

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

Table of Contents

1. Qualifying Events and WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria	2
2. Category Weighting Factor (WF)	4
3. Qualification Areas (QA) and Number of Teams	5
4. Qualifying Event Score Calculation	9
5. Qualification Score Calculation	10
6. Team Leader (TL) Selection and Eligibility Rules	11
6.1 Determination of Qualification Area (QA)	12
6.2 Team Leader Selection by Qualification Area	17
7. Team Mate (TM) Qualification	17
8. Special Teams	18
9. Team Leader/Teammate Withdrawal and Replacement	19
9.1 Team Mate (TM) Withdrawals	19
9.2 Team Leader (TL) Withdrawals (Standard Timeline)	19
9.3 TL Withdrawals with No Qualified Replacements	19
9.4 Last-Minute and On-Site Emergencies	20
9.5 Special Category Rules	20
10. Financial Implications	20
11. Questions and Clarifications	20

Change Log

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WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

On 3 October 2026, the WRTC Sanctioning Committee (WRTC SC) formally approved the next World Radiosport Team Championship, to be hosted by the Croatian Amateur Radio Association (HRS) in July 2030.

The WRTC 2030 Organizing Committee (WRTC OC) looks forward to welcoming 120 of the world's top testers to Osijek, Croatia. To earn your place, we invite you to compete in the qualifying events listed below.

We expect all participants to operate with the highest level of integrity, strictly observing the individual contest rules and the highest standards of amateur-radio sportsmanship.

Personal Integrity and Rule Compliance

Personal integrity is a core principle for all WRTC participants. Applicants are expected to thoroughly read and strictly follow the rules of every qualifying contest. This requires compliance regarding power limits, remote receivers, spotting assistance, and automated decoders such as CW Skimmer. Furthermore, competitors must not rely on prohibited assistance from other operators in soliciting or making QSOs, nor may they misuse social media networks prior to or during the contest to coordinate activities related to their participation or score.

Earning a position at WRTC 2030 is a testament to your skill and fair play. Regardless of your final qualification score, competing honestly at this level commands the respect of your peers. Every operator who qualifies for WRTC 2030 earns the recognition and respect of the amateur-radio contesting community.

1. Qualifying Events and WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria

Each qualifying event¹ has an assigned maximum point value used in the qualification score calculation. Point values are weighted based on the contest's scope, participation levels, complexity, and popularity:

- **1,000 points:** Assigned to major, highly popular worldwide contests.
- **800-950 points:** Assigned to events with lower overall activity, reduced complexity, or restricted geographic scope.
- **900 points:** For eligible entrants in designated primary regions², the maximum point value has been increased from 800 to 900 points to recognize heightened competition at this level.

¹ Qualifying events start 19 December 2026 (9A DX Contest) and end on 26 November 2028 (CQ WW CW)

² Designated primary regions: W/VE stations for ARRL DX, all Asian stations for All Asian DX, and all EU stations (per the WAE Country List) for WAE DX.

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

Table 1 outlines all 24 eligible qualifying events, including their scheduled dates and corresponding point values.

Contest Name	Contest Yearly Schedule	Value	2026	2027	2028	Events
9A DX Contest	3 rd full weekend, December	1000	x	x		2
ARRL Int. DX CW*	3 rd full weekend, February	800 (900)		x	x	2
ARRL Int. DX SSB*	1 st full weekend, March			x	x	2
CQ WW WPX SSB	Last full weekend, March	950		x	x	2
CQ WW WPX CW	Last full weekend, May			x	x	2
All Asian DX CW*	3 rd full weekend, June	800 (900)		x	x	2
IARU HF	2 nd full weekend, July	1000		x	x	2
WAE DX CW*	2 nd full weekend, August	800 (900)		x	x	2
WAE DX SSB*	2 nd full weekend, September			x	x	2
All Asian DX SSB*	1 st full weekend, September	800 (900)		x	x	2
CQ WW DX SSB	Last full weekend, October	1000		x	x	2
CQ WW DX CW	Last full weekend, November			x	x	2

Table 1 - Qualifying events (total of 24)

* Value 900, in brackets, for designated primary regions only.

