## WRTC-2026 Rescoring

## Summary

It is with both sadness and disappointment that the results for WRTC-2026 have been rescored and substantial changes have been made to both the order-of-finish and the award winners. These changes were based upon extraordinary information that was received from the public after the Awards Ceremony.

WRTC has strived to be a competition where the outcome is based on the competitors' performance, and is not a function of offsite helpers assisting their competitor friends. Key to achieving this goal are WRTC rules that prohibit communicating the operators' identities, with harsh repercussions to those who flout them.

A three-part scheme was used to fraudulently boost the scores of MB2M, the previously declared winner, and MB2A.

1) An outside station with a reasonably strong signal operated on a planned frequency for a considerable time in the period just before the contest. 2) The outsider then turned the clear frequency over to a WRTC station at the contest start. The WRTC station's callsign was then known to those participating in the scheme. 3) Outside pirate stations made over-the-air contacts with WRTC stations, impersonating multiplier-producing stations. The contacts were fed to all WRTC stations, with considerably more going to the identified MB2M and MB2A.

When all the bogus contacts were removed from all the logs, the previously declared winner dropped out of the top three.

Inspection of the Italian WRTC-2023 logs and activity information shows that the same three-part multiplier fraud took place in that event, bringing up potential rescoring of that competition as well. The fraud was not reported or acted upon in the three intervening years.

MB1I was found to have deliberately also released operators' identities in a similar frequency handoff scheme, but was not involved in pirate station multiplier fraud. The released callsign information made it easier for friends to give the team extra contacts.

The frequency-handoff identity-release alone was considered to be so antithetical to the strong WRTC identification release prohibition that the teams of MB2M (VE3DZ and UW7LL), MB2A (US2YW and IK4VET), and MB1I (E77DX and DJ4MX) were all declared disqualified under Section 12.2 of the rules.

The MB5Q log was found to contain ten multiplier-enhancing contacts where no trace of a signal was present on the team's audio recording, and consequently the MB5Q team (RW7K and KU1CW) was disqualified under Rule 12.7.

## Winning Plaques

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| #1 Score | MB5O | DJ5MW, DM5EE | 7,310,308 |
| #2 Score | MB4G | N6MJ, KL9A | 6,955,083 |
| #3 Score | MB1T | K5ZD, W2SC | 6,836,480 |
| #1 Multipliers | MB4G | N6MJ, KL9A | 457 |
| #1 Phone QSOs (with >35% CW QSOs) | MB5Y | 9A6KX, 9A1UN | 2369 |
| #1 CW QSOs (with >35% Phone QSOs) | MB5P | LU9ESD, LW5HR | 2745 |
| #1 Accuracy | MB4G | N6MJ, KL9A | 0.5% errors |
| #1 Youth | MB5Z | W0AAE, W4IPC | 5,924,736 |

## Final Scores

| # | Team | Operators | Score | # | Team | Operators | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | MB5O | DJ5MW, DM5EE | 7,310,308 | 24 | MB2S | NN7CW, DL4NAC | 5,570,672 |
| 2 | MB4G | N6MJ, KL9A | 6,955,083 | 25 | MB3W | OL5Y, OK6RA | 5,490,035 |
| 3 | MB1T | K5ZD, W2SC | 6,836,480 | 26 | MB4P | AA3B, W2GD | 5,400,835 |
| 4 | MB5C | CT1ILT, EC2DX | 6,480,110 | 27 | MB4W | IK2PFL, IK2JUB | 5,383,192 |
| 5 | MB7W | UA4FER, LZ2HM | 6,334,972 | 28 | MB3M | JA1BJI, M0CFW | 5,355,015 |
| 6 | MB7L | LY9A, LY4L | 6,180,000 | 29 | MB4O | K3PA, NS0R | 5,245,254 |
| 7 | MB3R | F1AKK, F8DBF | 6,083,469 | 30 | MB1S | G4IRN, GW4XUM | 5,243,896 |
| 8 | MB7D | LZ3FN, LZ4AX | 6,024,256 | 31 | MB5X | NH7T, WH7W | 5,148,143 |
| 9 | MB3K | NA8V, N9RV | 5,980,380 | 32 | MB3L | LZ2BE, LZ2XA | 5,084,340 |
| 10 | MB5Z | W0AAE, W4IPC | 5,924,736 | 33 | MB1A | E21EIC, BA4TB | 5,002,063 |
| 11 | MB5J | VE3EJ, VE5MX | 5,920,512 | 34 | MB7V | K6LA, VE3AT | 4,958,696 |
| 12 | MB2H | N5ZO, KI6RRN | 5,900,840 | 35 | MB5P | LU9ESD, LW5HR | 4,926,404 |
| 13 | MB4Z | EA8RM, EA2W | 5,883,472 | 36 | MB4L | ES7GM, YL3JA | 4,842,425 |
| 14 | MB3H | N2IC, K5WA | 5,819,824 | 37 | MB7F | SP5Y, SQ9ORQ | 4,814,437 |
| 15 | MB5Y | 9A6KX, 9A1UN | 5,810,616 | 38 | MB7G | N9NB, W9RE | 4,808,322 |
| 16 | MB4C | RG6G, RA3CO | 5,807,790 | 39 | MB3D | UN9L, UN4Q | 4,775,244 |
| 17 | MB4F | N2NT, NP4Z | 5,786,880 | 40 | MB2U | VK2IA, ZL3CW | 4,764,861 |
| 18 | MB7M | DL3JAN, DM7XX | 5,760,452 | 41 | MB4V | KO8SCA, AD5A | 4,652,928 |
| 19 | MB3V | 4Z4AK, HA3LN | 5,736,630 | 42 | MB3F | RA9P, R2BFL | 4,608,350 |
| 20 | MB2R | OM2VL, OM3RM | 5,726,924 | 43 | MB3G | HB9ARF, LY4A | 4,567,956 |
| 21 | MB2D | N1UR, K1XM | 5,673,360 | 44 | MB4X | W7WLW, N4ML | 4,180,260 |
| 22 | MB7K | WA1Z, JH5GHM | 5,652,228 | 45 | MB1N | DL3ON, EI5LA | 4,021,205 |
| 23 | MB2N | NN3W, KD4D | 5,592,387 | 46 | MB3B | PY2NY, PY7ZC | 3,860,428 |

