

SLOW CW QSO PARTY RULES

1. Purpose of the Contest

Organized by the Marconi Club and managed by the ARI Loano Section (SV), the “Slow CW QSO Party” aims to support beginners, “Novice” operators, and CW enthusiasts by introducing them to telegraphy in a relaxed and enjoyable competition. It helps them gain experience and have fun, while also allowing more experienced operators to revisit the thrill of their first QSOs and act as mentors for newcomers. Novice CW operators have the opportunity to practice their skills, improve them, stay motivated, and keep their enthusiasm alive.

More experienced operators can relive the excitement of their first CW QSOs by patiently adjusting their speed to match that of the novice operators.

2. Participation

All OM (Amateur Radio Operators) worldwide can contact both Independent Stations and Stations belonging to the MARCONI CLUB ARI LOANO.

3. Objective

The goal is to contact as many OM as possible. The main aim is to encourage especially CW beginners and to pique the curiosity of all other OM towards this beautiful and timeless mode of operation.

4. Frequencies

The contest will take place on the 20, 40, and 80-meter bands within the following frequency ranges:

3540-3550 kHz

7028-7038 kHz

14040-14050 kHz

Using different frequencies for the three bands, provided they respect the IARU Region 1 band plan, does not affect scoring nor lead to disqualification or penalties. However, the Marconi Club ARI Loano committee strongly recommends using the above-listed ranges to avoid saturating the entire CW bandwidth and to leave space for non-participating stations.

5. Operating Mode

CW.

6. Date and Time

The contest will take place on the first Sunday of February each year, starting at 13:00 UTC and ending at 23:00 UTC).

7. Categories

The following participation categories will be established, with separate classifications:

N – Novice (beginners) and all those unable to operate above 15 WPM;

OH – Old Hand (experienced telegraphers) who, by regulation, must operate in QRS (slow mode) with a maximum of 15 WPM and adapt to the speed of Novice operators.

Participants must specify their category on the log.

8. Calling Mode

Recommended calling mode: ***"CQ MCS TEST DE CALL"***

9. Reports

All stations will exchange reports as follows:

MARCONI CLUB members will transmit:

RST + MC + club membership number (e.g., **RST 599 MC1003**)

Non-members (independent stations) will transmit:

RST + sequential number in three digits (e.g., **RST 599 NR 001**)

10. Scoring

Each station can be contacted only once per band.

Points per QSO:

- **1 point** for each contact with independent OM (not in MARCONI CLUB)
- **5 points** for each contact with **MARCONI CLUB members**

The final score will be obtained by multiplying the Total QSO Points by the total connected multipliers.

Independent stations can connect to anyone.

11. Multipliers

Each station belonging to MARCONI CLUB A.R.I. LOANO counts as a MULTIPLIER on every band.

12. Call Sign

It is optional but not mandatory for participating stations (fixed or portable), if they are outside their QTH, to use a different call sign/area code from their usual.

Participants are reminded that changing the call sign during the contest is not allowed; the same call must be used from the first QSO until the end of the contest.

13. Final Score

The final score is the sum of points from all QSOs. Only QSOs correctly reporting all required data (**CALL + RST + NR###** or optional **MC####**) are valid. If the bands and/or times in logs do not match within a tolerance of ± 10 minutes, the QSO will be considered invalid, and the related points will be deducted.

14. Log Submission

It is recommended to use the latest version of QARTest; participants may use other software, provided it allows entry of the required data in the specified order and supports CABRILLO format.

- a) **Only CABRILLO format logs will be accepted.**
- b) Logs must be submitted ONLY through the upload page on the Marconi Club website:
www.marconiclub.it
- c) LOGs must be received no later than midnight on the 7th day following the end date of the contest. If there are issues submitting logs on time, contact the Contest Manager at: slowcw@marconiclub.it
- d) The web uploader will send a confirmation upon successful upload.
- e) A list of received logs will be visible on the website immediately.
- f) Logs will be made publicly accessible; by submitting a log, participants agree to its publication.

15. Rankings and Prizes

- a) Separate rankings will be established for each category.
- b) Prizes will be awarded to the top scorers in each category.
- c) All participants can download a participation certificate in PDF format online.

16. Penalties and Disqualifications

- a) All logs will be carefully checked; errors may lead to point deductions.
- b) The Marconi Club Committee will assess the eligibility of Novice category claims.
- c) Unsportsmanlike behavior may result in disqualification. Such behavior can be identified from logs or other data sources available to the Committee. Examples include:
 - Auto-spotting;
 - QSO speed exceeding 15 WPM;
 - Multiple signals during a single operation;
 - Declaring Novice status with demonstrated or verifiable higher skills.

17. Clarifications

- a) Speed above 15 WPM is not allowed.
- b) Transmitting two signals simultaneously, regardless of bands, is forbidden.
- c) Multiple QSOs with the same station are permitted if on different bands during the contest.
- d) The use of Cluster is allowed, but "Self-Spotting" (manual or automated) is prohibited.

18. Implicit Declaration

By submitting their log, each participant declares that:

- a. They have read and understood the rules and agree to abide by them;
- b. They operate in accordance with the laws and regulations of their country;
- c. Their log may be made public;
- d. They accept that all decisions by the Marconi Club Contest Committee are final and unappealable;
- e. They strictly follow the rules as declared in their log.