Intercontinental Contests scoring:

For intercontinental contests (ARRL DX, All Asian DX, and WAE DX), the maximum point value for entrants located within the organizer's designated primary region has been increased to reflect the higher activity levels and competition density in those areas.

Specifically, this **increased value (900)** applies to the following **designated primary regions**:

- **ARRL DX:** W/VE entrants (US and Canada)
- **WAE DX:** European entrants (per the WAE Country List)
- **All Asian DX:** Asian stations

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

Operators who are physically located in the designated primary region of the contest organizer and are classified by the official contest rules as a "DX" or non-designated primary region entry (e.g., a station in XE entering the ARRL DX contest, or a UA9 station entering WAE), will have their WRTC scores calculated using the standard DX entry values.

Qualifying Events: The 11 annual qualifying contests remain identical to those used for WRTC 2026. A 12th event, the 9A DX Contest, has been added as the host country's selection.

Score Tracking and Calculation: The WRTC OC will calculate qualification points based on the official, published contest results and will post the updated standings on the official WRTC website.

Competitor Responsibilities: All applicants, especially those contending for top positions within their Qualification Area (QA) are responsible for monitoring their published scores. Competitors must promptly notify the WRTC OC of any circumstances that could affect their score calculations, such as relocating to another country or moving outside their designated QA.

Final Qualification Score: At the end of the qualification cycle, an applicant's final standing will be determined by combining their 10 best scores out of the 24 available qualifying events.

2. Category Weighting Factor (WF)

Weighting Factors are applied to compensate for differences in competitiveness and activity levels among entry categories. For contests that do not distinguish between Assisted and Unassisted Single-Operator entries, all Single-Operator entries will be evaluated using the applicable power-class Weighting Factor: 1.00 for High Power (HP) and 0.90 for Low Power (LP).

- A. **Single Band** scores are compared against All Band scores for the same power level.
- B. **Single Mode** scores are compared against Mixed Mode scores for the same power level.
- C. Scores achieved while operating IARU **HQ stations** during the IARU HF Championship are not eligible for qualification.
- D. **QRP** scores are grouped with LP scores and weighted as LP entries.
- E. SO LP, SOA LP and MS LP entries from countries where the maximum output power is 100 watts will continue to be compared against other LP scores in those categories but will use the respective SO HP, SOA HP and MS HP weightings. This makes it possible for entrants in these countries to achieve maximum WRTC points in qualifying events.

Competitors intending to claim this exemption (point E) must notify the WRTC OC in advance at rules-wrtc2030@hamradio.hr

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

Entry Category	Category Description	Weighting Factor	Notes
SO HP	Single Operator High Power	1.00	All Band or Single Band; Unassisted or Assisted; Single or Mixed Mode
SOA HP	Single Operator Assisted High Power*	1.00	
SO LP	Single Operator Low Power	0.90	All Band or Single Band, 2-Band ³ ; Unassisted; Single or Mixed Mode
SOA LP	Single Operator Assisted Low Power*	0.90	
MS	Multi-Operator Single Transmitter	0.90	HP only
MS LP	Multi-Operator Single Transmitter Low power	0.80	Low Power only
M2	Multi-Operator Two Transmitter	0.85	
M2 LP	Multi-Operator Two Transmitter Low Power	0.80	IARU HF only
MM	Multi-Operator Multi Transmitter	0.75	

Table 2 - Categories and Weighting Factors

** Recognizing the distinct skills required for both Assisted and Unassisted operations and to prevent category misuse, the weighting factors for these categories have been adjusted to be identical.*

3. Qualification Areas (QA) and Number of Teams

A total of **60 teams** will participate: **50 qualifying teams** from **29 Qualification Areas (QA)** and **10 special teams**. QAs have been standardized wherever practical, with team allocations based on contest participation, geographic considerations, QSO totals, and top-ten results within each QA.

In consultation with the WRTC SC, the WRTC OC may, at a later stage and if required, amend the number of special teams.

Sub-Areas have been established within certain QAs to reduce significant propagation-related disadvantages.

