SARL National Field Day

1. Aim

To work as many stations in the Southern African SADC region as possible on all the HF amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17 and 12 m bands). In doing so, to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less-than-optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.

The focus of National Field Day is QSOs with SADC based stations, QSOs with stations outside the SADC region score less points.

To encourage General Stations to participate and contact field stations a specific award of Field Station Master Contactor will be made to General Stations that contact all the field stations listed in the 'Friday List' (per leg and overall).

2. Date and Times

2.1. 08:00 UTC on Saturday 13 March to 10:00 UTC on Sunday 14 March 2027 (2nd full weekend of March)

2.2. 08:00 UTC on Saturday 4 September to 10:00 UTC on Sunday 5 September 2027 (1st full weekend of September)

3. Frequencies and Modes

3.1. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m.

3.2. The segment from 7 100 to 7 130 kHz is contest free

3.3. The segment from 3 651 to 3 699 kHz is contest free

3.4. The modes that may be used are Phone and CW.

3.4.1. Phone and CW modes on a band are considered as separate bands.

3.4.2. A station / call sign may be worked only once per band under this rule.

4. Entry Categories

4.1. Class A – Field Station, Multi operator. Stations must be located in places that are not regular station locations and must comply with the requirements of a Field Station and Station Equipment as defined in the general section of rules. A single licensee or trustee for the entry is responsible for the group entry under a single callsign. All equipment (including antennas) must lie within a circle whose radius does not exceed 500 metres. All contacts must be made with transmitter(s) and receiver(s) operating independent of mains power.

Class A Overlay – Single Transceiver station. Determined from a station's given exchange.

4.2. Class B – Field Station, Multi operator, QRP. All contacts must be made using an output power of 5 Watts or less. Other provisions are the same as Class A.

4.3. Class C – Field Station, Single Operator. Stations must be located in places that are not regular station locations and must comply with the requirements of a Field Station and Station Equipment as defined in the general section of rules. All equipment (including antennas) must lie within a circle whose radius does not exceed 500 metres. All contacts must be made with transmitter(s) and receiver(s) operating independent of mains power.

4.4. Class D – Field Station, Single Operator, QRP. All contacts must be made using an output power of 5 Watts or less. Other provisions are the same as Class C.

4.5. Class E – Ultra Light Portable Field Station. Light weight self-contained stations, operating QRP or low power. The operator must carry (port) the entire station, antenna included, to the operating site. The distance carried must not be less than 1 km.

4.6. Class F – Multi Call Sign Station. New 2027 - Stations must be located in places that are not regular station locations and must comply with the requirements of a Field Station and Station Equipment as defined in the general section of rules. Each operator must use their own callsign, no club or group call signs allowed and no operator may operate using another operator's callsign, each operator must submit their own callsign's log. All equipment (including antennas) must lie within a circle whose radius does not exceed 500 metres. All contacts must be made with transmitter(s) and receiver(s) operating independent of mains power.

4.7. Class G – General Stations. Stations operating from permanent or licensed station locations using mains power.

5. Call signs

5.1. Only one call sign per station is permitted, except Class F.

5.2. In the case of multi-operator stations using more than one transmitter, all operators shall use the same call sign, except Class F.

5.3. Class A to F stations, if mobile, must sign with the suffix /m. For this contest a station is considered as mobile if it is moving or can be driven away from or moved/walked away from its station location without disconnecting itself from an erected antenna and or station ground. If the mobile station is out of its 'home zone' it must include the zone as well eg /m5.

6. Establishment of Stations

Equipment for Field Stations may only be set up in the 24 hours prior to the starting time of the contest. This restriction applies to antennas, masts, towers and transmitting equipment, but excludes accommodation such as a caravan or tent. Once a Field Station has been established at a site, it may not move to an alternative site after the contest starts, excluding Class E stations.

Those operating field stations (Class A-F) should send their call sign, grid square and station class to contest@sarl.org.za by the Wednesday evening before each National Field Day weekend. The SARL Contest Working Group will publish a list of the notified field station call signs, grid squares and classes on the Contest Information WhatsApp group on the Friday before the start of the field day weekend. This is intended for use by General Stations when chasing field stations.

7. Exchange

7.1. The number of transmitters, the Field Day operating class and the Provincial or Country abbreviation.

7.2. Examples – A three-transmitter Class A Field Station in North-West would send "3ANW"; a general station using a single transceiver located in Cape Town would give the following exchange "1GWC;" A station in Lesotho (for example) will send 2ALS or 1GLS.

