

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria

Questions and Answers

Qualification Rules - Questions and Answers

This Questions and Answers (Q&A) section provides background on the factors that shaped the WRTC 2030 Qualification Rules. It will be updated periodically throughout the qualification cycle to provide additional clarification as needed.

Q1: How did you prepare these Qualification Rules?

Built on the foundation of WRTC 2026 and previous rules, this framework aims to provide a consistent model for future organizers. Necessary adjustments—driven by community feedback—were made to qualification events, geographic areas, score calculations, and penalty guidelines for rule violations.

Q2: Why is the WRTC qualification contest list almost the same as for WRTC 2026?

We believe standardizing qualification events makes the process easier for participants by eliminating the confusion of frequently changing criteria. Our objective is to maintain a stable list of 12 eligible contests: 11 standard international events used in previous WRTCs, plus one contest selected by the host country. For WRTC 2030, we have added the 9A DX Contest. Its mixed CW/SSB format mirrors the WRTC structure and has gained steady popularity in recent years.

Q3: What about contests with no separate Assisted / Unassisted categories?

Following the precedent set by WRTC 2026, for contests that do not differentiate between Assisted and Unassisted entries (such as CQ WPX), a weighting factor of 1.0 is applied to High Power (HP) entrants, while a factor of 0.90 is applied to Low Power (LP) entrants.

Q4: Why have you chosen these qualifying events?

- **Event Selection:** Winning any of these contests requires exceptional skill and persistence. Based on past event analysis, this list represents a balanced, globally supported mix of international DX contests ideal for identifying the world's strongest teams.
- **Shorter Qualification Period:** Competing at a world-class level demands significant commitments of time, energy, and resources. To ease this burden, we have shortened the traditional qualification period. It will begin in December 2026 (with the 9A DX Contest).

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and conclude in November 2028 (with the CQ WW CW). Out of 24 total qualifying events during this window, each participant only needs to submit their 10 best scores.

- **More Preparation Time:** Ending the qualification phase in late 2028 provides crucial extra time ahead of July 2030. This allows us to confirm Team Leaders and Team Mates as early as possible, giving teams at least a full year to practice together, optimize their station setups, and finalize travel arrangements.

Q5: What is the rationale behind the Contest Category Weightings?

To avoid disrupting competitors' established strategies and station designs, we have largely maintained the weighting criteria used in previous WRTCs. We retained the IARU HF Championship and Low Power (LP) weighting adjustments introduced for WRTC 2026. The primary modification is raising the weighting of the 9A DX Contest (organized by the host country) to a full 1.0 to encourage wider participation.

Additionally, we increased the point values for the ARRL DX, All Asia, and WAE DX contests, but only for the host continent of each event. For example:

- **WAE DX Contest:** 900 points for European entrants (800 points for entrants outside Europe).
- **ARRL International DX Contest:** 900 points for the top North American (W/VE) Single-Op All-Band (SO AB) score.
- **All Asia DX Contest:** 900 points for the top Asian Single-Op All-Band (SO AB) winning score.

Q6: How were the Qualification Areas and the number of teams allocated to each QA determined?

Historically, Qualification Areas (QAs) and team allocations are adjusted based on a statistical analysis of global contest participation. Because a country's geographic size does not necessarily correlate with its number of active testers, these allocations must remain data-driven. For WRTC 2030, the WRTC OC decided to keep the QAs largely unchanged from WRTC 2026, as recent statistical analysis shows that global participation trends have remained stable. If a significant

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shift occurs in the future—such as a substantial increase in activity from a specific region—future organizers can adjust the QAs accordingly. Compared to the 30 QAs used in 2026, WRTC 2030 will feature 29 QAs, with North American areas 10 and 11 merged into a single QA. Sub-areas will be utilized to compensate for propagation differences, and the number of allocated teams has been increased from 2 to 3.

So, what exactly are QA Sub-Areas and how they help overcome propagation difference?

A Qualification Area (QA) Sub-Area is a geographically defined subdivision of a QA established to improve fairness in WRTC qualification score comparisons.

Because some QAs cover large regions, competitors operating from different locations within the same QA may experience significantly different propagation conditions—particularly regarding access to major contest centers. These variations can substantially impact available QSOs and multipliers, making raw score comparisons less reflective of individual operating skill.

To reduce these geographical disadvantages, designated QAs are divided into Sub-Areas. Within each Sub-Area, competitors' scores are evaluated against the highest applicable scores achieved by stations operating from that same Sub-Area, following the calculation rules defined in Section 4 of the WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules.

This approach allows leading competitors in geographically distinct Sub-Areas to achieve the same maximum applicable WRTC Event Score, even if their raw contest scores differ significantly.

