

ARDF FOR BLIND

RULES

Article 1

The purpose of these rules is to organize the competition in amateur radio direction finding for blind hams so that they independently take part in the search for transmitters, specifically designed for that purpose. These rules must apply to all competitions which are in the HRS ARDF calendar.

Article 2

The competition takes place on the frequency range 3.5 MHz, with respect to the band plan designated by the IARU Region I.

Transmitters are used with power up to 50 mW with a type of emission A1A.

The antenna is vertically polarized and lengths up to 5 meters.

The keying speed of transmitter is at least 50 characters per minute.

Article 3

Competitor and crew member's applications should reach the organizer no later than ten days before start of the competition. The application shall state the required date of birth of participants and membership of the Radio Club or the Association of the Blind.

Article 4

Organizer in consultation with the Commission for the Blind in charge of ARDF determine and announce the names of the main referee, the track referees and referees on the transmitters.

The competition takes place under judicial supervision of the jury which consists of: Main referee, who is also its president, member of the Commission for the Blind, the referees on the track (there should be two to six) and referees at each transmitter.

Article 5

Main referee and organizer of the competition with member of the Commission for the Blind in charge of ARDF before the competition checks competition field (not places where are the transmitters) and informs competitors about competition field status.

For the city, club and championships of the Association of the Blind, this is in charge of Main referee, organizer and blind representative of visiting teams.

Article 6

Half an hour before the competition start there is a draw to determine the starting numbers of competitors (starting sequence).

Article 7

Before competition start, all competitors are leaving their ARDF receivers on the place designated by the organizers.

Article 8

Competitors who are waiting to start are separated from companions and competitors who arrived at the finish.

Article 9

The competitor who waits for start cannot have handheld radio or mobile telephone or on any other way communicate with companions or competitors who have reached the finish, otherwise they will be disqualified.

Article 10

On the competition field without obstacles there are placed three to five small transmitters.

Article 11

All transmitters are transmitting on same frequency one by one.

Article 12

Distance between transmitters is between 50 to 150 meters.

Article 13

Transmitters are transmitting continuously Morse code, one by one. First transmitter transmits a series of letter A (one dot and one dash), second series of letter D (one dash and two dots), third series of letter S (tri dots), fourth series of letter U (two dots and one dash) and fifth transmitter series of letter R (one dot, one dash and one dot).

Article 14

Around each transmitter there is on the ground plastic tape or plaster (or similar) to denote the circle of radius 2.5 meter (diameter of 5 meters) with antenna in the center.

Article 15

Starting position is indicated by a flat piece of plastic tape or plaster (or similar).

Article 16

On a sign of referee on the track, referee at the transmitter turns it on and off.

Article 17

Each competitor's time searching for the transmitter is limited to 10 minutes, if the track length is to 500 meters. In other cases, the organizer with main referee shall set a time limit in accordance to the length of the track.

Article 18

When a competitor is at the starting position, he puts headphones on his ears and turning on the receiver. At the same time starting clock and first transmitter are turned on. Additionally, to handicapped competitor (e.g. without one hand) the referee on the track connecting headset into receiver, tunes the frequency and helps him to put the headphones on his head. Competitor at this moment has 30 seconds to adjust the frequency of receiver and prepare to start. Last 5 seconds starting clock warns competitor to start with audio tone. Referee will shout „GO“, and in that point competitor starts to search for transmitters. In this point time measuring is started.

Another track referee leading next competitor to the starting position immediately after the start of the

previous one.

The track referee is required to announce himself to a competitor who will track.

Article 19

All competitors, regardless of whether they are blind or visually impaired, must wear opaque goggles or a blindfold. The accuracy of goggles or blindfold is checked by main referee before the start.

Article 20

The track referee must follow competitor moving parallel with him at a distance of 1 meter from shoulder to shoulder. A referee shall not walk in front of or behind the competitor.

Article 21

Blind competitor in a wheelchair is pushed by companion who must wear protective glasses. When looking for the transmitter blind competitor gives companion instructions: straight, left, right, a little to the left etc.

Article 22

Time is measured continuously from the moment of the start (starting clock sign) to entering of the circle around the last (finish) transmitter. Main referee must measure lap times of competitors in each transmitter in order to determine results. Time is measured by locking clock.

Article 23

When a competitor enters the marked circle around the transmitter or with foot steps on it, he discovered first transmitter. The track referee stops him with an exclamation: „Stop!“ and touch by hand. At the same time referee on the transmitter turns of discovered transmitter. On the order of the track referee transmitter number two is turned on.

Article 24

The competitor continues to move in the direction of the transmitter number two and when enters the marked circle around the transmitter or with foot steps on it, on order of track referee it is turned off, and referee on third transmitters turns on transmitter three and so on until the last transmitter.

Article 25

In case of receiver's failure, competitor ends competition. Results for that competitor are determined according to number of previously found transmitters. If the competitor did not find first transmitter, main referee could allow him to start with another receiver if it is determined that receiver was broken.

In case of failure of one of the transmitters, the competitor has the right to re-start.

Article 26

When the competitor enters the marked circle of the last (finish) transmitter, locking clock is stopped and achieved time is read. Main referee communicate achieved time to the competitor.

Article 27

The track referee that follows the competitor is not allowed to help him in any way. When competitor enters in circle around the transmitter track referee stops him with an exclamation „STOP!“ and touch him by hand. If the competitor threatened that he stumbles into an obstacle, the referee stops him on the track by hand and with an exclamation „STOP, CORRECTION! “.

If competitor during searching encounters a transmitter that is already discovered, referee stops him on the track with exclamation „STOP! CORRECTION, ANTENNA! “ and has the right to move him two to three steps left or right.

Article 28

President of jury (main referee) must read achieved unofficial results after all competitors finish the event.

Article 29

Competitors ranking is made by achieved time, so, the better competitor is one who needed less time for finding transmitters.

For competitor who has exceeded the time limit, ranking is determined by the number of transmitters found and time achieved for last discovered transmitter.

In addition to the general ranking, there is also separate ranking for following categories: women, juniors (competitor younger than 21 year), seniors (over 21 and younger than 50 years) and veterans (aged 50 and older).

Article 30

In the individual competition, all competitors are entering the general standings. The best three placed competitors in the general standings will receive trophies, while all competitors receive certificates with ranking place.

The top three competitors in categories receive trophies, plaques or medals, while all others receive certificates with ranking place.

Article 31

On HRS national championship and team championship of the Blind „Croatia cup“ will be determined standings in categories of women, juniors, seniors and veterans. At the national championship a club or association can have one or two teams in each category.

In each category the top three teams gets a trophy or plaque and members of team medals.

All teams will receive certificates with ranking place.

On the city, club or blind association championships organizer may allow more than two teams in each category because of the popularization of ARDF among the blind.

On the World or European Championships every national team may have in each category one or two teams.

Article 32

The team consists of at least two and maximum of three competitors. For team ranking calculation into account will be taken two better placed team members.

The team can be mixed (men and women). Such team competes in the men's team category.

The team can be mixed (from various Radio Club or Association of the Blind), but eventually award goes to a club or association of better placed competitor.

Article 33

Any appeal must be made in writing to the President of jury (main referee) within half an hour after the release of unofficial results. Decision of the jury is final.

Article 34

After the time of 30 minutes of the announcement of unofficial results and resolve any complaints, the results become official.

Article 35

Each competitor is competing at their own risk. In case of injury a competitor may not claim compensation from the organizers of the competition.

Article 36

These rules are adopted by the Executive Committee of the Croatian Amateur Radio Association at its meeting held on 13th April 2010.

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