## Disqualifications

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| MB1I | E77DX, DJ4MX | WRTC Rules, Section 12.2 (Team Identity Revealed to Others) |
| MB2A | US2YW, IK4VET | WRTC Rules, Section 12.2 (Team Identity Revealed to Others) |
| MB2M | VE3DZ, UW7LL | WRTC Rules, Section 12.2 (Team Identity Revealed to Others) |
| MB5Q | RW7K, KU1CW | WRTC Rules, Section 12.7 (Taking credit for excessive unverifiable QSOs or unverifiable multipliers) |

## The WRTC-2026 Competition Rules

Rule 12.2 states: “The operators are not allowed to intentionally identify themselves (i.e. revealing their own callsigns) before or during the contest or reveal their team identity in any way. Any attempt to do this such as by radio, telephone, SMS, internet, email, etc. may result in immediate disqualification. Requesting QSOs (e.g. setting schedules with special identification procedures in any way) before the contest period is strictly forbidden.”

Rule 12.7 gives the Judging Committee broad discretion: “the Judging Committee may disqualify a team that commits any of (but not limited to) the following actions: Violation of the rules of the contest. Unsportsmanlike conduct. Taking credit for excessive unverifiable QSOs or unverifiable multipliers.”

Rule 12.8 warns that “abuses through the use of cheerleading may result in QSOs being removed from logs as deemed necessary to assure a fair competition.”

Rule 12.9 states that “the decisions of the Judging Committee are final.”

Rule 15.2 confirms that the Judging Committee “has the right to remove any claimed contacts not found in the recordings.”

Rules 19.1 and 19.2 state that by submitting an entry in the WRTC Contest, every competing team confirmed that “the rules of the contest have been read and understood and they are bound by them” and that “they operated within the limitations of all rules stipulated.”

Rule 19.5, like Rule 12.9, provides that “all actions and decisions of the WRTC Judging Committee are official and final.”

## Disqualification Applies to the Teams, Not Individuals

Although different members of the teams may bear different responsibility for actions resulting in disqualification, it should be noted that the disqualifications apply to the teams, not to individual team members.

## Fraudulent Multipliers Produced by Pirates

In an investigation prompted by information received from the outside public, it was found that what appears to be a small number of outside individuals using 15 pirated callsigns gave fraudulent multiplier-enhancing “contacts” to WRTC stations that favored the MB2A and MB2M teams. The contacts were made using pirated callsigns of known radio contest participants, fooling or misleading the Committee into believing that these QSOs were genuine.

Amateur radio contests are conducted under the belief that participants are honest. For example, contact and multiplier credit is typically given to an entrant's score, even when no log is received from a claimed contact. This scheme took explicit advantage of that trust.

Investigation identified at least fifteen pirated multiplier-enhancing callsigns that were used. Using the submitted audio files, it was confirmed that over-the-air “contacts” with the pirate stations actually did take place. These multipliers were concentrated on two teams — MB2M with 36 and MB2A with 32 — rather than spread across the field. The third highest team benefiting from pirated multipliers received only 14 multipliers and the least benefited team received only 1.

As WRTC teams made no real contacts with stations actually possessing the callsigns used by the pirates, contacts claimed with callsigns used by the pirates have now been removed from all WRTC logs.

## Excessive Contacts Made with Friends

In the previous WRTC, the impact of friends giving contacts favoring only certain teams was quantified, and in the final score adjustment, a deduction was made to each score that canceled any positive impact of the partisan contacts. The score adjustment converted would-be score gains into wasted time, worth zero points.

The word “cheerleading” has been used to describe this, although the practice is better described as attempting to distort the contest outcome by helping certain competitors. In this year's initial log review, no behavior of this type that was significant enough to change award positions was noticed among the top scores, and no corrective action was taken at that time.

However, for this final rescoring, software was developed and employed that identified all excessive favored contacts given to friends when compared to contacts made with the other WRTC teams. Contacts made by the excessively partisan stations were then erased from all fifty WRTC logs, and the impact is included in the final results. This

year's partisan-contact activity was small, and the resulting score changes were also small — no position changed.

## Rescoring

All scores have been recalculated after simply removing any claimed contacts with pirate stations and any egregiously partisan stations. As the impact on scores was greater for the logs containing more QSOs with pirates, the order-of-finish of the top scoring stations was changed significantly.

## Callsign Identity Releases

From inspection of the public logs, use of the Reverse Beacon Network, and SDRs, members of the observing public were able to identify cases where certain frequencies were held by third party stations for long periods before the contest start, and then the resulting clear frequency was turned over to a WRTC team at the 12:00 start.

The frequency transfers at the contest start also served to identify the WRTC stations' operators to those aware of the scheme. This is precisely a disclosure prohibited by WRTC 2026 competition rules section 12.2, which states that any attempt to do this may result in immediate disqualification.

Every team whose operation showed the pattern under examination was given an opportunity to comment. All responses were considered and are on the record.

Based on the timing, duration, frequency continuity, subsequent conduct of the holding stations, the circumstances surrounding the contest start, and the responses received from the teams, it was concluded that these were not coincidental frequency changes but deliberately arranged transfers that disclosed the identity of the arriving WRTC teams to persons aware of the arrangement.

Consequently, it was then determined that callsign-revealing actions did warrant disqualification of MB1I, MB2A and MB2M under Rule 12.2.

## Non-existent Claimed Multiplier QSOs

Ten unusual multiplier-enhancing claimed contacts were present in the MB5Q log. The audio review conducted before the Awards Ceremony was necessarily prioritized by finishing position and did not include this log. However, the MB5Q log was examined in the post-event re-examination. There was no trace of any audio from these logged phantom stations on the recordings provided by the team, although audio from both the preceding and the following contacts surrounding the phantom contacts was clearly

present.

Therefore, it has been determined that the MB5Q team is disqualified for violation of Rule 12.7, claiming contacts that do not appear in its own audio recording.

## Teams All Agreed — "The Decision of the Judges is Final"

By submitting an entry, every team confirmed under section 19 of the WRTC 2026 competition rules that the rules had been read and understood and that they were bound by them, that they operated within the limitations of all rules stipulated, that they agreed to make their logs and audio recordings available to the general public at the sole discretion of the WRTC Organizing Committee, and that all actions and decisions of the WRTC Judging Committee were official and final.

