

SARL Equinox 6m African DX Entity Challenge

1. Aim

- 1.1. To QSO with as many DX entities as possible during a month period around each equinox.
- 1.2. To promote FT8 activity in the 6m band.
- 1.3. To encourage Amateurs to explore the 6m band and propagation characteristics.
- 1.4. To provide opportunities for Amateurs to DX into Africa and the African islands.
- 1.5. Encourage Amateurs to work towards a 6m DXCC.
- 1.6. The Contest is open to all licensed Radio Amateurs worldwide.

2. Dates

Two challenges, each one month long over each equinox:

- 2.1. From 00:01UTC on the 16th March to 23:59 UTC on 15th April.
- 2.2. From 00:01UTC on the 16th September to 23:59 UTC on 15th October.

3. Frequency

FT8 mode on the 6m band.

4. Contacts

- 4.1. Contacts must be two-way point to point. Stations shall exchange signal reports.
- 4.2. Self-spotting and the use of skeds is permitted.

5. Scoring

- 5.1. Two streams will be scored
 - 5.1.1. a QSO stream of all DX entities worked in each leg
 - 5.1.2. a QSL stream of the QSLed DX entities via ARRL LotW in each leg.
- 5.2. Three Categories
 - 5.2.1. **ZS based** - 1 point for each ZS zone, 3 points for each African DX entity (Continent and islands) and 4 points for each non-African DX entity.
 - 5.2.2. **African DX entity based outside of ZS** - 2 points for each ZS zone, 3 points for each African DX entity (Continent and islands) and 4 points for each non-African entity.
 - 5.2.3. **Based outside of African DX Entities** - 3 points for each African DX entity and 5 points for each ZS zone.

There are 6 active ZS/ZR/ZU zones in South Africa.

African DX Entities are listed as 'Cont=AF' on the ARRL DXCC List available at:

https://www.arrl.org/files/file/DXCC/2022_DXCC_Current.pdf (or later if changed) and also shown at the end of this manual in the African AF DXCC Entity List.

- 5.3. Submitted ARRL LotW QSO reports showing QSO and QSL status of contacts will be used to determine scores.
- 5.4. Each leg will be scored separately. An African DX Entity worked in each of the March equinox and September equinox legs will count in each leg.
- 5.5. 2nd and subsequent QSOs with a DX entity within a leg will be ignored during evaluation.
- 5.6. There will be three results published in each of the QSL and QSO streams:
 - 5.6.1. March equinox leg
 - 5.6.2. September equinox leg
 - 5.6.3. Overall – a contestant's March-April and September-October logs will be combined and scored as per their category.

6. Log Sheets

- 6.1. ARRL LotW 6m QSO report in ADIF format (showing QSOs and their QSL status) for the Contestant's callsign for the month long period of each leg.
- 6.2. The form available at <https://www.rickmurphy.net/lotwquery.htm> can be used to extract 6m QSOs from ARRL LotW over the period of the challenge.
- 6.3. Submission by e-mail of the ADIF log to contest@sarl.org.za within 45 days after the last day of each leg – by 31 May and 30 November respectively.

7. Prizes, Awards and Certificates

- 7.1. Certificates will be issued by category for the first three places in each stream in each leg and overall.
- 7.2. Participants will be given a pdf participant certificate.