

Pennsylvania QSO Party 2018 Rules

1. Purpose of the QSO Party

- 1.a. Pennsylvania amateurs operating in the State of Pennsylvania, without regard to the amateur's home address, contact as many other amateurs in Pennsylvania, the United States, Canada, and the world.
- 1.b. Non-Pennsylvania Amateurs try to contact as many Pennsylvania Amateurs as possible.

2. Operating Periods

- 2.a. 1600Z October 13 to 0500Z October 14, and 1300Z October 14 to 2200Z October 14, 2018.

3. Bands

- 3.a. QSOs are permitted on all ham band allocations authorized by station licensee, including 630m and 2200m and any VHF/UHF/Microwave frequencies, except as noted below in Section 3.b. Primary activity for the PA QSO Party has typically been on 160m, 80/75m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m, 6m, and 2m.
- 3.b. QSOs are **not** permitted on the WARC bands (12m, 17m, 30m or 60m).
- 3.c. QSOs are **not** permitted via repeaters, satellites, EchoLink, IRLP, or similar VoIP services.

4. Suggested Frequencies

- 4.a. **Phone:** SSB - 1.850, 3.825, 7.200, 14.280, 21.380, 28.480, 50.125, 144.210 MHz. FM - 146.55 MHz.
- 4.b. **CW:** 40 KHz up from the bottom of the band and 1810 KHz.
- 4.c. **Digital:** PSK - 3.580, 7.070, 14.070, 21.080, 28.120, 50.290 MHz. RTTY - 3.580, 7.080, 14.080, 21.080, 28.080 MHz.
- 4.d. **160m High Activity:** 0300Z Sunday (Saturday night EST).
- 4.e. **Other High Activity Periods (Sat and Sun):** 10M – 1800Z, 15M – 1900Z, 20M – 2000Z, SSB on the hour, CW on the half hour.
- 4.f. **Mobile Window:** 5 – 15 KHz below listed suggested frequencies. Keep this area clear for mobiles.

5. Exchange / QSO

- 5.a. Sequential serial number plus PA county, ARRL section, Canadian section, or "DX". Serial numbers may be sent out of order due to software reservation systems. It is important to log the serial number that was sent. Do not send the same serial number to multiple stations.
- 5.b. Logged exchanges must conform to the specified Pennsylvania County or the ARRL/Canadian section abbreviations listed below. The PA County abbreviations are listed at the following URL: <http://paqso.org/pa-cntys-arrl-sects.html>. NV QSO party county abbreviation exchanges are accepted.
- 5.c. Multi-stations can send QSO number by band.
- 5.d. Work stations once per band and mode.
- 5.e. Work Rovers and Mobiles again when they change counties.
- 5.f. Log QSO time / date in GMT.

6. Scoring QSO Points

- 6.a. CW 2 points/QSO
- 6.b. Digital 2 points/QSO
 - 6.b.1. PSK, RTTY, etc. Any non-CW digital mode allowed per FCC Regulations.
 - 6.b.2. QSOs made using multiple digital modes on the same band only count once.

6.c. Phone 1 point/QSO

6.c.1. SSB, FM, AM, etc. Any voice mode allowed per FCC Regulations

6.c.2. QSOs made using multiple voice modes on the same band only count once.

7. Entry Divisions

- 7.a. Single Op High Power – CW
- 7.b. Single Op Low Power – CW
- 7.c. Single Op QRP – CW
- 7.d. Single Op High Power – Phone
- 7.e. Single Op Low Power – Phone
- 7.f. Single Op QRP – Phone
- 7.g. Single Op High Power – Mixed Mode
- 7.h. Single Op Low Power – Mixed Mode
- 7.i. Single Op QRP – Mixed Mode
- 7.j. Multi Op – High Power
- 7.k. Multi Op – Low Power
- 7.l. Multi Op – QRP
- 7.m. Portable – Single Op (In-State Only)
- 7.n. Portable – Multi Op (In-State Only)
- 7.o. Rover – Single Op (In-State Only)
- 7.p. Rover – Multi Op (In-State Only)
- 7.q. Mobile – Single Op (In-State Only)
- 7.r. Mobile – Multi Op (In-State Only)
- 7.s. County Line – Single Op (In-State Only)
- 7.t. County Line – Multi Op (In-State Only)

All power levels are defined as the output power of the transmitter and do not include losses of filters, feedlines, switches, etc.

