

2025 SOUTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY RULES (rev. 1.9.25)

1. Objective

For radio amateurs outside the state of South Carolina to contact as many South Carolina stations in as many of the 46 South Carolina counties as possible.

For radio amateurs within the state of South Carolina to contact as many stations as possible.

2. Contest Period

Begins at 1500Z on February 22nd and ends at 0159Z on February 23rd (11 hours total).

3. Bands

The SCQP shall be conducted on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 6 meter bands only.

4. Modes

4.1. Phone

Use "PH" as the mode in the log header and on each contact.

4.2. CW

Use "CW" as the mode in the log header and on each contact.

4.3. Digital

For purposes of the contest, digital modes shall include RTTY, PSK, FT8, FT4 or other Digital modes. You may use "DG" or "RY" as the mode in the log header and on each contact.

4.4. Mixed

Phone, CW and/or Digital contacts are submitted as a single entry. Use "Mixed" as the mode in the log header, but log each contact by the actual mode used (e.g. PH, CW, or RY/DG).

5. Exchange

5.1. South Carolina Stations

Signal report and county abbreviation (see section 14 for county abbreviations).

5.2. USA Stations Outside South Carolina

Signal report and two-letter state abbreviation. **Note that Washington, D.C. is a multiplier for contest purposes.** Puerto Rico, USVI, Guam, and other US territories are considered DX for contest purposes.

5.3. Canadian Stations

Signal report and two-letter province/territory abbreviation.

5.4. DX Stations

Signal report and "DX" (not country).

6. Categories

6.1. Fixed

6.1.1. Single Operator

One person performs all operating and logging functions. Only one (1) transmitted signal on the air at any time. There are no limits on band changes.

6.1.2. Multi-Operator

Those obtaining assistance from another operator or logger. There are no limits on band changes.

6.1.2.1. Multi-Single

Only one (1) transmitted signal on the air at any time.

6.1.2.2. Multi-Multi

More than one (1) transmitted signal on the air at any time. Only one (1) transmitted signal per mode per band.

6.1.3. Fixed Location Definition

All logs submitted for scoring in the Fixed categories must originate from a single fixed location.

6.2. Mobile

6.2.1. Mobile Single

A single mobile or portable station that operates from at least two (2) different South Carolina counties and making at least one (1) contact from each county.

6.2.2. Mobile Multi-Operator

Same as the Mobile Single category but with multiple operators and/or multiple simultaneously operated stations in the vehicle/location.

NOTE: A mobile station may have a non-contest operating driver, for safety, and remain in the Single operator category. However, if the driver operates at any time in the contest, then that Mobile station shall be classified as Multi-Operator.

6.2.3. Expedition

One or more person(s) operating from a temporary, field-day type, stationary location using portable antennas and radios operating from one or more than one county. No permanent antenna structures may be used. Use of trees, buildings, etc., to raise antennas is allowed as long as it is safe to do so and not originally intended for that purpose. Mobile radios, equipment, and antennas installed in, on or attached to a vehicle wholly for mobile operation are not permitted to be used in this category. The vehicle may be used as part of the setup once stopped in the temporary location. All apparatus are to be located in the same location (within a 1000' diameter circle). Expedition stations that choose to move to a new county may work everyone again for QSO credit. If returning to a previously activated county, only new stations, respective of band and mode, not previously worked from there, may be counted as QSO credit. Expedition stations that operate from more than one county will receive a multiplier (ONCE PER MODE PER BAND) for each county activated.

EXPEDITION CATEGORY IS ONLY AVAILABLE FOR SOUTH CAROLINA STATIONS

7. Power

QRP: 5 watts or less.

Low: 100 watts or less.

High: Greater than 100 watts.

8. Entry Category

We utilize the Cabrillo v3 standards for Entry Category. It consists of three “header” items:

CATEGORY-MODE: The category-mode must be one of the following.

SSB | CW | DIGITAL | MIXED

CATEGORY-OPERATOR: The category-operator must be one of the following.

SINGLE-OP | MULTI-OP | CHECKLOG

CATEGORY-POWER: The category-power must be one of the following.

HIGH | LOW | QRP

CATEGORY-STATION: The category-station must be one of the following.

FIXED | MOBILE (EXPEDITION stations use “MOBILE” in Cabrillo log header.)

CATEGORY-TRANSMITTER: The category-transmitter is required for multi-operator entries and must be one of the following.

ONE | TWO | UNLIMITED

9. Scoring

Stations may be worked ONCE per MODE per BAND for QSO Points. For QSOs with SC Mobiles, also per county. There is no partial contact credit.

9.1. QSO Points

9.1.1. PHONE (South Carolina Stations)

Each completed and valid PHONE contact with other South Carolina stations shall count as two (2) points. Each completed and valid phone contact with stations outside of South Carolina shall count as four (4) points.

