

# Pennsylvania QSO Party 2020 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. For the year 2020: 1600Z (1200EDT) October 10 to 0500Z (0100EDT) October 11, and 1300Z (0900EDT) October 11 to 2200Z (1800EDT) October 11.

## 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. DELETED
- 4.d. 160m High Activity: 0300Z Sunday (Saturday night 2300EDT).
- 4.e. Other High Activity Periods (Sat and Sun): 10M - 1800Z (1400EDT), 15M - 1900Z (1500EDT), 20M - 2000Z (1600EDT), 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 or skipped due to software serial number reservation systems. It is important to correctly record the serial number that was sent and correctly copy the serial number received from the other station.
- 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: <https://paqso.org/pa-cntys-arrl-sects.html>.
- 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.

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- 5.g. **Accurate logging is important.** Accurate QSO time, date, sent serial number, and band/mode are as important as the received QSO exchange. QSO points may be lost for inaccuracies or errors in any portion of the QSO line.

## 6. Scoring QSO Points

- 6.a. CW: 2 points/QSO
- 6.b. DELETED
- 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 High Power (In-State Only)
- 7.n. Portable – Single Op Low Power (In-State Only)
- 7.o. Portable – Single Op QRP (In-State Only)
- 7.p. Portable – Multi Op High Power (In-State Only)
- 7.q. Portable – Multi Op Low Power (In-State Only)
- 7.r. Portable – Multi Op QRP (In-State Only)
- 7.s. Rover – Single Op (In-State Only)
- 7.t. Rover – Multi Op (In-State Only)
- 7.u. Mobile – Single Op (In-State Only)
- 7.v. Mobile – Multi Op (In-State Only)
- 7.w. County Line – Single Op (In-State Only)
- 7.x. County Line – Multi Op (In-State Only)

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## 8. Power Categories

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:

- 8.a. High Power: greater than 150 Watts up to legal limit
- 8.b. Low Power: greater than 5 Watts up to 150 Watts
- 8.c. QRP: 5 Watts maximum

## 9. Station Definitions & Entry Categories

- 9.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.
- 9.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.
- 9.c. Mobile Station is a station that is capable of operation in motion with antennas generally accepted as mobile antennas. All equipment used for making contacts must be carried and/or towed by the vehicle, including antennas and power sources. 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, but no mobile bonus is allowed for out-of-state mobiles. 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 from a county line. Mobile stations submit a single Cabrillo 3.0 log containing contacts from all counties operated and their scores will be listed in the Mobile category results. In addition, a separate score will be shown for each county operated by the Mobile achieving more than 10 QSOs in that county; this score will be calculated from the QSOs, QSO points, multipliers, and bonus station points earned in each county on a standalone basis.
- 9.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. All equipment used for making contacts must be carried and/or towed by the vehicle, including antennas and power sources. Rovers do not operate as a mobile in route between locations. A Rover Station does not operate from a county line. 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 containing contacts from all counties operated and their scores will be listed in the Rover category results. In addition, a separate score will be shown for each county operated by the Rover achieving more than 10 QSOs in that county; this score will be calculated from the QSOs, QSO points, multipliers, and bonus station points earned in each county on a standalone basis.
- 9.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

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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. County Line station scores will not be included in the individual county score listings of the results write-up. 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.

- 9.f. Multi-Operator stations are stations operated by two or more operators. The operations may occur at a single location or multiple locations. All operators must be located in the same county (PA stations) or section (non-PA stations). Operators must share log data to minimize the potential for duplicate contacts, have only one transmitted signal on any given mode/band combination at a time, submit a single, combined log, use a single call and select one power category corresponding to the highest power used by any of the operators. Multi-stations can send QSO number by band. Multi-op stations at multiple locations may NOT send serial numbers by location; sending the same serial number at multiple locations by band may result in a check log. This definition only applies to the six Multi-Op and Portable entry divisions. All County Line, Mobile, and Rover Multi-Operator divisions must be collocated. The Cabrillo file Category-Operator field should be set to MULTI-OP for all multi-op categories shown in Section 7.