³ The SO 2-Band category is strictly applicable to the 9A DX Contest only

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

For event score normalization, competitors would only directly compete with others in their Sub-Area, who are geographically closer together. The qualification scores achieved are completely independent of other scores achieved in the other QA Sub-Area. As a result, the highest-scoring operators in different Sub-Areas may each earn the maximum available WRTC points for that specific qualifying event.

Sub-Areas are used solely for Event Score comparison and normalization. They do not constitute independent Qualification Areas and do not increase the number of allocated team positions. All competitors within the parent QA continue to compete for its allocated Team Leader positions based on their final Qualification Scores.

Continent	Teams from Continent	Qualification Area (QA)	Countries and Regions Included in Qualification Area	Number of Teams
Europe	23	EU #1*	ES, JW, JX, LA, LY, OH, OH0, OJ0, OY, SM, TF, YL	2
		EU #2	3A, C3, F, LX, ON, PA	2
		EU #3	DL, OE, OK, OZ, HB9, HB0	4
		EU #4	CT, CU, EA, EA6, ZB	2
		EU #5	9H, I, IS0, T7, TK	2
		EU #6	4O, 9A, E7, LZ, S5, SV, SV5, SV9, YO, YU, Z3, Z6, ZA	4
		EU #7	EU, UA1-6, UA2	2
		EU #8	EI, G, GD, GI, GJ, GM, GU, GW	2
		EU #9	ER, HA, OM, SP, UR	3
North America	16	NA #1*	W1, W2, W3 (ME, VT, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, PA, DC), 4U1UN	3
		NA #2	W4 North (KY, VA, TN, NC)	1
		NA #3	W4 South (AL, GA, SC, FL)	1
		NA #4	W5 (TX, NM, OK, AR, LA, MS)	1
		NA #5	W6 (CA)	2
		NA #6*	W7 (WA, OR, ID, MT, WY, UT, AZ, NV)	1

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

Continent	Teams from Continent	Qualification Area (QA)	Countries and Regions Included in Qualification Area	Number of Teams
		NA #7	W8 (MI, OH, WV)	1
		NA #8	W9 (WI, IL, IN)	1
		NA #9	W0 (ND, SD, MN, NE, IA, CO, KS, MO)	1
		NA #10*	VE, KL7	3
		NA #11	CQ Zones 6, 7, 8, VP9	1
Asia	5	AS #1	CQ Zone 17, 18, 23 (except BY), UA9 in Zone 16	1
		AS #2	CQ Zone 20 (AS portion), 21	1
		AS #3	CQ Zones 22, 24, 26, BY/23,9M2, 9V	1
		AS #4	CQ Zone 19, 25 (HL - JA)	2
Africa	2	AF #1*	Africa North/West or South/East	2
South America	2	SA #1	CQ Zone 11 (PY-ZP)	1
		SA #2*	South America (except CQ Zone 11): CQ Zones 9 - 10 or 12 - 13	1
Oceania	2	OC #1	CQ Zones 27, 28, 31 (except 9M2, 9V)	1
		OC #2	CQ Zones 29, 30, 32	1

Table 3 - Qualification Areas and number of teams

To mitigate the effects of geographical and propagation differences in less densely populated regions, QAs marked with an asterisk () in Table 3 are subdivided for scoring purposes (**Sub-Areas**).*

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

Examples on how to calculate Sub-Area scores can be found in the [Questions and Answers \(Q&A\)](#).

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

Table 4 - Qualification Areas divided into Sub-Areas

Geographic Definitions and Team Leader (TL) Limits

- Continental regions are determined according to CQ Worked All Zones (WAZ) rules.
- Each DXCC entity** is limited to the selection of a maximum of two (2) qualifying Team Leaders (TL) based on highest qualification scores, including when multiple entrants from the same DXCC compete within the same QA.
- Exceptions for the United States (W) and Canada (VE):** The United States (W) and Canada (VE) are exempt from the standard two-TL per DXCC limit. TL allocations for W and VE stations are determined solely by the team quotas specified for their respective individual Qualification Areas (NA #1 through NA #10).

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

Unlisted DXCC Entities and Antarctic Stations

For the sake of brevity, certain DXCC entities are not explicitly listed in the QA tables. The appropriate QA for any unlisted entity is determined by its geographic location. For example, HV is assigned to EU #5; FP is assigned to NA #10 etc. Stations operating from Antarctica will determine their QA based on their respective CQ Zone.