Power category is defined by the highest power used for any of the contacts during the Party. Power levels are defined as follows:

High Power: greater than 150 Watts up to legal limit

Low Power: greater than 5 Watts up to 150 Watts

QRP: 5 Watts maximum

8. Station Definitions & Log Submissions

- 8.a. A Home Station is a station that is operated from a fixed position. It does not need to be a domicile. Club Stations are considered home stations. Cabrillo files with Category-Station set to **FIXED** will be assigned to the Entry Categories 7.a through 7.l above
- 8.b. A Portable Station is a station that is set up in a single county for the QSO party with the intention of tear-down post party. Typical portable station would be operation from a camp cabin, recreational vehicle, or tent. Antennas or power source is not restricted. A Portable Station that submits QSO's in more than one county will be changed to the County-Line entry class. Cabrillo files with Category-Station set to **PORTABLE** will be assigned to the Entry Category of Portable.
- 8.c. Mobile Station is a station that is capable of operation in motion with antennas generally accepted as mobile antennas. Mobile stations are not required to operate while in motion but must operate within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This does not exclude mobile operation outside of Pennsylvania. It means that outside of the commonwealth, there are no mobile bonuses available, so no need for the designation. A Mobile Single-Op station is one single operator, while a Mobile Multi-Op Station is an operator plus a driver, who is either only driving or another operator. A Mobile Station does not operate as a County-Line station (multiple county exchanges per QSO). Mobile stations submit a single Cabrillo 3.0 log combining all of the counties operated. Cabrillo files with Category-Station set to **MOBILE** will be assigned to the Entry Category of Mobile.
- 8.d. A Rover Station is a station that is capable of moving from one place to another, but is typically using an antenna that is set up on site, then torn down and moved to another site. Rovers do not operate as a mobile in

route between locations. A Rover Station does not operate from or as a County-Line station (multiple county exchanges per QSO). Rover stations must travel 5 miles or more between stops to be eligible for the 500 point bonus. Rover stations submit a single Cabrillo 3.0 log combining all of the counties operated. Cabrillo files with Category-Station set to **ROVER** will be assigned to the Entry Category of Rover.

- 8.e. A County Line station position is situated very near the boundaries of at least two or more adjacent counties. Ideally an antenna should cross the boundary but this is not always practical because many boundaries are in the middle of rivers or highways. The station must be set up as near as practical to the adjacent borders and is fixed for the entire QSO Party. County Line stations may be a Home Station. Party officials are available to determine admissibility of any county line station setup. A County Line station sends a single report with the multiple county abbreviations (CAR/LEH). The County Line and receiving station logs a QSO for each county. Both stations receive QSO points for each QSO entry. If possible, the County line station should log these QSO's with the serial number as sent. There may be small differences in the sent and received serial number due to differences in logging programs or the automatic expansion of county line compound exchanges into separate QSO's. This is acknowledged and accepted. Mobile, Rover, and Bonus stations are not eligible to be a County Line station. Note: The Cabrillo Standard does not include a station category for County Line but it can be determined with the existing options. If the Category-Station is not MOBILE or **ROVER** and there are multiple sent counties in the file, the Entry Category will be assigned to County Line. The Category-Operator selection will determine Single or Multi Operator.

9. Multipliers and Scoring

- 9.a. In-State Multipliers: ARRL Sections + Canadian Sections + PA Counties + 1 DX.
- 9.b. Out-of-State Multipliers: 67 PA Counties.
- 9.c. Final Score: Total points times Total Multipliers + Bonus Station Points + other Bonus Points
- 9.d. QRP Operation Multiplier: Multiply QSO Points times 2.
- 9.e. PA Mobile and Rover Bonus: Add 500 Points to final score for each PA County you operated from where you made at least 10 valid QSOs.
- 9.f. Accepted abbreviations for PA Counties and ARRL/Canadian Sections are listed on the PA QSO Party website at the following address: <http://paqso.org/pa-cntys-arrl-sects.html>
- 9.g. The PA QSO Party Association will use the Cabrillo file to adjudicate and rescore the log to determine the final results.

10. Bonus Station

- 10.a. The PA QSO Party will at its discretion have a special Bonus Station during the Party.
- 10.b. The Bonus Station may consist of a single station or multiple stations in different counties as approved by the party administrator. Bonus Stations use unique base call sign by county. Bonus Stations may not operate as Mobile, Rover, or County Line station.
- 10.c. Valid QSOs with the bonus station are worth 200 points plus a possible county multiplier.
- 10.d. The Bonus Station for the 2018 PAQSO Party is N3LI operated by the Nittany Amateur Radio Club who previously sponsored the PA QSO Party for many years and especially honoring Michael Coslo, N3LI, who was the previous PA QSO Party Chairman for many years.
- 10.e. If a group or club wishes to be considered for a particular year's Bonus station, they should contact the PA QSO Party Association to indicate their interest, and then to prepare an Operation Plan for the proposed Bonus Station.
- 10.f. There are often several groups applying for the bonus station every year. By the very nature of a bonus station, we can select only one. There have been times in the past, when people or groups, not selected, have become so upset that they have boycotted the party because of it. Please do not do that. The decision is very difficult, there is no reason to make it more so. If not being chosen as the bonus station will cause you to become so angry with the administrators of the party that you refuse to participate, reconsider the application.

- 10.g. Bonus Stations provide a service to the PA QSO Party and have an advantage competing on a level playing field. Therefore, Bonus Stations are not eligible for awards or records. They are also not eligible for first place in a county if there is other activity from that county.

11. Entry Materials and Log Submission Deadline

- 11.a. Entry materials consist of an electronically submitted Cabrillo 3.0 format log. It is the participants' responsibility to submit a log that conforms to this format. A Summary Sheet is not required. The Cabrillo header matrix which determines the Entry Division can be found here: <http://paqso.org/pa-qso-party-rules.html>. Check your Cabrillo file header. Cabrillo log files are to be sent to the following email address: logs@paqso.org. Place your entry Callsign and Entry Division in the subject line or email body. US & VE out of state participants should add their ARRL Section.
- 11.b. Paper logs or logs in formats other than Cabrillo 3.0 **will not be accepted**. If you do not have your log in this format, a website exists that allows for log entry to create a Cabrillo 3.0 file. The website is: http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/paqp_cab3.php/
- 11.c. Received logs will be acknowledged with an email and the "Received Logs" web page will be periodically updated. If you emailed a log and do not receive an acknowledgment in a week, contact us.
- 11.d. Submitted score is not important. All submissions will be adjudicated and rescored by the PA QSO Party Association. The Cabrillo header will be used to determine the Entry Class. The sent QSO information will be used for station location. The QSO Lines are parsed on white space, therefore column alignment is not important. The entry class, station location and raw QSOs determined from the file will be included in the acknowledgment summary file.
- 11.e. Cabrillo 3.0 files from the NV QSO party containing NV QSO Party county abbreviations are accepted and rescored to the PA QSO Party rules.
- 11.f. **Log submission deadline is 30 days after the contest.**

12. Party Communications

- 12.a. Use the regular email addresses for the party (but not for sending logs): info@paqso.org
- 12.b. Do NOT send communications to the PA QSO Party log submission address. This email address is set up exclusively for logs.
- 12.c. The e-mail reflector and Facebook Page (see below in Miscellaneous) are not intended as receptacles for Party communications, just another avenue to disseminate info. The web site is the official source, located here: <http://paqso.org>

13. Donations

- 13.a. We are a small organization running a big QSO Party, donations are of greater importance to help keep the Party running. Donations are always welcome to help defray costs for the webpage, printing, and award mailing costs, etc. Donations may be sent through our website securely using PayPal with any major credit card.
- 13.b. Sponsored plaques and awards require sponsor donations.

14. Awards

- 14.a. The award information for the PA QSO Party is located here: <http://paqso.org/awards-certificates.html>
- 14.b. A minimum of 25 valid QSO's are required for certificates or plaques. This also applies to mobile or rover operators qualifying for an award.