7.3. All DX stations (outside the SADC) are logged as "1GDX".

7.4. Each QSO claimed for competition credit must comply with the rules found under General Rule "5. Contacts".

8. Scoring

8.1. Scores are based on the total number of QSO points x the power multiplier x the number of provinces worked x the class multiplier.

8.2. QSO Points:

8.2.1. Class G to Class G – 1 point

8.2.2. Class A – F: QSO with Class G in SADC area – 3 points

8.2.3. Class A – F: QSO with any station outside SADC area – 1 point

8.2.4. Class A – F: QSO with Class A – F stations in SADC: 6 points

8.2.5 Class G: QSO with Class A – F stations in SADC: 3 points

8.2.6 Class G: QSO with any station outside SADC: 1 point

8.2.7 Each station may be contacted only once per band ie once per mode per band.

8.3. Power multipliers (for Class A to F):

8.3.1 Power 5W or less x 6

8.3.2 Power 50W or less x 4

8.3.3 Power 100W or less x 2

8.3.4 Power greater than 100W x 1

8.3.5 The power multiplier for an entry is determined by the maximum output power used by any transmitter used to complete any contact during the event.

8.3.6 Class G power multiplier is x 1 irrespective of the power emitted.

8.4. Class multiplier

8.4.1 Class G: General stations, class multiplier of 1

8.4.2 Class A – D and F: Field stations single and multi, class multiplier of 3

8.4.3 Class E: Field Station multiplier of 4

8.5. Provinces worked multiplier

A multiplier of two (2) for each one of the South African provinces, neighbouring SADC countries and DX worked – regardless of band.

EC – the Eastern Cape
FS – the Free State
GP – Gauteng
KN – KwaZulu-Natal
LP – Limpopo
MP – Mpumalanga
NC – the Northern Cape
NW – North-West
WC – the Western Cape
AO – Angola
AQ – SANAE Base
BW – Botswana
CD – Democratic Republic of Congo
KM – Comoros
LS – Lesotho
MG – Madagascar
MI – Marion Island
MW – Malawi
MU – Mauritius
MZ – Mozambique
NA – Namibia
SC – Seychelles
SZ – eSwatini
TZ – United Republic of Tanzania
ZM – Zambia
ZW – Zimbabwe
DX stations – DX (outside the SADC)



8.6. DX Stations - To qualify to enter this contest an entrant's log must contain at least one QSO where one of the parties to that QSO is operating from a location within the SADC area (all the entries in the table above, except DX) ie you must have a QSO with a SADC based station in your log.

8.7. 50 bonus points for submitting photographs of amateur radio in action – eg people operating the radio, erecting antennas. A photo of your rig does not qualify.

9. Miscellaneous Rules

9.1. A person may not contact for QSO credit any station from which they also participate.

9.2. Class A-F station batteries may be charged while in use. The batteries must be charged from a power source other than mains power.

9.3. There is no limitation to the number of transmitters or receivers that may be deployed. The use of more than one transmitter at the same time on a single band is prohibited.

9.4. This contest may not be combined with any other activity such as, but not limited to, SOTA, POTA or HOTA activations.

10. Log Sheets

10.1. Logs in Excel or Cabrillo shall be uploaded after the contest ends or during the 5 days thereafter. Upload logs at https://mysarl.org.za/contests/uploads.php. When uploading a log and any accompanying photos and files, these must all be zipped into a single file that is then uploaded.

10.2. The Cabrillo file must carry the required header information and exchanges as per the SARL Cabrillo specification.

10.3. The Excel log sheet is available at contest.sarl.org.za

10.4. Each station log for all Class A through F stations **must** be accompanied by photographs showing the station itself in a way that demonstrates that the class of station was achieved. Photographs showing items such as the radios, the structures in which operation was performed, generators, batteries, solar panels, team/person/persons operating the radio/s, the antennas used and the surroundings of the station. **Failure to provide these photograph/s** will result in the log being evaluated as a Class G station.

11. Certificates

Certificates will be issued, on application, for:

11.1. The first three places in Class A-F for each category and leg of the contest.

11.2. Class A-F Participation each leg of the contest.

11.3. General Station participation in each leg of the contest.

11.4. General Stations that manage to contact all the field stations listed in the ‘Friday List’ will each receive a Field Station Master Contactor award (per leg and overall).