4. Qualifying Event Score Calculation

An applicant's Event Score will be calculated by the WRTC OC and published as Qualification Score once the official final results have been issued by the respective contest organizers. The calculation is based on the following formula:

Qualification Event Score = (Contest value) x (Category Weighting Factor) x (Applicant Event Score / Maximum Event Score)

Maximum Score Definition

The "Maximum Event Score" is defined as the highest published score within the applicant's entry category for their specific QA (or designated Sub-Area, if applicable).

If this Maximum Event Score is lower than the highest published score achieved in a lower-weighted category within the same QA, the higher score from that lower tier will be used as the Maximum Event Score instead. The category hierarchy in Table 5 is used when determining whether a score from a lower-ranked category must replace the applicant category's highest score as the Maximum Event Score.

Note: Only the entry categories officially available in the specific contest being evaluated are considered for this calculation.

Category Order	Category	Criteria for scores if lower weight or category within the same Qualification Area has better event score
1	MM	The highest category in the order of reference results
2	M2	May be compared with lower category results
3	MS	May be compared with lower category results
4	SOA HP, SO HP	May be compared with lower category results
5	SOA LP	May be compared with SO LP
6	SO LP	Lowest category

Table 5 - Category order and QA score comparison/calculation

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

Category Comparisons:

- Single Band and 2-Band entries⁴ are compared against All Band entries at the same power level.
- Single Mode entries are compared against Mixed Mode entries at the same power level.
- QRP entries are compared against Low Power (LP) entries.
- Scores achieved as an IARU HQ station are ineligible.

5. Qualification Score Calculation

An applicant's qualification score is the sum of up to 10 best Qualification Event Scores. For **Youth TL selection**, qualification score is sum of up to **6 best Qualification Event Scores**.

The maximum possible qualification score is 9,900 (6,000 for Youth TLs).

- A. **Multi-Operator Score Limit:** Maximum 3 Event Scores may be from Multi-Operator (MS/M2/MM) entries. For **Youth TLs**, maximum 2 Event Scores can be from multi operator entries.
- B. **Outside Home QA Limit:** Maximum of 3 Event Scores may be from outside an applicant's Home QA. For **Youth TLs**, a maximum of 4 Event Scores may be from outside Home QA.
- C. **Operator Limits per Station:** A maximum of 4 operators may submit scores from a single MS, 6 from a M2, and 8 from a MM.⁵
- D. **Operator's Identification:** When using a station callsign other than the operator's personal callsign, the participant must identify their personal callsign in the log configuration or Cabrillo file before submission to contest organizers (e.g. Station callsign 9Q1C, Operator IK7UXW). This includes all scenarios, e.g. using a special callsign, operating a multi-operator category, using another callsign issued to the operator in another country, operating from the club station, a friend's station, as a guest operator from another location, etc. **Youth competitors** are responsible for noting in their log submissions by entering their personal callsign followed by (Youth) in brackets (e.g. Operator IZ7XYZ (Youth)). This is required to ensure that scores earned with a callsign other than the main Home QA callsign will be easily recognized by WRTC OC and correctly listed in the WRTC qualification standings.
Qualification standings for Youth participants will be tracked separately.
- E. **Multiple Entries per Event:** If an operator's callsign appears in more than one entry in a single Qualifying Event (e.g., from operating at more than one station), none of the operator's scores may be submitted from that contest.

⁴ 9A DX Contest only

⁵ It is assumed that the operators who contributed the most to the multi-station team would claim the credit

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

- F. **Tie-Breaking Procedure:** In the unlikely case of a tie score for the final qualifying spot in a QA, the applicants will be asked to submit additional scores beyond those submitted until the tie is broken.
- G. **WRTC OC/JC Member Exclusion:** WRTC OC and WRTC Judging Committee (WRTC JC) members cannot earn qualifying points in any category in any QA. However, guest operators using their stations are fully eligible to earn and claim points for themselves.