15. Canadian Abbreviations

- 15.a. The 12 Canadian Sections and the official abbreviations:
- 15.a.1. Maritime Provinces MAR (incl. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick & Prince Edward Island)

15.a.2.	Newfoundland/Labrador	NL
15.a.3.	Quebec	QC
15.a.4.	Ontario East	ONE
15.a.5.	Ontario North	ONN
15.a.6.	Ontario South	ONS
15.a.7.	Greater Toronto Area	GTA
15.a.8.	Manitoba	MB
15.a.9.	Saskatchewan	SK
15.a.10.	Alberta	AB
15.a.11.	British Columbia	BC
15.a.12.	Northern Territories	NT (incl. Yukon/Northwestern Territories & Nunavut)

16. Pre-Party Net

- 16.a. To check on Party activity regarding mobiles, portables, rovers and general information, there will be a net on the Friday evening prior to the Party. This year that will be Saturday, October 13, at 0000Z (Friday night at 8 PM EST) on 3.910 LSB +/-.

17. Miscellaneous

The PAQSO Website is located at: <http://www.paqso.org>

This is the source for additional information including logging programs, county information, abbreviations, and the QSO Party history.

The PAQSO Party reflector – To subscribe, send a two word message “subscribe paqso” to majordomo@QTH.net Note: the PAQSO Party reflector is *not* administered by the Pennsylvania QSO Party Association.

The PA QSO Party has a Facebook page. It is a closed group but we look forward to seeing photos, videos and stories as well as plans posted to the group. Join the group and like us at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/934306010029725/>

Log submissions: logs@paqso.org

PA QSO Party Information & Publicity for any comments, suggestions, or queries:

Anthony “Goody” Good, K3NG, info@paqso.org

Mailing address: PA QSO Party Association
PO Box 260
New Berlinville, PA 19545-0260

Note: The above address may be updated, check the PA QSO Party’s website home page.

The PA QSO Party Association (PA QSO PA), its Officers, Board of Directors, and members assume no liability or responsibility for any injury or harm (including death) to any person or property as a result of participating in the Pennsylvania QSO Party or any other activities of the PA QSO PA.

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Change Log for the PA QSO Party Rules

1. QSO Time & Date indicated in GMT
2. Cabrillo file will be adjudicated & rescored by the PA QSO Party Association.
3. Logs need to be submitted in Cabrillo 3.0 format.
4. Sent QSO info will be used for station location, entry class, etc.
5. Exchanges from NV QSO Party will be accepted.
6. Multi-stations can send QSO number by band.
7. Unique bonus stations base callsign by county.
8. Bonus stations are not allowed to operate as Rover, Mobile or County Line.
9. RTTY & PSK combined into one Digital Mode.
10. Phone combines SSB & FM, and may also include AM.
11. County Line stations are fixed for the entire QSO Party.
12. Assign QSO points to every county line QSO for both stations.
13. Mobile and Rover submit a single Cabrillo Log File.
14. Eliminated VE1, VE2, etc. in the Canadian abbreviation section.
15. Spotting networks, self-spotting, skimmer, and spectrum scopes are allowed in all categories.
16. Remove specific awards and plaques from the rules and point to where the awards/plaques offered can be found.
17. Awards & certificates moved to separate documents and placed on the website.
18. Entry Classes revised, power measured at the transmitter output.
19. Contact information & log submission updated
20. Use of all authorized amateur bands (except WARC) is allowed.
21. Mobile suggested frequency change to 5-15 kHz.
22. Added a minimum of 25 QSO's for certificates and awards, including mobile & rover single county awards.
23. Combined Mobile and Rover bonus points topics into the Multipliers & Scoring section.
24. Edited the wording in the Purpose of the Party.
25. Removed the Suggested Programs list. This information is on the website.
26. Sept 6: Improved the Sent exchange line to: Sequential serial number plus PA County, ARRL section, Canadian section, or "DX".
27. Sept 9: Added log submission deadline, 11.f. Added liability disclaimer.
28. Sept 16: In section 11.a, added text for the email subject line and a reference to the Cabrillo header Entry category matrix.
29. Sept 17: Corrected an error in 11.e. The Cabrillo files may contain NV county abbreviations.
30. Sept 27: Updated mailing address.