9.1.2. CW or DIGITAL (South Carolina Stations)

Each completed and valid CW/ Digital contact with other South Carolina stations shall count as two (2) points. Each completed and valid CW/DIGITAL contact with stations outside of South Carolina shall count as four (4) points. Note that for contest purposes, FT8, FT4, PSK, RTTY, JT65 or other digital modes shall be considered equivalent. Thus a FT8/4 and RTTY contact on the same band with the same station is considered a dupe.

9.1.3. PHONE (All Out-Of-State Stations)

Each completed and valid PHONE contact with South Carolina stations shall count as two (2) points.

9.1.4. CW or DIGITAL (All Out-Of-State Stations)

Each completed and valid CW or Digital contact with South Carolina stations shall count as two (2) points. Note that for contest purposes, FT8, FT4, PSK, RTTY, JT65 or other digital modes shall be considered equivalent. Thus a FT8 and RTTY contact on the same band with the same station is considered a dupe.

9.2. Multipliers

Multipliers are counted **ONCE PER MODE PER BAND. (This is a rule change for 2024.)**

9.2.1. SC Stations

1. Each South Carolina county
2. Each USA state including South Carolina and Washington, D.C. When logging other SC stations, enter the SC County as the exchange (**not** SC).
3. Each Canadian Province/Territory.
4. DX contacts count for QSO points only. Enter DX for the exchange.

9.2.2. SC Mobile/Expedition Stations

1. Each South Carolina county
2. Each USA state including South Carolina and Washington, D.C. When logging other SC stations, enter the SC County as the exchange (**not** SC).
3. Each SC county activated. At least one (1) QSO must be made from a county in order for it to count as activated.
4. Each Canadian Province/Territory.
5. DX contacts count for QSO points only. Enter DX for the exchange.

9.2.3. Non-SC Stations

1. Each SC county
2. SC Mobile stations, when they change counties, may be worked as a new station.

9.3. Bonus Stations

Bonus Stations may be worked **ONCE per BAND per MODE** for bonus points. You may work a bonus station more than once per band per mode for additional QSO points and multipliers. You can work mobile Bonus Stations when the mobile station changes counties.

Example: You can work WW4SF/CHAR, WW4SF/GVIL, WW4SF/JASP and WW4SF/HORR on 40m CW, but only the first contact with WW4SF on 40m CW will qualify for Bonus Station points. Likewise for all three modes.

350 points - W4CAE (Columbia Amateur Radio Club)

250 points - WW4SF (Swamp Fox Contest Group)

250 points - K4YTZ (York County Amateur Radio Society)

9.4. Final Score

Total QSO Points x Multipliers + Bonus Station Points

9.5. Invalid Contacts

Stations outside of South Carolina may not count contacts with non-South Carolina stations or DX stations for contest credit or multipliers.

10. Awards

10.1. Category Awards

A certificate will be issued lieu of a tangible award (plaque, etc) in cases where there is no award sponsor. ***A minimum of 50 valid contacts is required to qualify for a category award.***

In-State - Single Op, Single Transmitter

Mixed - High, Low, QRP
 CW - High, Low, QRP
 Phone - High, Low, QRP
 Digital – High, Low, QRP

Out-Of-State - Single Op, Single Transmitter

Mixed - High, Low, QRP
 CW - High, Low, QRP
 Phone - High, Low, QRP
 Digital – High, Low, QRP

In-State - Multi-Op, Single Transmitter

Mixed - High, Low, QRP
 CW - High, Low, QRP
 Phone - High, Low, QRP
 Digital – High, Low, QRP

Out-Of-State - Multi-Op, Single Transmitter

Mixed - High, Low, QRP
 CW - High, Low, QRP
 Phone - High, Low, QRP
 Digital – High, Low, QRP

In-State - Multi-Op, Multi Transmitter

Mixed - High, Low, QRP
 CW - High, Low, QRP
 Phone - High, Low, QRP
 Digital – High, Low, QRP

Out-of-State - Multi-Op, Multi Transmitter

Mixed - High, Low, QRP
 CW - High, Low, QRP
 Phone - High, Low, QRP
 Digital – High, Low, QRP

In-State – Mobile

Single Operator – No Driver
 Single Operator – With Driver (driver does not participate as an operator)
 Multi-Operator – One Transmitter
 Multi-Operator – Two or more Transmitters

In-State – Expedition (based upon total score regardless of mode/power)

Single Operator AND Multi-Operator

Additional awards may be awarded at the discretion of the SCQP Team.