Details of the rescoring are in the appendices. Information presented can be verified from observation of the public logs.

## Closing Comments

The judges take no joy in having to disqualify teams or even invalidate contacts.

WRTC judging teams have conventionally approached their responsibilities as being similar to grading and scoring tests in a school. Log-checking software has been developed and refined to now have capability to detect most common logging errors. It can even automatically determine that W3PLP is a mis-logged W3LPL, and automatically know that KH7D is a miscopied K5ZD. The committee employed this time-tested log-checking software to produce initial results.

Then the committee applied human oversight aided by other computer-produced aids to eventually produce the final results.

In past WRTCs, the friends-helping-friends impact on scores was identified and quantified. Compensating score adjustments were made that nullified the biases.

This historically concluded the Judging Committee's work.

WRTC-2026 was conducted assuming the honesty of participants.

This year, after the Awards Ceremony, outside observers provided information that required investigation and determination of appropriate action. The revised results presented here are now compatible with that expanded responsibility.

Honesty and fair play are important ingredients in Amateur Radio contests.

**Why did this happen?**

Listening to the recordings of even the disqualified stations shows that they exhibited admirable skill in handling pile-ups and efficiently working stations. Had there been no dubious operation by some participants and outsiders, their results would have been impressive.

It was hoped that all contest participants outside of WRTC would operate their stations in a manner that would allow the winning team to say that a combination of their abilities, performance on that particular day, and to some extent luck, was what produced their victory. All contest players should operate to increase their own personal scores, not take actions to deliberately boost the scores of others. There were some who did not follow this principle this year. The rescored results presented here are intended to restore that principle.

## Appendix 1. Details of the Pirate Multipliers

Fifteen callsigns were used on the air during the contest by persons other than the callsign's licensees, which resulted in bogus multiplier-enhancing contacts in WRTC team's logs:

4F3OM, 4K6FO, 4S7KM, 9H1FL, 9M2LAN, 9M8YY, HC5AI, HL2CFY, HZ1TT, OD5NZ, TI1W, XE2IF, YV1LBB, ZP5KO, ZS6WAR

Each was a known callsign from a country otherwise scarce or absent in this year's contest, so nearly every contact with them produced a fresh multiplier. No logs were received from any of the fifteen stations. Almost all were invisible to the worldwide network of skimmer receivers for the entire weekend, despite making dozens of contacts each. Of the 435 contacts claimed with these fifteen callsigns, 86% were with WRTC teams, compared with about 13% for the rest of the IARU contest participants.

Communication was sent to all fifteen of the licensees who held the callsigns used by the pirates. It was confirmed that thirteen of the fifteen either had not been on the air at all or had made no contacts with any WRTC station.

Five of these callsigns — nominally in Sri Lanka, Korea, the Philippines, and East and West Malaysia — never once transmitted during the same minute as one another across the full 24 hours. A single transmitter appears to have been cycling through those five identities.

One callsign requires a distinction. HC5AI was genuinely on the air during the day, working ordinary stations and heard by the skimmers. Eight hours later the same callsign appears working only WRTC teams, with no ordinary stations and no skimmer reports at all. The daytime activity is treated as genuine; only the later activity was considered fraudulent.

The multipliers were not spread evenly across the field. All fifty teams worked at least one of these callsigns, and the median team gained six multipliers from them. Two teams gained five to six times the median, MB2M with 36 and MB2A with 32 — and those two were the only teams worked by all fifteen. The team with the most raw contacts, MB5O, with just over 6,000 before log checking, was worked by only one pirate callsign.

The pirate contacts began early. The first one anywhere in the WRTC logs was 4S7KM working MB1A at 12:06z; over the next fourteen minutes 4S7KM worked five more teams, among them MB2A at 12:12z on 14002 kHz, the frequency MB2A was running.

MB2A then logged HZ1TT at 12:33z, HL2CFY at 12:51z, 4F3OM at 13:17z, 9M8YY at 13:38z and 9M2LAN at 13:51z, all on that same run frequency. By the end of the first hour MB2A had three pirate contacts when no other team had more than one, and by 14:00z it had eight when no other team had more than two.

It was noticed that the pirate could make an occasional mistake. In one of the earliest QSOs made by the pirated callsigns, 4S7KM working MB2A at 12:12z, the audio record shows that 4S7KM sent his zone as 29 — not zone 41, the zone a genuine Sri Lankan station would send, and the zone MB2A logged. In this contest, each station sends its own ITU zone. Zone 29 covers Ukraine, Belarus, much of European Russia, Moldova, the Baltic states, and the Caucasus.

MB2M's first pirate contact was HL2CFY at 12:46z on 14003 kHz, the frequency it was running. Its next came at 14:08z, when 9M8YY worked it on 20 and 15 meters in the same minute, followed by 4K6FO at 14:33z and 4F3OM at 15:35z. From there the pirate contacts kept coming to both teams for the rest of the contest.

The pirate activity also wasted the time of the other WRTC competitors.

