, as noted above in the category list.

Certificates will be awarded to the top-scoring entrant in each category, where a log containing a minimum of 50 gross QSOs has been submitted, in each of the following:

1) Canadian provinces or territories, including VE0.

2) Continental US call districts, W0 through W9 as well as Alaska and Hawaii. US Commonwealths, Territories and Possessions such as Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, etc will be treated as equivalent to a DXCC country.

3) DXCC country, excluding Canada and the United States.
Note: The areas identified above will not receive a certificate if that area had a plaque winner.

To facilitate the proper allocation of certificates, all US stations should indicate their actual US call district based on their actual address, as provided in the Cabrillo header, if different than indicated by their call prefix.

DX stations should indicate the actual country of operation if different than indicated by their call prefix by indicating the country as part of the portable call sign designator.

RAC stations will compete and be considered the same as any other entrant for eligibility to plaques and certificates.
Note: *QRP entrants who wish to use assistance will be placed in the Single Operator Assisted Low Power category.*

Category Notes:

Please check the RAC website for any revisions.

1) The contents of a log that is submitted for a specific category must reflect that category including any multimode or single mode QSO requirement that may apply to the category. In the event of a conflict between the actual content of the log and the stated category in the Cabrillo header or contained in other elements of the entry material, the actual contents of the log will be used to determine the category of entry where possible.

In the event this cannot be determined or in the event where a log does not identify the entry category, the entry will be classified into the Multi-Operator, Multi-Transmitter, any authorized power category.

Any entrant who wants to enter a specific category (i.e. Single Band entry) but who also worked additional contacts outside that category **may** submit those additional contacts in a **separate** check log file with a different name than the primary entry. Do not include them in the main entered category log file.

2) Where the categories have a power class and the submitted log does not clearly identify the power class entered, then the log will be treated as if the highest power class for that category was entered.

3) **Single operators** who receive assistance in identifying potential new QSOs and/or multipliers from an Amateur Radio Spotting Network – including Reverse Beacon Network, Skimmer and similar technologies or any type of Packet Cluster system – during the contest must classify their log as being in one of the two **Single Operator Assisted** categories. To indicate an assisted entry, use the Cabrillo heading "Category-Assisted: Assisted" in your log file to identify this entry classification. Any QRP entrant claiming "Assistance" will be placed in the SOALP category as there is no QRP assisted class.

4) **Multi-Operator Categories** allow the use of spotting assistance without special identification. For all multi-transmitter categories, all transceivers, transmitters and receivers operated by the multi-station participants/entrants must be within a single 500-metre diameter circle and the antennas must be physically connected by RF transmission lines to the transceivers, transmitters and/or receivers.

Operators in either the Multi-Multi or Multi-Single categories should note that a distributed contest station is permitted in the RAC contests, however such operations are not eligible for awards. A distributed station is defined as a station which does not have all transceivers, transmitters and/or receivers operated by station operators/participants/entrants located within a single 500-metre diameter circle of each other. Distributed Multi-Multi operations must identify such operations as part of their Cabrillo form log submission as a Soapbox comment or summary sheet document. Those individuals using distributed station operations must do so in accordance with the regulations governing Amateur Radio operation in their jurisdiction.

5) **Multi-Operator Single-Transmitter Low Power (MOSTLP) and Multi-Operator Single-Transmitter High Power (MOSTHP) Categories** permit up to two signals (one **Run** and one **Multiplier**) to be transmitted at the same time **if, and only if,** each signal is on a different band **and** with the following limitations:

a) The Run Station is intended to be the primary and most active station for any Multi-Operator Single Transmitter operation. The Run Signal may be transmitted on any band and may solicit contacts (call CQ, QRZ, TEST, etc) with all other stations as well as seek multipliers within the limitations which follow. The Run signal must remain on the band for at least 10 minutes but may change mode within the Run Station active band within the 10-minute minimum time period.

The 10-minute period begins when the first QSO (contact) on the run station band is logged and the time is recorded by the logging software. A Run Signal may not be transmitted on a "new band" until the 10-minute period has been met or exceeded as measured by the time difference recorded in the logging software.

The Run signal QSOs will be designated with a "0" in the transmitter column of the Cabrillo log if the logging software supports this feature (preferred).

b) It is intended that the Multiplier Station only "hunt" new Multipliers. The Multiplier Signal may be transmitted on any band other than the current Run Signal band, but may only contact another station **if, and only if,** it is a new multiplier on that band and mode.

The Multiplier Signal may only call other stations. The Multiplier Signal may not request or attract any QSO by calling CQ, QRZ, TEST, etc., other than requesting a new multiplier worked to change modes on the same Multiplier Station active band if the contact would be a new multiplier on that band and mode combination. The Multiplier Signal must remain on one band for at least 10 minutes.

The 10-minute period for the Multiplier Signal begins when the first QSO with a new multiplier on that band is logged and the time is recorded by the logging software. A Multiplier Signal may not be transmitted on a "new band" until the 10-minute period for the Multiplier Signal has been met or exceeded as measured by the time difference recorded in the logging software. The Multiplier Signal QSOs will be designated with a "1" in the transmitter column of the Cabrillo log if the logging software supports this feature (preferred).

c) The designation of "0" (Run) or "1" (Multiplier) may not be assigned to an actual physical radio, although that is possible. The signal designation of "0" and "1" is a **functional** designation. Rig "A" or "B" (or "C," etc., if more than two radios) can be assigned either "0" or "1" according to its function (role) at the time of the QSO.

Operators should ensure that logging software is capable of designating each Run and Multiplier Station contact in the described manner. Please check your logging software in advance of the contest to ensure capability to comply. This is a desirable feature to properly adjudicate logs in these categories but if your software does not support this function, the log will still be accepted. Both Run Signal and Multiplier Signal station transmissions must comply with the maximum power limit for the power category entered.

d) All QSOs must be logged **immediately** upon completion of a QSO for proper time stamping of the QSO.

e) If an unintended contact is made with a non-multiplier station using the Multiplier Signal, operators are strongly encouraged to designate such QSOs as unclaimed within their Cabrillo log by marking that QSO with "X-QSO:" at the beginning of the line for each such logged QSO to avoid creating Nil QSOs with the station they contact, being assessed penalties or recategorization for QSOs that are out of compliance with the category. Doing so will allow the other station to continue to receive points credit.

Likewise, should either the Run Station or Multiplier Station log QSOs outside of the active band before the 10-minute band change limitation period expires, such QSOs should be marked as X-QSO: to avoid score and or possible multiplier reductions.

f) Multi-operator, Single Transmitter QRP entries will be included within the Multi-Operator, Single Transmitter Low Power Category.

Failure to comply with the above noted category specifications may result in reclassification of an entry to the Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter category or Checklog category.

6) **Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter** category stations may operate the eight contest bands simultaneously, but only one transmitted signal per band is permitted at any time. All power levels are mapped into this single category. Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter QRP entries will be included within the Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter category results as there is no QRP power level for this category.

General Rules

1) The Single Operator All Band QRP (SOABQRP) category is the only official single operator QRP category supported in the contest. Any Single Operator using a Single Band or Single Mode entry that claims QRP power levels, other than a QRP Assisted entry, will be recategorized and reported in the SOABQRP category as that is the only entry class supporting QRP power levels. An entry that claims QRP Assisted will be recategorized and reported in the Single Operator Assisted Low Power (SOALP) category as that category defines the operating benefit of using assistance. A Multi-Operator Single-Transmitter Low Power (MOSTLP) entry claiming QRP power levels will be left in the MOSTLP category as that category defines the operating benefit of using multiple transceivers. A Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter (MOMT) entry claiming QRP power levels will be left in the MOMT category as that category defines the operating benefit of using multiple transceivers.

2) Although there is only one Single Operator Single Band category that qualifies for a certificate or award, it is intended that the published results would show High Power or Low Power. To facilitate this break out of the listings, your entry should indicate the power class you used.

3) Operators who have participated in any multi-operator category entries may not contact the station they have participated in if they were to operate as part of another entry in the same contest. In addition, guest operators at any station regardless of entry category may not claim contacts with the station host owner or host station mobile call for points or multipliers.

4) Remotely controlled operations of a **single station** under the same call sign where all transceivers, transmitters and receivers are within a single 500-metre diameter circle – the antennas must be physically connected by RF transmission lines to the transceivers, transmitters and/or receivers – **is permitted**. Those operators using remote operations must do so in accordance with the regulations governing Amateur Radio operation in their home and remote station jurisdiction(s).

Remote operation of more than one station under the same call sign, or remote operation of more than one station by the same licensee or contest entry under differing call signs, is prohibited during the contest period.

5) Self-spotting is **permitted** for assisted and multi-operator entries. Self-spotting and requesting other operators to spot your station by any means for unassisted entries is prohibited.

6) **"Rookie"** is defined as a single operator who was first licensed as a Radio Amateur less than 36 calendar months (three years) prior to the date of the contest. Any level of Amateur Radio licence available from the licensing jurisdiction of the entrant qualifies for the category.

The three supported categories that qualify for the "Rookie" Plaque have a multi-mode requirement as differentiation from the single mode categories. Further, we are trying to encourage entrants to explore both SSB (Phone) and CW aspects of the contest thus **requiring a minimum of one CW and one SSB contact** to be made in the qualifying single operator categories that qualify for adjudication for the "Rookie" Plaque.

The participating licensed Amateur is required to self-declare their eligibility, but the RAC Contest Management Committee reserves the right to request proof of eligibility to assist in resolving any disputes.

Eligible Categories for Rookie Plaque:

Participants are eligible for the Rookie Plaque in the following categories.

Note: *only one plaque is available across the three categories designated below.*

- Single Operator All Band Low Power (SOABLP)
- Single Operator All Band High Power (SOABHP)
- Single Operator All Band QRP Power (SOABQRP)

Log Identification of Rookie Overlay Category:

Your submitted log will need to indicate your entry in the Rookie category by indicating with a **"Category-Overlay: Rookie"** line in the Cabrillo log file header. You may need to manually enter this line if the logging software you use does not support this category overlay. This can also be selected when submitting a log via the RAC Web Log Submission System.

In addition, "Rookie" entrants will need to indicate the date they were first licensed by adding a comment with that information in a "Soapbox:" field in the Cabrillo header. An example would be: "Soapbox: First licensed in January of XXXX, no greater than 36 months prior to the date of the contest"

While the scores from the single mode, unlimited and multi-op "Rookie" entries will be noted in the contest results, only Rookie entrants in the SOABHP, SOABLP or SOABQRP categories will be eligible for the Rookie Plaque.

While there is only a single Rookie Plaque determined by the results from the three eligible single operator categories, a Rookie entrant will still be eligible for the plaque for the single operator category they have entered should they achieve the highest score for that category. Should they qualify for a certificate based on the normal criteria for certificates, they will be further awarded that certificate.

Results: Will be published in *The Canadian Amateur* magazine published by the Radio Amateurs of Canada. The results will also be published on the RAC website.

Entries: For the **RAC Canada Day Contest** all entries must be electronically submitted by 23:59 UTC 14 days after the end of the contest (**July 15, 2026**). For the **RAC Canada Winter Contest** all entries must be electronically submitted by 23:59 UTC 14 days after the end of the contest (**January 11, 2027**).

The preferred method is to submit logs via the Web Log Submission system at: **https://www.contest.rac.ca/**

For the current contest year, we will also accept logs sent via email to **canadaday@rac.ca** or **canadawinter@rac.ca** as appropriate for the specific contest.

Email entries will be confirmed by return email by the contest manager. This is a manual process, so do not expect an immediate reply.

Special Note:

1) **We are no longer accepting paper logs.** Those entrants using paper logging who would like to enter the contest can convert their paper logs to a Cabrillo electronic log using the process to create a RAC Cabrillo log file that has been provided by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The links to this service are available from the RAC Web Log homepage at **https://contest.rac.ca**. Each contest has its own link.

2) Any entry with 100 or more contacts should be submitted in digital format using the contest log submission system or, while supported, via email.

3) The required electronic format is the RAC Cabrillo format. The files must be submitted in plain ASCII/Text format. The current Cabrillo logging format / standard is available from the RAC website at: https://www.rac.ca/mivahih/2025/12/RAC-Cabrillo-V3.4.pdf

4) When submitting any electronic log please use a **unique identifier** by naming the file using your call sign with a file extension of .LOG, .CBR or .TXT (e.g., yourcall.LOG). If you email your log, please send the file(s) as **attachments**. Do not paste the log file into the text of your message as there may be issues with the formatting making it difficult to properly extract the log. Large files may be zipped if necessary.

If you have questions about these rules or need help with preparing or submitting your log or have any other questions about the **RAC Canada Day Contest**, please contact **Jim Roberts, VE7ZO, at canadaday@rac.ca**.

If you have questions about these rules or need help with preparing or submitting your log or have any other questions about the **RAC Canada Winter Contest**, please contact **Vlad Milutinovic, VE3JM, at canadawinter@rac.ca**.

For the previous year's contest results, visit the RAC website in the Contest section at: **https://www.rac.ca/contests/**

We look forward to your participation in the RAC Contests.

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