11. Suggested Frequencies

SSB: 1.865, 3.750, 7.190, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450, and 50.135
 CW: 1.815, 3.540, 7.040, 14.040, 21.040, 28.040, and 50.095

12. Miscellaneous

- A transmitter used to contact one or more stations may not subsequently be used under any other callsign during the contest. There are two exceptions. First is for family stations where more than one callsign is assigned and the operator is changed when the callsign is changed.
- Out-Of-State stations working from multiple states must submit separate logs for each state. Each state score stands alone and is not consolidated with other state operations.
- Any stations operated remotely should be entered using the location of the transmitter/antenna, not the operator location.
- “County-line” contacts must be logged as separate contacts.
- Use of spotting assistance including packet clusters, reverse beacon networks, CW Skimmer, APRS telemetry, etc. is permitted in all categories. *‘Self-spotting’ is also permitted.*

13. Logs

Entries must be submitted within 14 days of the end of the contest (March 10, 2025). The SCQP will only accept log files submitted via our website. We are no longer accepting paper logs for this contest.

Visit www.scqso.com and click on the “Log Submission” menu item. Log files must be submitted in Cabrillo (.log or .cbr) formatted file.

14. Abbreviations

14.1. South Carolina Counties

Abbeville	ABBE	Greenville	GVIL
Aiken	AIKE	Hampton	HAMP
Allendale	ALLE	Horry	HORR
Anderson	ANDE	Jasper	JASP
Bamberg	BAMB	Kershaw	KERS
Barnwell	BARN	Laurens	LAUR
Beaufort	BEAU	Lee	LEE
Berkeley	BERK	Lexington	LEXI
Calhoun	CHOU	Lancaster	LNCS
Charleston	CHAR	Marion	MARI
Chester	CHES	Marlboro	MARL
Chesterfield	CHFD	McCormick	MCOR
Cherokee	CKEE	Newberry	NEWB
Clarendon	CLRN	Oconee	OCOR
Colleton	COLL	Orangeburg	ORNG
Darlington	DARL	Pickens	PICK
Dillon	DILL	Richland	RICH
Dorchester	DORC	Saluda	SALU
Edgefield	EDGE	Spartanburg	SPAR
Fairfield	FAIR	Sumter	SUMT
Florence	FLOR	Union	UNIO
Georgetown	GEOR	Williamsburg	WILL
Greenwood	GRWD	York	YORK

14.2. US States

Alabama	AL
Alaska	AK
Arizona	AZ
Arkansas	AR
California	CA
Colorado	CO
Connecticut	CT
Delaware	DE
Florida	FL
Georgia	GA
Hawaii	HI
Idaho	ID
Illinois	IL
Indiana	IN
Iowa	IA
Kansas	KS
Kentucky	KY
Louisiana	LA
Maine	ME
Maryland	MD
Massachusetts	MA
Michigan	MI

Minnesota	MN
Mississippi	MS
Missouri	MO
Montana	MT
Nebraska	NE
Nevada	NV
New Hampshire	NH
New Jersey	NJ
New Mexico	NM
New York	NY
North Carolina	NC
North Dakota	ND
Ohio	OH
Oklahoma	OK
Oregon	OR
Pennsylvania	PA
Rhode Island	RI
South Dakota	SD
Tennessee	TN
Texas	TX
Utah	UT
Vermont	VT
Virginia	VA
Washington	WA

Washington, D.C.	DC
West Virginia	WV
Wisconsin	WI
Wyoming	WY

14.3. Canadian Provinces and Territories

Alberta	AB
British Columbia	BC
Manitoba	MB
New Brunswick	NB
Newfoundland and Labrador	NL
Nova Scotia	NS
Northwest Territories	NT
Nunavut	NU
Ontario	ON
Prince Edward Island	PE
Quebec	QC
Saskatchewan	SK
Yukon	YT

15. Cabrillo Log File Example

This example uses Cabrillo 3.0 standards

START-OF-LOG: 3.0
CREATED-BY: Cabrillo Example File
CALLSIGN: YOURCALL HERE
CONTEST: SC-QSO-PARTY
CATEGORY-MODE: SSB
CATEGORY-OPERATOR: MULTI-OP
CATEGORY-BAND: ALL
CATEGORY-STATION: MOBILE
CATEGORY-TRANSMITTER: ONE
CLAIMED-SCORE: YOUR SCORE
CLUB: YOUR CLUB NAME HERE
EMAIL: YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS
LOCATION: YOUR STATE, PROVINCE OR DX
NAME: YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAMES
ADDRESS: STREET ADDRESS
ADDRESS: CITY, STATE, ZIPCODE
OPERATORS: CALLS OF OPERATORS
SOAPBOX: Put your comments in lines
SOAPBOX: like these for publication in the results.
QSO: 14000 PH 2007-04-14 1813 KN4QD 59 RICH KI4HPX 59 RICH
QSO: 7000 CW 2007-04-15 2159 KN4QD 599 MARI W8CAR 599 OH
QSO: 14000 PH 2007-04-15 2234 KN4QD 59 MARI W4GKF 59 CHAR
QSO: 7000 RY 2007-04-15 2310 KN4QD 599 MARI K5YAA 599 OK
END-OF-LOG: