Africa FT4 DX Contest



1. Aim

1.1. To promote digital DX activity in Africa.

1.2. Provide opportunities for Amateurs to use the FT4 digital mode.

1.3. Contribute to the SARL All Africa Awards.

1.4. The DX Contest is aimed at all licensed Radio Amateurs in the countries in Africa and the Indian Ocean and Atlantic Islands close to Africa. A separate category is available to non-African contestants.

2. Dates and Times

2.1. 15:00 to 18:00 UTC on 2nd Saturday of April - 10 April 2027

2.2. 15:00 to 18:00 UTC on 2nd Saturday of September - 11 September 2027

3. Contacts

3.1. Contacts must be two-way point to point.

3.2. Contestants shall exchange signal reports as well as their four-digit maidenhead grid locator using the FT4 mode.

3.3. Self-Spotting will be allowed, eg you may announce that you are calling CQ on air, on a repeater frequency or an internet logger, a cluster or any group. The contact itself or any information related to the contact should be unassisted. No information may be sent between third party stations or by any other medium to assist with completing of the contact.

3.4. Each QSO claimed for competition credit must comply with the rules found under General Rule “5. Contacts” in the SARL Contest Manual.

4. Limitations

4.1. Single Operator FT4 mode.

4.2. Power shall be limited to 100 Watts.

4.3. All radio equipment used by a Contestant shall be on the same premises.

4.4. Fox in Fox & Hound mode or the dedicated Contest formats may not be used.

4.5. Multi-streaming transmission and simultaneous transmission on multiple bands is not allowed ie a station may only QSO with a single other station at any moment.

5. Mode and Frequencies

5.1. Mode: Standard FT4 format will be used as implemented in WSJT-X V2.2.2 or later or the equivalent in JTDX, MSHV. To operate in FT4 switch the Mode to FT4 in the program being used.

5.2. Only one signal may be transmitted by a Contestant at any one time.

5.3. Each exchange shall minimally be a signal strength report and RRR/73/RRR73 in each direction between the two parties.

5.4. Frequencies:

a. Contacts may be made on 80m, 40m and 20m.

b. The recommended dial frequencies will be 3576 kHz (USB) on 80 m, 7047.5 kHz (USB) on 40 m and 14080 kHz (USB) on 20 m –the default FT4 frequencies in WSJT-X.

6. Scoring

6.1. Points

African DXCC based Contestants

FT4 QSO	Points	Limit
Between African DXCC entities	6 Points	none
Within an African DXCC entity	4 Points	none
With any non-African DXCC entity	1 Point	1/3 of the total log items submitted

Non-African DXCC based Contestants

FT4 QSO	Points	Limit
With each African DXCC entity	4 Points	none

6.2. African DXCC Entities are all the DXCC entities in Africa including the Indian and Atlantic Ocean Islands where Africa is the nearest continent. The February 2022 ARRL list of DXCC Entities that are listed as Continent = AF is the definitive list of African DXCC Entities. An extract listing all AF DXCC Entities is available at the end of this document - African AF DXCC Entity List.

6.3. In recognition that contestants may employ a 'search and pounce' method to QSO there will be no penalty if the log does not contain the called party's grid location.

6.4. Each station may work each other station once on each of the 3 bands for points.

7. Log sheets

7.1. The Africa FT4 DX Excel log sheet is available at contest.sarl.org.za.

7.2. ADIF and Cabrillo format log files may be submitted.

7.3. The WSJT-X ADIF log file (see program documentation for the location of the .adi file) can be converted to excel format using the ADIF to excel convertor spreadsheet available on the SARL site. Alternatively, loggers like Log4OM have an CSV/excel export capability.

7.4. Log sheets to be uploaded at https://mysarl.org.za/contests/uploads.php after the contest ends or during the 5 days thereafter.

8. Awards

8.1. A certificate will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the competition for African based and Non-African based contestants respectively. Certificates of participation will be given to each contestant that has logged a minimum of 5 African DXCC Entity stations. Certificates will be in pdf format.

9. Sponsor club – West Rand Amateur Radio Club (contest@zs6wr.co.za)