WRTC 2030 defines 13 standard score-comparison Sub-Areas across six QAs: EU #1, NA #1, NA #6, NA #10, AF #1, and SA #2. An additional contest-specific comparison arrangement applies to NA #10 for the ARRL DX Contest, as specified in Table 4 of the WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules.

Sub-Areas are used solely for Event Score comparison and normalization. They do not constitute independent QAs and do not increase the number of allocated team positions.

All competitors within the parent QA continue competing for its allocated Team Leader positions based on their final Qualification Scores.

Ultimately, this mechanism minimizes the influence of geographical propagation advantages while preserving a competitive qualification process focused on operator skill and performance.

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Qualification Area	Score Comparison Sub-Areas
AF #1	Sub-Area 1: AF North/West - CQ Zones 33, 34, 35
	Sub-Area 2: AF South/East - CQ Zones 36, 37, 38, 39
SA #2	Sub-Area 1: SA North - CQ Zones 9, 10
	Sub-Area 2: SA South - CQ Zones 12, 13
EU #1	Sub-Area 1: North - JW, JX, LA, OH, OH0, OJ0, OY, SM, and TF
	Sub-Area 2: South - ES, LY and YL
NA #1	Sub-Area 1: W1 - ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI
	Sub-Area 2: W2 - NY, NJ (+ 4U1UN)
	Sub-Area 3: W3 - PA, DE, MD, DC
NA #6	Sub-Area 1: North - WA, OR, ID, MT, and WY
	Sub-Area 2: South - NV, UT and AZ
NA #10	Sub-Area 1: VE1, VE2, VE3, VE9, VO, VY2, VY0
	Sub-Area 2: VE4, VE5, VE6, VE7, VE8, VY1, KL7 *
NA #10 (for ARRL DX only)	Sub-Area 1: VE4, VE5, VE6, VE7, VE8, VY1
	Sub-Area 2: KL7

Qualification Area Sub-Areas

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Q7: How did you determine the number of qualifying and Special Teams?

The WRTC OC plans to expand the event to 60 competing teams, up from the 50-team baseline used in WRTC 2026. To balance competitive integrity with financial and logistical realities, the 10 additional slots have been distributed as follows:

- **Qualifying Teams (50 total, an increase of 8):** We applied the largest increase to standard qualifying slots, as standard qualification remains the core focus of the event. Based on an analysis of logs from 2022–2025 contests and the overall increase in WRTC teams, the 8 extra slots have been allocated as follows: Europe (+5), North America (+2), and Africa (+1).
- **Defending Champions (1 total, unchanged):** Reserved for the winners of WRTC 2026.
- **Sponsored Teams (4 total, an increase of 2):** Expanding the event to 60 teams introduces significant logistical costs. Adding two sponsored slots provides a financial safety net to ensure the larger event is securely funded.
- **Youth Teams (3 total) & Wild Card Teams (2 total):** We shifted one slot from the Youth category to the Wild Card category. While we strongly encourage high-level competitors under 25, we cannot guarantee enough highly competitive youth entries to lock in four dedicated slots years in advance. Adding a Wild Card maintains flexibility: if there is a surge of exceptional youth scores, the OC can use it to invite a fourth youth team.

Q8: At a glance, many of the rules are the same as for previous WRTCs. What changes would you highlight or summarize?

Summary of Significant Changes for WRTC 2030 Qualification

General Rule Updates

- **Transparency & Fair Play:** An increased focus on promoting fair competition both during the qualification period and at the WRTC event itself.
- **Disqualification Penalties:** We have aligned WRTC penalties with standard contest practices. Because most qualifying contests bar disqualified (DQ) stations from receiving awards the following year, WRTC 2030 will apply a similar standard for eligibility.

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- **Long-Term Standardization:** We intentionally kept rules, qualification events, Qualification Areas (QAs), and technical setups as stable as possible. Minimizing changes makes it much easier for global competitors to develop and execute a multi-year qualification strategy.

Youth TL Changes

- **Separate & Visible Interim Standings:** To keep young operators motivated and engaged throughout the entire cycle, qualification standings for youth participants will be tracked separately. Youth competitors are responsible for indicating this in their log submissions by entering their personal callsign followed by (Youth) in brackets (e.g., Operator IZ7XYZ (Youth)).
- **Reduced Qualifying Events:** Because many youth participants lack access to competitive home stations, they may operate from other locations as guests or multi-operator team members. To ease travel requirements, the required number of qualifying events for Youth TLs is reduced from 10 to 6 (with a maximum of 2 multi-operator entries). Scores are calculated according to the operating QA; for instance, if a participant's home QA is NA#01 and they submit up to 4 out-of-home QA scores, each event score is measured against the best category score in that specific QA. Final selection is determined by the highest overall youth scores worldwide.
- **Relaxed Out-of-Area Restrictions:** To broaden opportunities for students or those relying on remote stations, youth operators may compete from outside their regular Home Qualification Area. Out of the 6 total event scores, a maximum of 4 may be outside-QA entries (operated either remotely or on-site).