## 10. Multipliers and Scoring

- 10.a. In-State Multipliers: ARRL Sections + Canadian Sections + PA Counties + 1 DX.
- 10.b. Out-of-State Multipliers: 67 PA Counties.
- 10.c. Final Score: Total points times Total Multipliers + Bonus Station Points + other Bonus Points
- 10.d. QRP Operation Multiplier: Multiply QSO Points times 2. Applied only if the entry runs QRP power **AND** enters in a QRP-specific Entry Division or Entry Division that does not have a specified power. In other words, no QRP multiplier is applied to any High or Low Power divisions regardless of actual power used.
- 10.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.
- 10.f. Accepted abbreviations for PA Counties and ARRL/Canadian Sections are listed on the PA QSO Party website at the following address: <https://paqso.org/pa-cntys-arrrl-sects.html>.
- 10.g. The PA QSO Party Association will use the Cabrillo file to adjudicate and rescore the log to determine the final results.

## 11. Bonus Station

- 11.a. The PA QSO Party will at its discretion have a special Bonus Station during the Party.

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- 11.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 a unique base callsign by county. Distributed Multi-Operator Bonus Station operation within the same county must follow the rules of Section 9.f pertaining to distributed multi-operator stations. Bonus Stations may not operate as a Mobile, Rover, or County Line station. The Bonus Station may consist of a single station or multiple stations in different counties as approved by the party administrator.
- 11.c. Valid QSOs with the bonus station are worth 200 points plus a possible county multiplier.
- 11.d. The Bonus Stations for the 2020 PAQSO Party are K3MJW and W8XK operated by the Skyview Radio Society.
- 11.e. DELETED
- 11.f. DELETED
- 11.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.

## 12. Entry Materials and Log Submission

- 12.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 matrix which determines the Entry Division can be found here: <https://paqso.org/pa-qso-party-rules.html>. **Check your Cabrillo file header and be sure to include a valid email address.** Cabrillo log files are to be uploaded at the following web page: <https://paqso.org/log-submission.html>. Fill in all required information, check appropriate categories, and select log file to upload.
- 12.b. **Paper logs or logs in formats other than Cabrillo 3.0 will not be accepted.**
- 12.c. Uploaded logs appear immediately in the "Uploaded Logs" database. Received logs will appear in the "Received Logs" web page which will be periodically updated as the uploaded logs are processed. If you uploaded a log and do not see your call in the Received Logs on the next update, contact us.
- 12.d. Submitted score is not important. All submissions will be adjudicated and rescored by the PA QSO Party Association. The entered information 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. EPA and WPA multipliers are automatically added during the rescore process – there is no need to enter them.
- 12.e. DELETED
- 12.f. **Log submission deadline is 7 days after the contest.**

## 13. Party Communications

- 13.a. Use the regular email addresses for the party (but not for sending logs):  
[info@paqso.org](mailto:info@paqso.org)
- 13.b. DELETED

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13.c. The e-mail reflector and Facebook Page (see below in Section 18) are not intended as receptacles for Party communications, just another avenue to disseminate info. The web site is the official source, located here: <https://paqso.org>

## 14. Donations

14.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.

14.b. Sponsored plaques and awards require sponsor donations.

## 15. Awards

15.a. The award information for the PA QSO Party is located here: <https://paqso.org/awards-certificates.html>.

15.b. A minimum of 25 valid QSO's in the award category are required for certificates or plaques. This also applies to mobile or rover operators qualifying for an award.

15.c. Plaques will only be awarded if there are 2 or more valid entries in the relevant category.

15.d. A plaque will be offered to the entrant with the highest score and a Golden Log. The log must contain a minimum of 100 QSOs. In the event of a tied score, the plaque will go to the log with the highest number of QSOs. Certificates will be sent to all entrants with a Golden Log containing a minimum of 100 QSOs. The Golden Log award is not subject to the restriction of Section 15.c.

15.e. Club Competition

15.e.1. Four plaques will be offered for sponsorship to recognize the highest club aggregate scores, after log checking, based on the number of logs received as follows:

15.e.1.i In-state club – 26 or more logs

15.e.1.ii In-state club – 5 to 25 logs

15.e.1.iii Out-of-state club (US or DX) – minimum of 5 logs

15.e.1.iv Canadian club – minimum of 5 logs

15.e.2. Participants that want to contribute to a club's aggregate score must correctly identify the club's name at the time of log submission.

15.e.3. Participants in single-operator categories may contribute their scores to a single club and must be a member in good standing of the selected club.

15.e.4. Scores from multi-operator categories may be contributed to a single club. At least one participant of the multi-operator effort must be a member in good standing of the selected club.

15.e.5. The combined scores from mobile and rover operations may be contributed to a single club; individual county scores are not eligible for inclusion in a club aggregate score.

15.e.6. The published results will include a list of club aggregate scores. To be listed in the results, a minimum of five logs must be received from a club.

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## 16. Canadian Abbreviations

16.a. The 13 Canadian Sections and the official abbreviations:

- |          |                       |   |
|----------|-----------------------|---|
| 16.a.1.  | Maritime Provinces    | MAR (incl. Nova Scotia & New Brunswick)             |
| 16.a.2.  | Newfoundland/Labrador | NL  |
| 16.a.3.  | Quebec                | QC  |
| 16.a.4.  | Ontario East          | ONE   |
| 16.a.5.  | Ontario North         | ONN   |
| 16.a.6.  | Ontario South         | ONS   |
| 16.a.7.  | Greater Toronto Area  | GTA   |
| 16.a.8.  | Manitoba              | MB  |
| 16.a.9.  | Saskatchewan          | SK  |
| 16.a.10. | Alberta               | AB  |
| 16.a.11. | British Columbia      | BC  |
| 16.a.12. | Northern Territories  | NT (incl. Yukon/Northwestern Territories & Nunavut) |
| 16.a.13. | Prince Edward Island  | PE  |

## 17. Pre-Party Net

17.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 10, at 0000Z (Friday night at 8 PM EDT) on 3.910 LSB +/-.

## 18. Miscellaneous

The PAQSO Website is located at: <https://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](mailto: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/>

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

Anthony “Goody” Good, K3NG, [info@paqso.org](mailto: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*

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*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.
31. April 2, 2019:
  - Changed 11.f Log Submission Deadline.
  - Clarified Mobile scoring in 8.c and Rover scoring in 8.d.
  - Changed 8.c and 8.d to clarify that Mobile and Rover stations do not operate from county lines.
  - Clarified that all antennas, power sources, etc. for Mobile and Rover categories must be transported with the Mobile/Rover station and not be from a fixed station.
  - Added "County Line station scores will not be included in the individual county score listings of the results write-up" to Section 8.e.
  - Changed Title of Sections 8 and 11.
  - Clarified 11.b
  - Added 5.g emphasizing accurate logging.
  - Added additional clarification of 9.d.
  - Clarified 5.a.
  - Removed digital modes. Deleted 4.c and 6.b
32. April 2, 2019: Updated 2. Operating Periods
33. June 12, 2019:
  - Updated Friday night net date in 16.a.

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- Modified 11.1a with "... and be sure to include a valid email address."
  - Removed 11.1e and reference to NV QSO Party in 5.b.
  - Modified 14.b with "... in the award category ..."
  - Bonus Station is TBD in 10.d.
  - Split Portable Single Op and Portable Multi Op categories by power in 7.
  - Added 14.c. to clarify that plaques will only be awarded if there are 2 or more valid entries in the relevant category
34. July 7, 2019:
- Clarified mobile bonus outside of PA in 8.c and deleted last sentence of 8.e for consistency.
  - Deleted 10.e and 10.f.
  - Revised 11.c and 11.d.
35. July 24, 2019:
- Updated 10.d with Bonus Station details.
36. June 1, 2020:
- Updated dates in header, 2.a (2019-2.a), and 17.a (2019-16.a).
  - Added 16.a.13 (added to 2019-15.a) PE section
  - Added 15.d (added to 2019-14) Golden Log award
  - Added 15.e (added to 2019-14) Club Competition
  - Update Log Submissions in 18 (2019-17).
  - Added 9.f (added to 2019-8) and modified 11.b (2019-10.b) to allow distributed multi-op setups.
  - Change 11.d (2019-10.d) to TBD.
37. June 6, 2020:
- Added EDT times to 2.a (2019-2.a), 4.d (2019-4.d), 4.e (2019-4.e), and 17.a (2019-16.a).
  - Updated document font for better electronic readability.
  - Added Section 8 for Power Categories – paragraphs renumbered afterwards. (Paragraph numbering from 2019 is incremented by one for 2019-8 through 2019-17.)
38. June 9, 2020:
- Corrected new paragraph reference in Section 11.b.
  - Clarified Mobile and Rover score reporting in Sections 9.c (2019-8.c) and 9.d (2019-8.d).
  - Deleted Section 13.b (2019-12.b).
  - Section 15.d – clarified that Golden Log plaque does not require a minimum of 2 qualifying entries.
39. July 6, 2020:
- Correlated new paragraph numbers with old (2019 Rules) in Items 36, 37, and 38 of Change Log.
  - Removed log submission reference in Section 18 (2019-17).
  - Removed Prince Edward Island from MAR province in 16.a.1 (2019-15.a.1).
40. August 5, 2020:
- Added 2020 Bonus Stations to 11.d