6. Team Leader (TL) Selection and Eligibility Rules

A TL will be selected based on the following:

- A. **General Selection:** There are no automatic qualifiers, with the sole exception of the Defending Champions. After the qualification period concludes, the WRTC OC will officially invite all qualifying TLs. Invited operators must explicitly accept or decline the invitation. If an invitation is declined, the operator with the next highest score in that QA will be invited.
- B. **Sponsored, Wild Card and Youth Teams:** The specific process for choosing TL and TM for Sponsored Teams and Wild Card Teams will be published in 2029, following the selection of the sponsored teams.

The selection of Youth TLs:

- Calculate every youth applicant's Event Scores using the same location-based QA/Sub-Area comparisons as regular competitors.
 - Sum their 6 best qualifying Event Scores (can be from different QAs).
 - Remove any youth applicant who already qualified as a regular geographical TL.
 - Rank the remaining eligible youth applicants worldwide by their normal Qualification Score.
 - Award the Youth TL positions to the highest remaining youth scores.
- C. **Operating outside QA & Remote Operations:** For any operations conducted outside an applicant's QA of residence, the operator must be prepared to provide evidence of proper licensing, legal presence in the host country, and explicit permission to operate. This requirement applies equally to both on-site and remotely controlled operations.
- D. **TM Upgrading to TL:** If an invited TL declines their WRTC 2030 invitation, the applicant with the next highest qualification score in that QA is invited. If the newly invited applicant has already accepted a TM position on another team, they may resign from that position to accept the TL invitation. The affected TL must then select a new TM to fill the vacancy.
- E. **Preservation of Valid Scores:** To ensure accurate Maximum Score calculations and fair comparisons for all other competitors, any valid scores achieved in other qualifying contests by a disqualified entrant will remain in the database and will not be removed.

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

- F. **Disqualification in Qualifying Events:** Any operator whose callsign is officially published as disqualified in any qualifying event forfeits their right to participate in WRTC 2030. If disqualification occurs in a multi-operator category, all listed operators forfeit their eligibility.
- G. In alignment with standard contest practices regarding disqualified stations and applicable WRTC Guidelines and Requirements, **any operator (TL or TM) who was part of the disqualified team during WRTC 2026 is ineligible to compete in WRTC 2030.**

6.1 Determination of Qualification Area (QA)

General principle

Each applicant must be assigned to one Home Qualification Area (QA) for the WRTC 2030 qualification cycle. The Home QA normally corresponds to the applicant's **genuine and principal place of residence**.

Applicants may participate in qualifying events from other QAs without changing their Home QA, subject to the applicable Outside-QA scoring limitations.

In exceptional circumstances, an applicant with a substantial and continuing connection to another QA may request recognition of that area as an Alternate Home QA, subject to prior approval by the WRTC OC.

These provisions are intended to ensure that applicants compete for Team Leader positions within an appropriate geographic area and to prevent changes of QA affiliation made primarily to obtain a competitive advantage.

Three types of QA assignment or operation are recognized:

- **Home QA:** The primary region where the applicant legally resides and competes for qualification under standard rules.
- **Outside-QA Operation:** A temporary operation where the applicant submits a contest score from a different QA, while continuing to compete for a Team Leader position within their designated Home QA.
- **Alternate Home QA:** An exceptional assignment where an applicant with a valid, ongoing connection to a different QA receives formal, advance approval from the WRTC OC to permanently shift their qualification efforts to that alternate QA.

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

A. Definition of Home QA

The Home QA is normally the Qualification Area in which the applicant has their primary place of residence and with which they maintain a continuing personal connection. In determining an applicant's Home QA, the WRTC OC may consider where the applicant normally lives, works, studies, maintains their family residence, pays taxes, or otherwise demonstrates an established and continuing physical presence.

Ownership or use of a contest station, possession of an amateur-radio callsign, ownership of property, or occasional contest activity in a QA does not, by itself, establish that QA as the applicant's Home QA.

B. Evidence of Home QA

Applicants must be prepared to provide evidence supporting their claimed Home QA upon request by the WRTC OC and, in any event, no later than acceptance of a WRTC 2030 TL invitation. Acceptable evidence may include, but is not limited to:

- passport or national identity documentation;
- residence registration;
- permanent or temporary residency documentation;
- work or study permits;
- tax records;
- employment or educational records;
- housing or utility documentation; or
- other reliable evidence demonstrating genuine and continuing residence.

No single document is necessarily decisive. The WRTC OC will consider the totality of the evidence available.

C. Provisional QA Assignment

For administrative and score-tracking purposes, the WRTC OC may provisionally assign an applicant to a QA based on the applicant's personal callsign shown in their first submitted qualifying log. This provisional assignment does not establish the applicant's final Home QA and does not override the requirements of this Section 6.1.

If the applicant's actual residence differs from the QA normally associated with their personal callsign, the applicant must notify the WRTC OC.

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

D. Outside-QA Operations

An applicant may operate qualifying events from a QA other than their Home QA. Such an operation will be classified as an **Outside-QA operation** and will not change the applicant's Home QA. The Event Score will be calculated using the rules applicable to the station location from which the qualifying event was operated, including any applicable QA or Sub-Area comparison rules. However, the applicant will remain ranked for TL selection within their approved Home QA.

A maximum of **three (3) Outside-QA Event Scores** may be included among the Event Scores used to calculate an applicant's final Qualification Score. For **Youth TLs**, who may need to relocate more frequently to pursue their studies, a maximum of four (4) Outside-QA Event Scores may be included among their best 6 Event Scores.

E. Notification of Outside-QA Operations

Applicants actively pursuing WRTC qualification are responsible for ensuring that the WRTC OC can correctly identify both the operator and the physical station location for any Outside-QA operation. Where this information cannot be reliably determined from the submitted contest log, the applicant must notify the WRTC OC and provide any additional information requested.

Routine Outside-QA operation does not require prior approval unless the applicant intends to claim that QA as an Alternate Home QA under Section 6.1.F.

F. Alternate Home QA

An applicant who wishes to compete for a TL position in a QA other than their normal Home QA must apply to the WRTC OC for recognition of an **Alternate Home QA**. **Approval of an Alternate Home QA is an exception and is not automatic**. The applicant must demonstrate a substantial and continuing connection with the proposed Alternate Home QA that extends beyond travelling there primarily to participate in WRTC qualifying contests. Relevant evidence may include:

- genuine residence or substantial physical presence in the QA;
- employment, business, educational or close family ties;
- ownership or long-term lease of a residence;
- ownership or long-term operation of a personal amateur-radio or contest station;
- possession of a personal amateur-radio license or callsign issued by the relevant authority;
- regular amateur-radio activity from that QA outside the WRTC qualifying events; or
- other evidence demonstrating a genuine and continuing connection with the QA.

No single factor is automatically sufficient. Ownership of property, access to a contest station, or possession or use of a local callsign alone will not establish eligibility for an Alternate Home QA.

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

G. Minimum Score Requirement for an Alternate Home QA

An applicant approved to represent an Alternate Home QA must include at least five (5) Event Scores earned while operating from that QA among the Event Scores used to calculate their final Qualification Score. Scores earned from other QAs remain subject to the maximum Outside-QA score limitation.

H. Deadline for Alternate Home QA Approval

An applicant seeking recognition of an Alternate Home QA must submit a formal request to the WRTC OC before the 7th qualifying event, the IARU HF Championship 2027. Applicants who know before that date that they intend to seek Alternate Home QA status are expected to notify the WRTC OC as early as possible. Once an Alternate Home QA has been approved, the applicant may not revert to another QA during the same qualification cycle except where a genuine permanent relocation occurs and the WRTC OC approves the change. The WRTC OC will review the request and issue a decision. Any approved Alternate Home QA assignment that affects the published qualification standings will be publicly identified.

An applicant who fails to request approval within the required period may not later claim an Alternate Home QA solely based on qualification results or competitive advantage.

I. No Retrospective QA Selection

An applicant may not select or change their Home QA retrospectively based on:

- the relative strength of competition in different QAs;
- published qualification standings;
- the number of available TL positions; or
- the likelihood of qualifying for WRTC 2030.