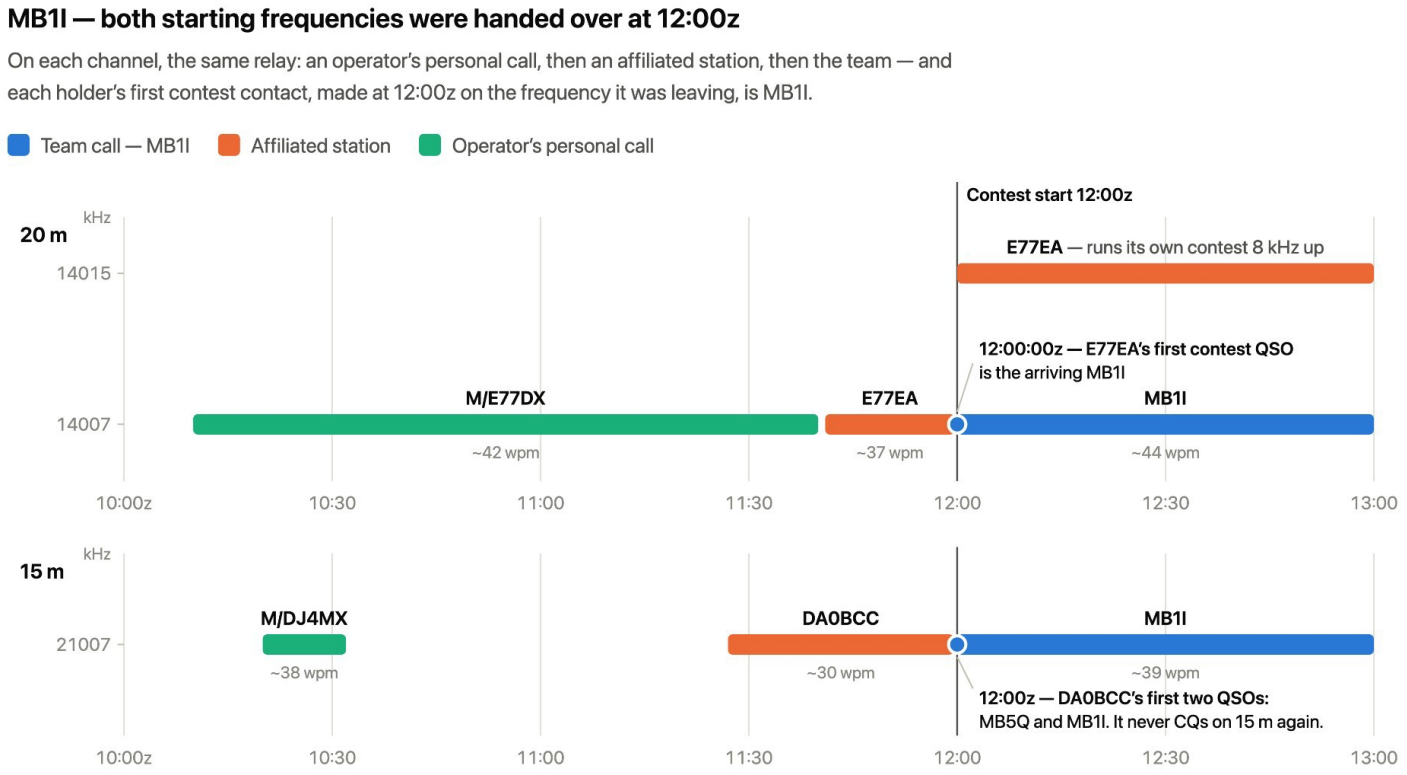
Consequently, it was then decided that no team should receive any multiplier credit or QSO credit for any of the contacts with the pirate stations. As a consequence, all contacts with them have been removed from every log in which they appear.

**Appendix 2. Details of the Frequency Transfer and Resulting Team Identity Disclosures**

At 12:00z the bands were crowded, and a clear frequency was very valuable. Three teams began the contest on frequencies that another station had used right up until the start, then left at the exact start time.

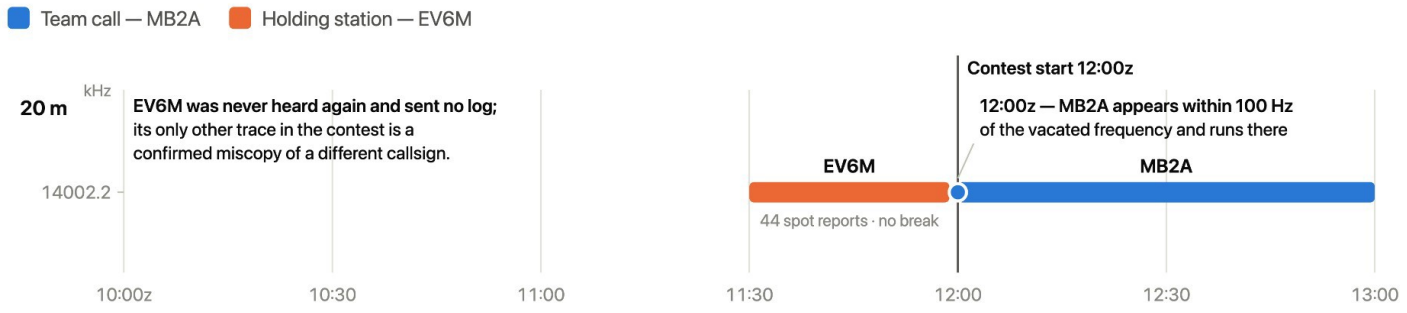
MB1I (E77DX and DJ4MX) — Both of its starting frequencies were held by stations connected to its operators. E77EA held 14007.0 kHz from 11:41z until 11:59:39. Its first contest contact on that frequency, at 12:00z, was MB1I, after which E77EA moved 8 kHz away and continued to operate there. DA0BCC held 21007.0 from 11:27z until 11:59:30; its first two contacts at 12:00 were MB5Q and MB1I, after which it never called CQ on 15 meters again. Its remaining fifty-seven contacts on that band were all made by tuning across and answering others. Earlier that morning both frequencies had been occupied by the team's own operators using their personal callsigns.

## Figure 2-1.




MB2A (US2YW and IK4VET) — EV6M was spotted continuously on 14002.2 kHz from 11:30z until 11:58:47, in forty-four reports. MB2A appeared within 100 Hz of that frequency at 12:00z and ran there. EV6M was never heard again, submitted no log, and the only other entry naming it anywhere in the contest is a verified miscopy of another callsign.

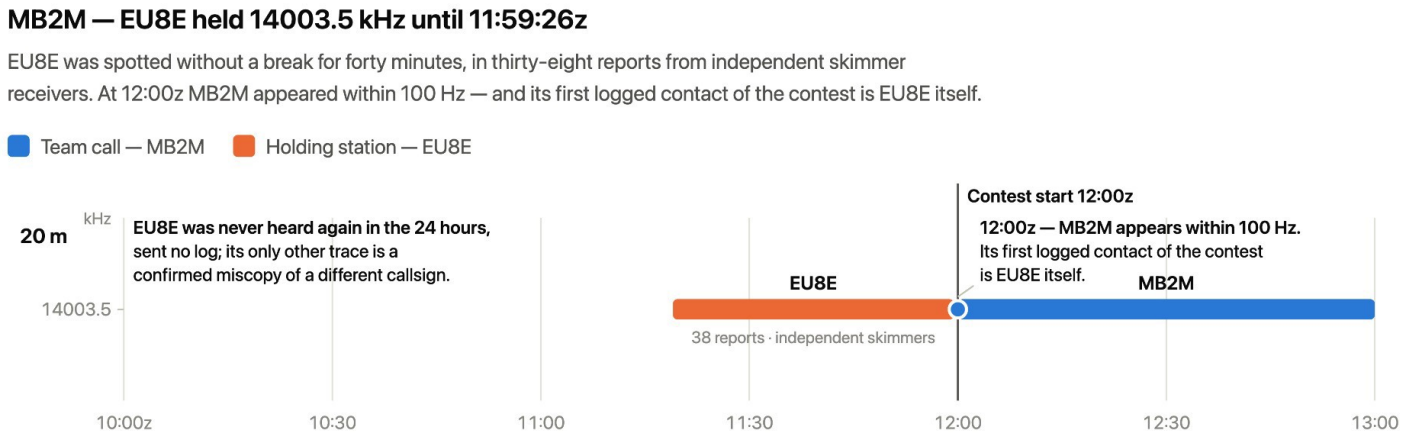
## Figure 2-2.




MB2M (VE3DZ and UW7LL) — EU8E was spotted continuously on 14003.5 kHz from 11:19z until 11:59:26 in thirty-eight reports from independent skimmer receivers.

MB2M appeared within 100 Hz of that frequency at 12:00z and ran there. MB2M's first logged contact of the contest is EU8E itself, on the frequency EU8E had just held for forty minutes. EU8E was never heard again during the next twenty-four hours, submitted no log, and the only other entry naming it anywhere in the contest is a verified miscopy of another callsign.

**Figure 2-3.**




Frequencies do change hands at the start. Ten stations left a channel that a WRTC team then took at 12:00z. Of those ten, only E77EA and DA0BCC logged the arriving team at 12:00 on the frequency they had just left — and both did so for the same team.

The operators of all three teams were asked to explain these events. MB1I's two operators admitted what happened and accepted responsibility for the Rule 12.2 violation and the consequences of it. No operator of MB2M or MB2A has admitted any arrangement. Their answers say nothing about why the holding stations acted as they did. One operator said he was unaware of any pre-existing arrangement, but would accept his team's disqualification if a violation were found.

The frequency transfers at the contest start functioned to identify the WRTC stations' operators to those aware of the scheme. This is precisely a disclosure prohibited by WRTC 2026 competition rules section 12.2, which states that any attempt to do this may result in immediate disqualification.

## Appendix 3. Details of the Non-existent Claimed Multiplier QSOs

Ten contacts in MB5Q's log do not exist in the team's own audio recording. Each of them would have counted as a multiplier:

| Callsign | Time | Band | kHz |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6Y5WJ | 0307z | 80m | 3537 |
| 9M2M | 1214z | 20m | 14047 |
| CU2CE | 0813z | 40m | 7025 |
| HI3K | 0237z | 20m | 14012 |
| HI3K | 2308z | 15m | 21019 |
| S21RE | 1854z | 20m | 14054 |
| SV5DKL | 0118z | 80m | 3535 |
| SV5DKL | 1720z | 10m | 28024 |
| UK9AA | 1845z | 20m | 14054 |
| Z32ZM | 0719z | 40m | 7166 |

In every case the recording runs continuously through the moment in question. The contacts logged immediately before and after can clearly be heard, but there is nothing at all where these ten contacts are logged. One of the contacts was made when a loud DL-station was actually calling them, demonstrating that the receiver was still operating. The submitted logs confirm the same conclusion independently, without reference to the audio. Six of the eight callsigns — 6Y5WJ, HI3K, S21RE, SV5DKL, UK9AA and Z32ZM — appear nowhere else in any of the 5,607 logs submitted for the contest. The remaining two, 9M2M and CU2CE, are real stations that were on the air, but appear in no contact resembling the ones claimed here. Both operators were shown the evidence for each of the ten contacts, including the audio, and were asked directly whether they had any explanation. Neither disputed the finding. Neither offered an explanation. Both asked that the contacts be removed from the log. The Committee has determined that the MB5Q team is disqualified under Rule 12.7, claiming contacts that do not appear in its own audio recording.

## Appendix 4. Details of Excessive Contacts Made with Friends

WRTC has taken steps to remove any advantage created from score-enhancing contacts made from stations deliberately attempting to assist friends.

Any station could work a given WRTC team at most ten times — five bands, two modes. That makes concentration easy to measure. How many of those ten did a caller give its favorite team, and how many did it give everyone else?

The Committee screened every station appearing in at least five WRTC logs. Thirty-one callers gave one team six or more of the ten possible contacts while giving the

other teams no more than two. Most of that is ordinary and breaks no rule.

At the top of the range it stops looking ordinary. When rescoring the contest, the Committee removed from every log all contacts with callsigns that gave a single team an excessive number of the ten possible contacts while giving the median other teams only a small number. Eight callsigns met that test:

- DR0W, DQ2A, DF0WA, DL0LI — ten of ten, each, to the same team, MB5O.
- DP4X, DA0BCC, DJ2MX — nine, nine and eight to the same team, MB1I. All resulted from one operator using three callsigns
- R3FA — eight to one team, MB5Q.

Because these callers worked most of the field as well, the removal touched every entry in the contest. Each team lost between five and forty-two contacts, the largest loss falling on the team that had received the most. The rule is mechanical, defined by numbers, and was applied identically to all fifty logs. No judgment was made about any of the WRTC teams' motives, and it is not an accusation against any team — these were real contacts made by real stations acting on their own initiative.

The effect on scores was small. The largest single case cost about one half of one percent, and no position in the results changed as a result of these removals.

It was also noted that a group of thirteen callsigns — R3FA, UA7K, UA6KAC, RK7A, RD7K, UA6ARR, RU6K, RA7KY, R6KVA, R6KA, R7KCW, RY7KAB, UB7K — provided 82 contacts to MB5Q. MB5Q logged all thirteen of these calls, most of them five to eight times each.

All contacts from this group fit neatly on a single timeline, as if made by one or perhaps two operators. Also, a group of cluster spots for MB5Q likely came from one source, and they too fit neatly on the same timeline.

These callers did work other teams. The next-highest team received nineteen contacts, two teams received fifteen, and the remaining teams received between zero and nine. All contacts with this group of thirteen callsigns have been removed from every log in which they appear. This did not affect the order of finish.

