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 (1 through 6).

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. Upload the ADIF file at https://mysarl.org.za/contests/uploads.php 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, on application, by category for the first three places in each stream in each leg and overall.

7.2. Participants, on application, will be given a pdf participant certificate.