Scoring & Weighting Updates

- **ARRL Int'l DX, All Asia, and WAE DX Contests:** Point values have been increased to **900 points** for designated primary region stations. This adjustment applies exclusively to the organizer's continent participants: W/VE stations for ARRL, Asian stations for All Asia, and

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European stations (per the WAE country list) for WAE. While this does not affect DX entrants, it acknowledges the efforts and activity of the host region.

- **9A DX Contest Added (1000 points):** The host country's contest, featuring a worldwide format similar to IARU-WRTC rules, has been added to the baseline list to encourage wider participation.
- **Assisted & Unassisted Weightings Equalized:** Single Operator (SO) Assisted and Unassisted weighting factors have been adjusted to be equal, recognizing that both categories demand specific, highly challenging skill sets.
- **Low Power (LP) Weighting Reduced:** While we fully agree that LP operating requires exceptional skill (e.g., holding a run frequency, breaking pileups, and advanced operating strategy), power limit violations (exceeding 100W) remain a widespread issue. Until contest organizers can more effectively penalize these violations, maintaining a high weighting factor for LP risks inadvertently rewarding rule-breakers rather than legitimate skill.

Changes in Qualification Areas and Teams

WRTC 2026 Qualification Areas were followed as closely as possible to ensure the fairest possible slot distribution. Only limited changes were made, primarily to reflect the increase in geographically qualifying teams from 42 to 50, alongside insights from log and score analyses from 2022–2025.

The QAs and team allocations were prepared in accordance with the WRTC SC's recommendations regarding structure and distribution. We also defined three operational scenarios regarding when and under what conditions claiming scores from outside a Home Area is permitted:

1. **Home QA Operations**
2. **Outside QA Operations** (maximum of 3)
3. **Alternate Home QA** (for ongoing connections and contest activity conducted from a QA different from the Home QA).

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Situation	QA used for TL ranking	Outside-QA score	Prior WRTC OC approval
Operates from primary Home QA	Home QA	No	No
Temporarily operates from another QA	Home QA	Yes	No
Seeks to qualify from another QA with a substantial continuing connection	Approved Alternate Home QA	Other than Home QA only if approved	Yes
Permanently relocates to another QA during qualification	Determined by WRTC OC	Determined case-by-case	Notification and OC determination required

Exceptions for Team Leaders (TL) with Marginal Scores:

- Applies to entrants from Qualification Areas where TL score is exceptionally low or uncompetitive. For example, QA with multiple DXCCs, where some may have a limited number of contestants but qualify as a TL based on the DXCC TL maximum limit of other QA DXCC entrants, with substantially more competitive WRTC score.
- Their scores may be compared against scores from DXCC that already reached TL quota.
- If there are substantially higher, competitive scores near the threshold of a capped DXCC entity, the WRTC OC may grant an exception based on a review of the circumstances.

Q9: Given that four teams were disqualified at WRTC 2026, is the WRTC OC implementing additional measures to prevent cheating?

The WRTC 2030 OC is fully committed to ensuring the fairest possible qualification process, and we expect the support of both qualifying contest organizers and the global contesting community in this effort. Our primary goal is to significantly reduce opportunities for cheating during the qualification period and foster a culture of integrity. Because radiosport relies heavily on personal

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honesty, future organizers—working closely with the WRTC SC and WRTC JC—will prioritize this issue by implementing clear, strict rules and decisive penalties for any violations.

Exceptions for Team Leaders (TL) with Marginal Scores:

- Applies to entrants from Qualification Areas with multiple DXCCs, where some may have a limited number of contestants but qualify as a TL based on the DXCC TL maximum limit of other QA DXCC entrants, with substantially more competitive WRTC score.
- Their scores may be compared against scores from DXCC that already reached TL quota.
- If there are substantially higher, competitive scores near the threshold of a capped DXCC entity, the WRTC OC may grant an exception based on a review of the circumstances.

Contact & Community Discussion

- Questions or Feedback: If you have any questions or feedback regarding the rules, please submit them via email at rules@wrtc2030.hr.

Community Discussion: Join the public email reflector for WRTC 2030 discussions on [Groups.io](https://groups.io).