

# 2018 NEBRASKA QSO PARTY RULES

## **NEW THIS YEAR**

- Logs are due sooner than last year, now two weeks after the end of the QSO Party.
- FT8 QSOs are encouraged. For FT8 QSOs only, the exchange is call, s/n, and grid square.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**OBJECTIVE:** Stations outside of Nebraska to work as many Nebraska stations and Nebraska counties as possible. Stations in Nebraska to work everyone.

**DATES/TIMES:** The QSO Party will be held over two days. The first day, Saturday April 21, it will begin at 1300z (8:00 AM CDT Saturday) and end at 0200z Sunday, April 22 (9:00 PM CDT Saturday). On the second day, Sunday April 22, it will begin at 1300z (8:00 AM CDT Sunday) and end at 2200z (5:00 PM CDT Sunday).

**MODES:** Modes are CW, Phone (SSB, AM, FM) and Digital (RTTY, PSK, FT8, and other digital modes).

**EXCHANGE:** For all modes except FT8, stations outside of Nebraska send signal report and State, Canadian Province or DXCC Country (S/P/C), and stations in Nebraska send signal report and county. For FT8 QSOs only, stations exchange s/n (signal to noise) and grid square.

**RECOMMENDED FREQUENCIES OF OPERATION:** On CW, suggested frequencies are +/- 1.805, and on other bands 35+ kHz up from the lower band edge. On Phone suggested frequencies are +/- 1.915; near but not on: 3.865, 7.265, 14.265, 21.365, and 28.465; and 50.175. For FT8, 1.840+, 3.573+, 7.074+, 14.074+, 21.074+, and 28.074+.

All VHF/UHF bands are allowed. WARC band contacts do not count. Please be courteous of stations that may have scheduled operations on the various bands.

**ENTRY CLASS:** There are three classes: Out-Of-State, Nebraska Fixed, and Nebraska Mobile/Portable.

## **SCORING**

**NOTE.** The Summary Sheet (provided separately [www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm](http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm) ) should help guide the scoring that is described below. Summary sheets provided by QSO Party logging software are sometimes not complete.

The Summary Sheets can be downloaded, and filled in using the "Fill&Sign" mode of Adobe Acrobat. Save the "filled-in" form with your call in the file name, and attach it to your email.

**QSO POINTS:** Each unique phone contact is worth 1 point. Each unique CW and digital contact (including FT8) is worth 2 points. Contacts with the same station on different bands are considered unique, and contacts with the same station on the same band but with different modes are also considered unique. QSOs with the same mobile/portable station from different counties are considered unique, even on the same band with the same mode.

## **GEOGRAPHIC MULTIPLIER:**

For stations outside of Nebraska, the multiplier is the total number of Nebraska counties worked plus total number of unique grid squares worked. Count each Nebraska county and grid square only once per contest, regardless of band or mode. The multiplier for out-of-state stations has a maximum of 93 counties and a maximum of 13 grid squares.

For stations in Nebraska (either fixed or mobile/portable) the multiplier is the total number of Nebraska counties worked plus the total number of States/Provinces/Countries (S/P/C) worked plus the total number of grid squares on FT8. The maximum number of states worked is 50, and the maximum number of Canadian providences worked is 13. There is no practical limit on the number of grid squares worked. Count each Nebraska county, each S/P/C, and each grid square only once per contest, regardless of band or mode

For Nebraska mobile/portable stations, calculate the geographic multiplier as above for all QSOs without regard to county of operation, band, or mode.

NOTE. A list of Nebraska County abbreviations is provided on the Chapter 25 page of the QCWA website ([www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm](http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm)). It is the same list used in 2016.

**POWER MULTIPLIER:** For all stations regardless of class/mode, there is a single Power Multiplier based on the maximum transmitted power output used during the QSO Party. If all QSOs are made QRP (5 watts or less) the power multiplier is 4; if less than 150 watts, the multiplier is 2; otherwise the power multiplier is 1.

**BONUS POINTS: All stations of any mode,** either in Nebraska or out-of-state, get a bonus for working NE0QP, the sponsoring club's station. Mobile/Portable stations get a bonus for working NE0QP and for operating from multiple counties.

**A. Bonus for Working NE0QP.** Stations receive a 25 point bonus for each contact with NE0QP on a unique band/mode combination. For bonus scoring purposes, FT8 will be considered a digital station equivalent to PSK, TTY, etc. So a station having FT8 and PSK QSOs with NE0QP on 20m, will be eligible for only one bonus of 25 points for a digital contact on 20m.

**B. Bonus Points for Mobile/Portable Stations.** Mobile/Portable stations operating from Nebraska counties earn a bonus as defined above for working NE0QP, and, an additional bonus of 50 points for each county from which they make at least one QSO.

### **SCORE CALCULATION FOR OUT-OF-STATE AND NEBRASKA ENTRIES**

Step 1. Determine Total QSO Points. First get the total number of unique QSOs for each of the three modes (CW, SSB, All Digital), and for each mode multiply the number of QSOs in that mode by the appropriate mode multiplier (1 for phone, 2 for CW and digital). Add the three numbers to get Total QSO Points.

For Nebraska mobile/portable stations, Total QSO Points are calculated as follows: first add the total number of CW and digital QSOs (both regardless of county) and multiply by two (2x); then add the total number of Phone QSOs (regardless of county).

Step 2. Determine the Geographic Multiplier as described above. For out-of-state stations, this is the number of counties worked plus grid squares. For Nebraska stations it is the sum of NE counties worked, plus S/P/C's worked, plus grid squares worked.

For mobile/portable stations, use the total number of QSOs regardless of the county of operation.

Step 3. Obtain a Subtotal by Multiplying the Total QSO Points times the Power Multiplier times the Geographic Multiplier.

Step 4. Add Bonuses. For all stations, add the appropriate bonus points to the Subtotal (Step 3 above) to get the Final Score.

**MISCELLANEOUS.** Except for FT8, for a QSO to be valid each station must copy the call sign, signal report, and then, either (1) the S/P/C or county if in state, or (2) county if out of state. For FT8 QSOs, each station must copy call sign, s/n, and grid square.

Nebraska Mobile/Portable stations that change counties are considered to be a new station in each county and may be counted again for QSO points and multiplier credit.

Except on FT8, Nebraska Mobile/Portable stations should sign with their [call]/[county]. On FT8, Nebraska stations are encouraged to call CQ using "CQ NQP [call] [grid square]" to identify themselves in the Nebraska QSO Party.

Participants are encouraged to submit their FT8 logs to LoTW.

Nebraska Mobile/Portable stations may operate from county lines.

No cross mode contacts are permitted. No repeater contacts are permitted. All contacts must be simplex.

Known mobile/portable activity or special bonus station activity will be posted before the contest on the club's QCWA website ([www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm](http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm)), or in semi-real time on the NE0QP page of QRZ.com.

Only one transmitter can be transmitting at any one time. Multiple receivers are allowed. Remote operation is allowed but only from the same transmitter site for the entire contest.

**ENTRIES:** Deadline for all entries is May 7, 2018 (two weeks after the contest ends). The deadline will be determined by postmark on letters, or dates on emails.

All entries must contain a completed Summary Sheet and a log with band, mode, date, UTC time, station worked, and exchange sent/received. See the QCWA website, [www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm](http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm) , for a separate file containing a blank Summary Sheet.

Note: For submittals that have five (5) QSOs or less, you may elect to have us calculate your score. Simply request it in your email (or letter) containing the Summary Sheet and log.

Entrants are encouraged to submit an electronic log. For all except FT8 QSOs, only Cabrillo format will be accepted for electronic logs; however, adif files as generated by the WSJT-x program will be accepted for FT8 QSOs. Otherwise submit hand logs. Please submit entry materials in either of two ways:

- (1) By e-mail: Please send the Log and Summary Sheet to [KB0LF@Windstream.net](mailto:KB0LF@Windstream.net) , or,
- (2) By USPS Mail: Please mail the Log and Summary Sheet to:

Fred Eriksen, KB0LF  
500 West Read Street  
Murray, NE 68409

**AWARDS:** All entries will receive a participation certificate. As there have been in previous years, there will be awards and these will be posted separately on [www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm](http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm) .

### **CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:**

Entrants agree to be bound by these rules and their intent, by the regulations of the licensing authority, and by the decisions of the Nebraska QSO Party Committee. Awards may be added or deleted depending on participation. By submitting a log, it is assumed that the entrant certifies that they have abided by all rules and regulations of the contest, and the rules and regulations of their licensing authority.