The Judging Committee specifically asked the competitors to request their friends and associates not to do this. A few of the IARU Contest entrants ended up giving out some of these potentially outcome-biasing contacts in spite of the committee's request. In the end, those attempts to assist friends backfired as the committee has once again employed actions that turned biased-help into score-reducing wastes of time.

## Appendix 5. Some WRTC-2023-Italy Information – Frequency Transfer and Effective Identity Disclosure Plus Suspected Pirate Multiplier Activity

In WRTC-2023, I44W's 20-meter starting frequency was held and transferred in the same manner as shown in the examples in Appendix 2. YQ5W appeared at 11:01z, settled on 14001.8 kHz, and called CQ there continuously through the final hour before the start, last spotted at 11:59:52z.

I44W's first logged contact of the contest is in the 12:00z minute on that frequency, where it then ran. YQ5W submitted no log, is not listed as an operator in any of the 5,589 logs submitted for that contest, appears in no other station's log, and was never spotted again. I44W's operators were VE3DZ and UW7LL. I44W was the declared winner of the 2023 event.

The following are now believed to be multipliers fraudulently injected into logs at WRTC-2023 in the same manner as occurred in WRTC-2026:

4J3DJ, 4K6OF, 4L4DX, 9H1XT, 9K2MU, A41JZ, A61ZX, A65DR, BX4AG, CO2SG, EK3GM, ER0FEO, EX8MJ, FM5FE, HZ1BH, OA4EA, OD5PY, SV9CJO, TK5CH (and its miscopy TK5CS), YV5EN, ZP5DPA — plus YB8RVI and ZA1AK, genuine entrants whose callsigns were pirated. The pirated QSOs are refuted by the owners' own submitted logs.

The 23 callsigns produced an average of 9.3 QSOs for each of the 58 WRTC-2023 stations — 540 in all. Of those, 53 went to the I44W (VE3DZ & UW7LL) team, with most resulting in a multiplier.

WRTC-2026 did not attempt to rescore the 2023 event.

## Appendix 6. Investigative Question

It was noted that a peculiar exchange took place between MB2A and UT3MD (a silent key) logged at 12:03z. UT3MD appears in no other log among the 5,607 submitted for the IARU contest, and it submitted no log of its own. The exchange, with timing from an SDR recording was:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 12:03:30 | UT3MD: | UT3MD |
| *12:03:32* | *MB2A:* | *UT4MD 5NN27* |
| 12:03:36 | UT3MD: | 5NN TT1 |
| *12:03:40* | *MB2A:* | *UT3MD ?* |
| 12:03:45 | UT3MD: | UT3MD 5NN 9 |
| *12:03:49* | *MB2A:* | *UT3MD TU* |

No conclusion was made about this exchange and no finding was based upon it. It is shown here because others may be able to explain what it was.

# Appendix 7. Final Results QSO Breakdown Table

| # | CALL | OPERATORS | SCORE | TOTQ | TOTM | 80C | 80P | 40C | 40P | 20C | 20P | 15C | 15P | 10C | 10P | 80M | 40M | 20M | 15M | 10M | QSOP | ERR | UNIQ | CW | CW % | PH | PH % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | MB5O | DJ5MW, DM5EE | 7,310,308 | 5827 | 454 | 429 | 149 | 978 | 263 | 1458 | 652 | 1102 | 317 | 301 | 178 | 71 | 93 | 120 | 108 | 62 | 16102 | 0.8 | 32 | 4268 | 73.2 | 1559 | 26.8 |
| 2 | MB4G | N6MJ, KL9A | 6,955,083 | 5612 | 457 | 496 | 158 | 1045 | 179 | 1423 | 587 | 967 | 275 | 350 | 132 | 71 | 95 | 126 | 103 | 62 | 15219 | 0.5 | 10 | 4281 | 76.3 | 1331 | 23.7 |
| 3 | MB1T | K5ZD, W2SC | 6,836,480 | 5638 | 436 | 455 | 78 | 1080 | 313 | 1557 | 629 | 946 | 239 | 239 | 102 | 72 | 92 | 120 | 94 | 58 | 15680 | 0.8 | 11 | 4277 | 75.9 | 1361 | 24.1 |
| 4 | MB5C | CT1ILT, EC2DX | 6,480,110 | 5141 | 455 | 417 | 129 | 804 | 276 | 1212 | 558 | 883 | 393 | 362 | 107 | 75 | 91 | 112 | 103 | 74 | 14242 | 1.2 | 10 | 3678 | 71.5 | 1463 | 28.5 |
| 5 | MB7W | UA4FER, LZ2HM | 6,334,972 | 5466 | 427 | 458 | 81 | 1006 | 360 | 1248 | 556 | 818 | 326 | 352 | 261 | 70 | 86 | 109 | 92 | 70 | 14836 | 1.0 | 13 | 3882 | 71.0 | 1584 | 29.0 |
| 6 | MB7L | LY9A, LY4L | 6,180,000 | 5780 | 412 | 479 | 193 | 1008 | 305 | 1367 | 805 | 711 | 402 | 332 | 178 | 74 | 86 | 115 | 82 | 55 | 15000 | 1.2 | 15 | 3897 | 67.4 | 1883 | 32.6 |
| 7 | MB3R | F1AKK, F8DBF | 6,083,469 | 5125 | 427 | 448 | 40 | 970 | 185 | 1328 | 479 | 946 | 267 | 325 | 137 | 73 | 85 | 111 | 97 | 61 | 14247 | 1.4 | 16 | 4017 | 78.4 | 1108 | 21.6 |
| 8 | MB7D | LZ3FN, LZ4AX | 6,024,256 | 4928 | 448 | 348 | 158 | 901 | 235 | 1312 | 621 | 790 | 202 | 259 | 102 | 71 | 89 | 128 | 104 | 56 | 13447 | 0.9 | 8 | 3610 | 73.3 | 1318 | 26.7 |
| 9 | MB3K | NA8V, N9RV | 5,980,380 | 5276 | 420 | 405 | 147 | 1002 | 164 | 1619 | 518 | 853 | 166 | 326 | 76 | 72 | 85 | 122 | 86 | 55 | 14239 | 2.3 | 17 | 4205 | 79.7 | 1071 | 20.3 |
| 10 | MB5Z | W0AAE, W4IPC | 5,924,736 | 5197 | 417 | 282 | 100 | 737 | 457 | 1448 | 651 | 869 | 369 | 234 | 50 | 65 | 93 | 115 | 96 | 48 | 14208 | 2.2 | 20 | 3570 | 68.7 | 1627 | 31.3 |
| 11 | MB5J | VE3EJ, VE5MX | 5,920,512 | 5162 | 416 | 444 | 177 | 945 | 161 | 1252 | 427 | 1043 | 185 | 370 | 158 | 71 | 84 | 106 | 95 | 60 | 14232 | 1.4 | 13 | 4054 | 78.5 | 1108 | 21.5 |
| 12 | MB2H | N5ZO, KI6RRN | 5,900,840 | 5022 | 440 | 456 | 108 | 980 | 182 | 1330 | 390 | 871 | 253 | 331 | 121 | 74 | 89 | 120 | 96 | 61 | 13411 | 1.3 | 9 | 3968 | 79.0 | 1054 | 21.0 |
| 13 | MB4Z | EA8RM, EA2W | 5,883,472 | 5438 | 401 | 469 | 36 | 1152 | 269 | 1380 | 725 | 887 | 227 | 209 | 84 | 64 | 93 | 111 | 86 | 47 | 14672 | 2.2 | 22 | 4097 | 75.3 | 1341 | 24.7 |
| 14 | MB3H | N2IC, K5WA | 5,819,824 | 5171 | 424 | 491 | 86 | 1034 | 163 | 1239 | 645 | 793 | 243 | 279 | 198 | 73 | 91 | 112 | 92 | 56 | 13726 | 1.4 | 22 | 3836 | 74.2 | 1335 | 25.8 |
| 15 | MB5Y | 9A6KX, 9A1UN | 5,810,616 | 4918 | 441 | 229 | 220 | 602 | 509 | 893 | 859 | 607 | 522 | 218 | 259 | 67 | 90 | 110 | 100 | 74 | 13176 | 3.1 | 41 | 2549 | 51.8 | 2369 | 48.2 |
| 16 | MB4C | RG6G, RA3CO | 5,807,790 | 5120 | 423 | 426 | 117 | 993 | 242 | 1352 | 511 | 784 | 282 | 237 | 176 | 75 | 86 | 113 | 88 | 61 | 13730 | 1.2 | 24 | 3792 | 74.1 | 1328 | 25.9 |
| 17 | MB4F | N2NT, NP4Z | 5,786,880 | 5139 | 411 | 396 | 109 | 885 | 211 | 1413 | 529 | 831 | 313 | 280 | 172 | 71 | 84 | 110 | 90 | 56 | 14080 | 1.8 | 17 | 3805 | 74.0 | 1334 | 26.0 |
| 18 | MB7M | DL3JAN, DM7XX | 5,760,452 | 5095 | 428 | 437 | 223 | 860 | 302 | 1179 | 580 | 708 | 304 | 287 | 215 | 70 | 86 | 116 | 96 | 60 | 13459 | 1.6 | 32 | 3471 | 68.1 | 1624 | 31.9 |
| 19 | MB3V | 4Z4AK, HA3LN | 5,736,630 | 4992 | 430 | 390 | 140 | 878 | 301 | 1341 | 524 | 854 | 192 | 255 | 117 | 69 | 91 | 113 | 94 | 63 | 13341 | 2.0 | 18 | 3718 | 74.5 | 1274 | 25.5 |
| 20 | MB2R | OM2VL, OM3RM | 5,726,924 | 4943 | 427 | 412 | 101 | 919 | 107 | 1419 | 360 | 868 | 297 | 268 | 192 | 66 | 87 | 110 | 99 | 65 | 13412 | 1.0 | 13 | 3886 | 78.6 | 1057 | 21.4 |
| 21 | MB2D | N1UR, K1XM | 5,673,360 | 5147 | 420 | 470 | 104 | 958 | 238 | 1386 | 456 | 816 | 264 | 270 | 185 | 73 | 88 | 106 | 90 | 63 | 13508 | 2.3 | 21 | 3900 | 75.8 | 1247 | 24.2 |
| 22 | MB7K | WA1Z, JH5GHM | 5,652,228 | 5057 | 412 | 449 | 101 | 984 | 142 | 1369 | 552 | 862 | 232 | 271 | 95 | 73 | 89 | 112 | 84 | 54 | 13719 | 1.7 | 17 | 3935 | 77.8 | 1122 | 22.2 |
| 23 | MB2N | NN3W, KD4D | 5,592,387 | 4904 | 417 | 335 | 104 | 794 | 304 | 1289 | 542 | 932 | 220 | 256 | 128 | 67 | 87 | 105 | 102 | 56 | 13411 | 1.3 | 14 | 3606 | 73.5 | 1298 | 26.5 |
| 24 | MB2S | NN7CW, DL4NAC | 5,570,672 | 4912 | 421 | 287 | 140 | 786 | 282 | 1346 | 429 | 749 | 350 | 312 | 231 | 68 | 82 | 111 | 93 | 67 | 13232 | 1.4 | 21 | 3480 | 70.8 | 1432 | 29.2 |
| 25 | MB3W | OL5Y, OK6RA | 5,490,035 | 4865 | 415 | 320 | 133 | 767 | 226 | 1257 | 550 | 796 | 345 | 306 | 165 | 64 | 79 | 111 | 93 | 68 | 13229 | 2.0 | 23 | 3446 | 70.8 | 1419 | 29.2 |
| 26 | MB4P | AA3B, W2GD | 5,400,835 | 5050 | 395 | 468 | 123 | 1020 | 204 | 1260 | 345 | 961 | 232 | 304 | 133 | 68 | 90 | 95 | 84 | 58 | 13673 | 1.6 | 4 | 4013 | 79.5 | 1037 | 20.5 |
| 27 | MB4W | IK2PFL, IK2JUB | 5,383,192 | 4839 | 412 | 380 | 32 | 1019 | 219 | 1424 | 360 | 810 | 54 | 436 | 105 | 67 | 86 | 107 | 87 | 65 | 13066 | 1.5 | 10 | 4069 | 84.1 | 770 | 15.9 |
| 28 | MB3M | JA1BJI, M0CFW | 5,355,015 | 4999 | 395 | 380 | 150 | 927 | 146 | 1419 | 538 | 800 | 134 | 328 | 177 | 67 | 88 | 106 | 82 | 52 | 13557 | 0.9 | 11 | 3854 | 77.1 | 1145 | 22.9 |
| 29 | MB4O | K3PA, NS0R | 5,245,254 | 4904 | 399 | 482 | 133 | 1096 | 112 | 1289 | 459 | 820 | 170 | 296 | 47 | 69 | 92 | 106 | 81 | 51 | 13146 | 1.9 | 15 | 3983 | 81.2 | 921 | 18.8 |
| 30 | MB1S | G4IRN, GW4XUM | 5,243,896 | 4815 | 406 | 404 | 118 | 955 | 91 | 1481 | 262 | 861 | 204 | 310 | 129 | 65 | 87 | 109 | 90 | 55 | 12916 | 2.3 | 23 | 4011 | 83.3 | 804 | 16.7 |
| 31 | MB5X | NH7T, WH7W | 5,148,143 | 4697 | 407 | 338 | 102 | 985 | 305 | 1073 | 649 | 560 | 315 | 235 | 135 | 69 | 91 | 106 | 86 | 55 | 12649 | 1.9 | 9 | 3191 | 67.9 | 1506 | 32.1 |
| 32 | MB3L | LZ2BE, LZ2XA | 5,084,340 | 4851 | 404 | 527 | 70 | 930 | 304 | 1166 | 615 | 786 | 91 | 335 | 27 | 74 | 85 | 104 | 85 | 56 | 12585 | 2.8 | 26 | 3744 | 77.2 | 1107 | 22.8 |
| 33 | MB1A | E21EIC, BA4TB | 5,002,063 | 4696 | 391 | 466 | 99 | 987 | 170 | 1407 | 225 | 815 | 202 | 299 | 26 | 72 | 93 | 96 | 79 | 51 | 12793 | 2.1 | 23 | 3974 | 84.6 | 722 | 15.4 |
| 34 | MB7V | K6LA, VE3AT | 4,958,696 | 4778 | 404 | 390 | 138 | 877 | 165 | 1318 | 527 | 712 | 250 | 324 | 77 | 71 | 85 | 115 | 82 | 51 | 12274 | 1.5 | 11 | 3621 | 75.8 | 1157 | 24.2 |
| 35 | MB5P | LU9ESD, LW5HR | 4,926,404 | 4648 | 406 | 225 | 226 | 660 | 326 | 957 | 746 | 635 | 358 | 268 | 247 | 62 | 87 | 111 | 87 | 59 | 12134 | 2.7 | 12 | 2745 | 59.1 | 1903 | 40.9 |
| 36 | MB4L | ES7GM, YL3JA | 4,842,425 | 4519 | 413 | 399 | 82 | 723 | 179 | 1199 | 360 | 773 | 298 | 304 | 202 | 69 | 75 | 111 | 96 | 62 | 11725 | 2.2 | 12 | 3398 | 75.2 | 1121 | 24.8 |
| 37 | MB7F | SP5Y, SQ9ORQ | 4,814,437 | 4864 | 379 | 140 | 213 | 656 | 374 | 1128 | 906 | 648 | 501 | 148 | 150 | 59 | 75 | 114 | 85 | 46 | 12703 | 2.9 | 23 | 2720 | 55.9 | 2144 | 44.1 |
| 38 | MB7G | N9NB, W9RE | 4,808,322 | 4331 | 402 | 411 | 92 | 718 | 160 | 1333 | 232 | 806 | 206 | 281 | 92 | 69 | 81 | 112 | 86 | 54 | 11961 | 1.6 | 6 | 3549 | 81.9 | 782 | 18.1 |
| 39 | MB3D | UN9L, UN4Q | 4,775,244 | 4569 | 383 | 506 | 13 | 784 | 140 | 1352 | 287 | 954 | 152 | 332 | 49 | 65 | 80 | 99 | 83 | 56 | 12468 | 1.9 | 16 | 3928 | 86.0 | 641 | 14.0 |
| 40 | MB2U | VK2IA, ZL3CW | 4,764,861 | 4490 | 389 | 439 | 40 | 938 | 141 | 1387 | 81 | 852 | 190 | 398 | 24 | 70 | 84 | 94 | 85 | 56 | 12249 | 1.8 | 12 | 4014 | 89.4 | 476 | 10.6 |
| 41 | MB4V | KO8SCA, AD5A | 4,652,928 | 4474 | 384 | 422 | 87 | 931 | 259 | 1270 | 302 | 669 | 250 | 231 | 53 | 67 | 83 | 95 | 83 | 56 | 12117 | 1.8 | 13 | 3523 | 78.7 | 951 | 21.3 |
| 42 | MB3F | RA9P, R2BFL | 4,608,350 | 4734 | 370 | 451 | 32 | 1020 | 220 | 1529 | 336 | 783 | 121 | 219 | 23 | 65 | 82 | 102 | 74 | 47 | 12455 | 2.8 | 17 | 4002 | 84.5 | 732 | 15.5 |
| 43 | MB3G | HB9ARF, LY4A | 4,567,956 | 4765 | 382 | 370 | 139 | 762 | 245 | 1127 | 596 | 651 | 349 | 351 | 175 | 73 | 82 | 97 | 82 | 48 | 11958 | 2.4 | 19 | 3261 | 68.4 | 1504 | 31.6 |
| 44 | MB4X | W7WLW, N4ML | 4,180,260 | 4312 | 370 | 276 | 41 | 779 | 199 | 1222 | 538 | 639 | 181 | 275 | 162 | 56 | 77 | 100 | 84 | 53 | 11298 | 5.3 | 45 | 3191 | 74.0 | 1121 | 26.0 |
| 45 | MB1N | DL3ON, EI5LA | 4,021,205 | 4288 | 365 | 318 | 76 | 703 | 261 | 1121 | 685 | 559 | 223 | 269 | 73 | 64 | 79 | 102 | 72 | 48 | 11017 | 3.5 | 54 | 2970 | 69.3 | 1318 | 30.7 |
| 46 | MB3B | PY2NY, PY7ZC | 3,860,428 | 4305 | 374 | 351 | 220 | 608 | 471 | 781 | 712 | 205 | 452 | 217 | 288 | 70 | 80 | 95 | 76 | 53 | 10322 | 2.0 | 26 | 2162 | 50.2 | 2143 | 49.8 |