J. Genuine Change of Residence During the Qualification Period

If an applicant genuinely changes their principal residence from one QA to another during the qualification period, the applicant must notify the WRTC OC as soon as possible. The WRTC OC will determine the applicant's Home QA after considering:

- the effective date of relocation;
- the duration and permanence of the move;
- documentary evidence of the new residence;
- the applicant's qualifying operations before and after the move; and
- whether the relocation represents a genuine change of residence rather than a change made primarily for WRTC qualification purposes.

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

The WRTC OC will determine which QA the applicant will represent for TL selection and how previously earned Event Scores will be treated.

K. DXCC Entity Limit for TL Selection

For purposes of the DXCC entity limit applicable to Team Leader selection, an applicant will be associated with the DXCC entity corresponding to their approved Home QA status and qualifying identity. DXCC classification for TL selection will not change merely because an applicant earns one or more Outside-QA Event Scores from another DXCC entity.

Where an Alternate Home QA is approved, the WRTC OC will determine the applicant's applicable DXCC entity as part of that approval, and that designation will normally remain fixed for the remainder of the qualification cycle.

L. WRTC OC Determination and Transparency

The WRTC OC will determine Home QA and Alternate Home QA for eligibility in accordance with the criteria specified in this section. In unusual, disputed, or precedent-setting cases, the WRTC OC will consult the WRTC SC before making a final determination. The applicant will be informed of the decision and its principal basis.

Decisions that materially affect the published qualification standings will be made public.

Situation	QA used for TL ranking	Outside-QA score	Prior WRTC OC approval
Operates from Home QA	Home QA	No	No
Temporarily operates from another QA (max. 3 scores)	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

Table 6 - Qualification Area Changes and Approvals

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

Fraudulent Documentation: Any applicant who knowingly submits false or fraudulent documentation regarding residence, station location, licensing, or QA eligibility will be immediately disqualified from participating in WRTC 2030 in any capacity. Such violations will also be reported to the WRTC Sanctioning Committee (SC) for potential disciplinary action regarding future WRTC events.

6.2 Team Leader Selection by Qualification Area

After the final Qualification Scores have been determined, eligible TL candidates will be ranked within their approved Home QA in descending order of Qualification Score.

TL invitations will be issued according to the number of TL positions allocated to that QA, subject to the DXCC entity limits and all other eligibility requirements. Invited TL must respect the date indicated in invitation to respond either accepting or rejecting it.

If the highest score in a QA is exceptionally low or uncompetitive, the WRTC OC reserves the right to withhold the TL invitation, subject to formal review and approval by the WRTC SC.

Scores earned outside the applicant's Home QA do not entitle the applicant to compete for a TL position in the QA where those scores were earned.

Youth Team Leader Qualification: Youth applicants shall have 6 Event Scores calculated under the same rules as regular Team Leader applicants, including the use of the applicable Qualification Area or designated Sub-Area Maximum Score.

Youth Team Leader positions shall then be awarded to the highest-scoring eligible youth applicants worldwide who have not otherwise qualified as regular Team Leaders.

7. Team Mate (TM) Qualification

A TM is selected by the TL and is subject to final approval by the WRTC OC.

- Each TL may select a TM from anywhere in the world.
- TM candidates are subject to the exact same disqualification rules as TL candidates.
- If a selected TM did not submit an application during the initial TL selection phase, they may submit their application once they are chosen by their TL.

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

8. Special Teams

In addition to 50 geographically selected teams through qualifications, the following teams will be invited by the WRTC OC.

Team Name	Number of Teams	Description
Defending Champions	1	WRTC 2026 Champions (DJ5MW, DM5EE)
Wild Card Teams	2	Teams nominated by WRTC 2030 OC
Youth Team	3	Under age 25 at the finish of the first qualifying event
Sponsored Team	4	Teams selected through applications and bidding auction

Table 7 - Special teams

- A. **Youth Team Leaders:** Position will be awarded to the applicant who meets all of the following criteria:
 - was under 25 years of age on 20 December 2026 (finish of the first qualifying event, the 9A DX Contest).
 - Achieved the highest Qualification Score worldwide among eligible youth applicants
 - Did not otherwise qualify for a standard TL position.
- B. **Youth Team Mates:** Youth Qualification Scores are calculated using the exact same methodology as all other applicants. A selected Youth TL must choose another eligible youth operator as their TM, following the standard TM selection procedures, provided the chosen TM also meets the under-25 age requirement.
- C. **Wild Card Teams:** Wild Card entries are reserved at the discretion of the WRTC OC to recognize exceptional operators from the applicant pool who did not otherwise qualify. Wild Card invitations will be issued shortly after the standard TL and TM positions are finalized, which is expected to occur in Autumn 2029.
- D. **Sponsored Teams:** The WRTC OC will open the application process for Sponsored Teams after 1 January 2029. Details regarding the sponsorship process will be published on the official WRTC 2030 website in advance.

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

9. Team Leader/Teammate Withdrawal and Replacement

9.1 Team Mate (TM) Withdrawals

If a confirmed TM is unable to attend WRTC 2030 (due to illness or other reasons) prior to travel, the TL may select a substitute for TM. The substitute TM must meet all standard eligibility requirements and be formally approved by the WRTC OC.

9.2 Team Leader (TL) Withdrawals (Standard Timeline)

If a confirmed TL withdraws or resigns, the resolution procedure is dictated by the date of withdrawal:

- A. **Prior to 1 February 2030:** The WRTC OC will invite the next eligible TL applicant from that QA. The existing TM is given the option to compete with the newly appointed TL or to withdraw. If the TM withdraws, the new TL may select a different eligible TM.
- B. **Between 1 February and 31 May 2030:** Because travel and logistical plans are likely underway, the OC will offer the TL position to the next qualified applicant in that QA with a specific condition: the new TL must invite the originally chosen TM as their first choice. The WRTC OC will require the TM to accept or decline this offer within 7 days. If the TM declines, the new TL is free to select any other eligible TM.
- C. **After 31 May 2030:** The WRTC OC will exercise its sole discretion to resolve the vacancy using one of three methods:
 - Follow the exact process outlined in Section 9.2-B above; or
 - Elevate the existing TM to the position of TL and allow them to choose a new TM (this applies only if the existing TM resides in the same QA as the original TL); or
 - Replace the team entirely with a Wild Card or Sponsored Team.

9.3 TL Withdrawals with No Qualified Replacements

In the rare event that a TL resigns from a QA where there are no other qualified TL applicants available, the WRTC OC reserves the right to exercise one of the following three options:

- Designate the existing TM, if from the same QA, as the new TL and allow them to choose a new TM; or
- Reopen the TL application process for 7 days specifically for that QA, select the highest-scoring valid applicant, and allow them to select a TM; or
- Replace the team entirely with a Wild Card or Sponsored Team.

WRTC 2030 Selection Criteria Rules

9.4 Last-Minute and On-Site Emergencies

If a team member withdraws at the last minute (e.g., a few days before the event) or fails to arrive on-site in Croatia:

- **TL No-Show:** The OC will promote the existing TM to the role of TL if TM is from the same QA. In consultation with the WRTC OC, the new TL will attempt to recruit a replacement TM from the pool of WRTC visitors present on-site. If TM is not from the same QA, WRTC OC will attempt to recruit a TL replacement from the pool of WRTC visitors from the same QA present on-site.
- **TM No-Show:** The TL, in consultation with the WRTC OC, may select a suitable replacement TM from the eligible testers present at the event.

9.5 Special Category Rules

- **Youth Teams:** If a member of a Youth Team withdraws, they shall be replaced by another eligible youth competitor.

10. Financial Implications

The financial impact of any last-minute TL or TM withdrawal will be evaluated by the WRTC OC and resolved strictly in line with the agreements stipulated in the participant's official invitation letter.

11. Questions and Clarifications

Contact Information: Any questions regarding the WRTC 2030 selection criteria or the qualifying process may be submitted via email to rules-wrtc2030@hamradio.hr

Q&A Publication: A dedicated Questions and Answers (Q&A) page will be maintained on the official WRTC 2030 website <https://www.wrtc2030.hr/> to provide public rule clarifications as necessary.

Rule Amendments: The WRTC OC reserves the right to modify the qualification process or rules at any time to correct errors, address unforeseen circumstances, or provide further clarification. All official changes to the Qualification Rules will be promptly announced on the WRTC 2030 website.

Approved By: WRTC Sanctioning Committee

15 October 2026