

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.

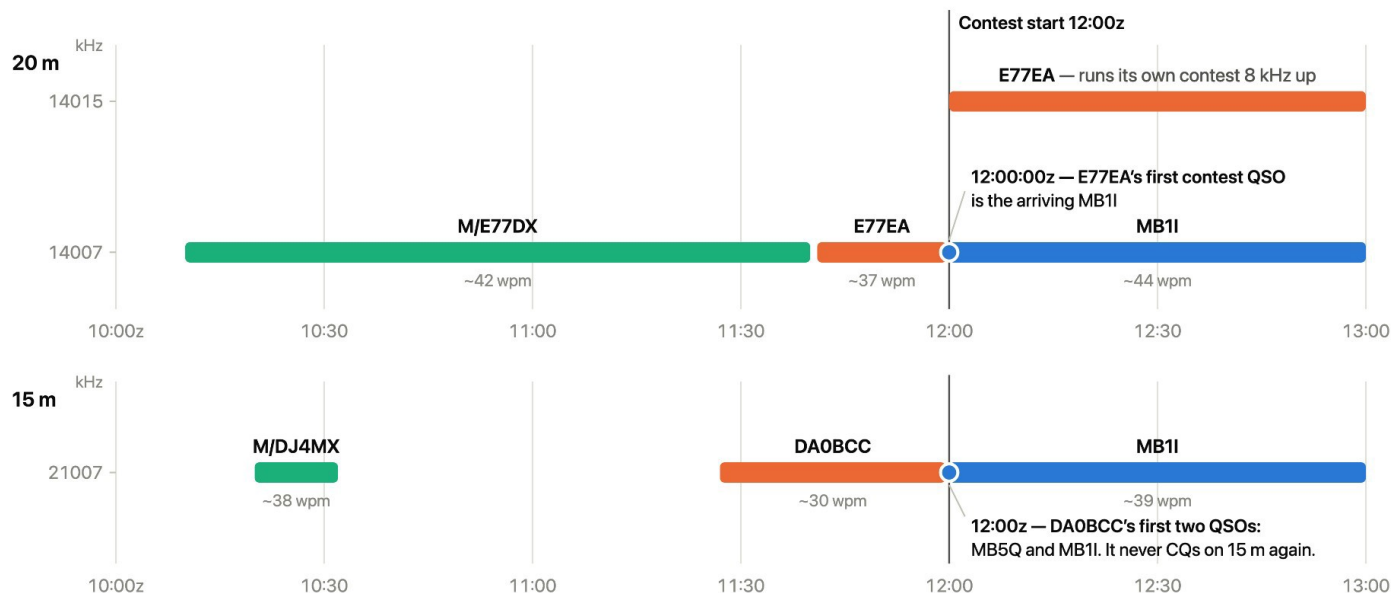
MB1I (E77DX and DJ4MX) — Both of its starting frequencies were held by stations connected to its operators. E77EA held 14007.0 kHz from 11:41z until 11:59:39. Its first contest contact on that frequency, at 12:00z, was MB1I, after which E77EA moved 8 kHz away and continued to operate there. DA0BCC held 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.

MB1I — both starting frequencies were handed over at 12:00z

On each channel, the same relay: an operator's personal call, then an affiliated station, then the team — and each holder's first contest contact, made at 12:00z on the frequency it was leaving, is MB1I.

■ Team call — MB1I ■ Affiliated station ■ Operator's personal call



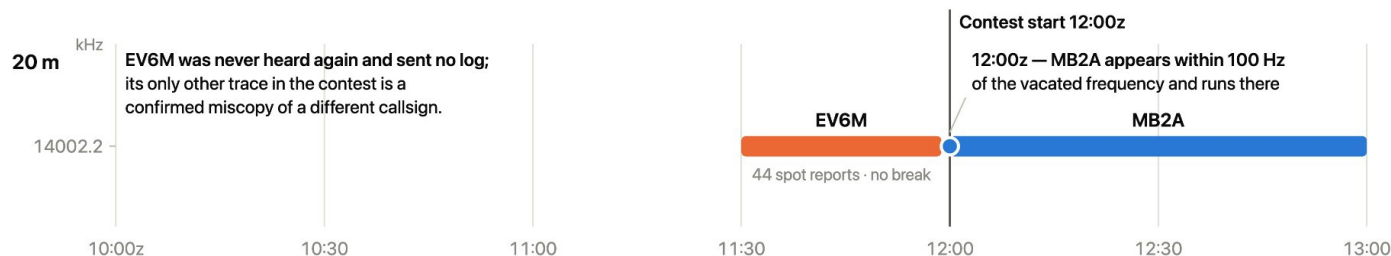
MB2A (US2YW and IK4VET) — EV6M was spotted continuously on 14002.2 kHz from 11:30z until 11:58:47, in forty-four reports. MB2A appeared within 100 Hz of that frequency at 12:00z and ran there. EV6M was never heard again, submitted no log, and the only other entry naming it anywhere in the contest is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

Figure 2-2.

MB2A — EV6M held 14002.2 kHz until 11:58:47z

EV6M was spotted without a break for twenty-nine minutes, in forty-four reports. At 12:00z MB2A appeared within 100 Hz of the vacated frequency and ran there.

■ Team call — MB2A ■ Holding station — EV6M



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.

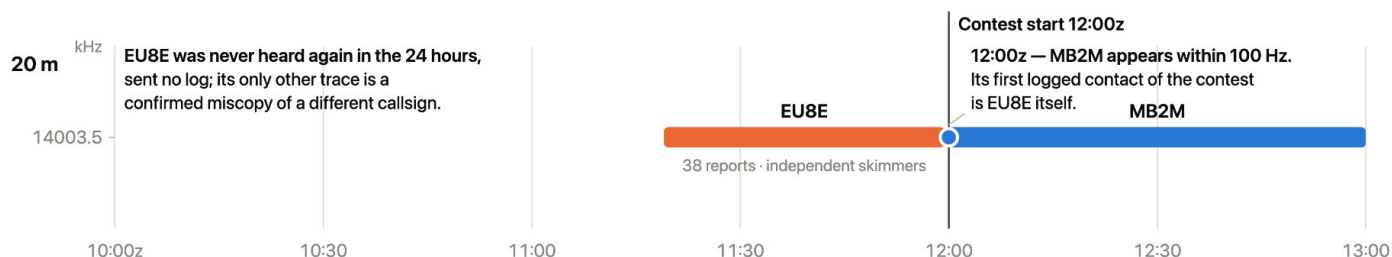
MB2M appeared within 100 Hz of that frequency at 12:00z and ran there. MB2M's first logged contact of the contest is EU8E itself, on the frequency EU8E had just held for forty minutes. EU8E was never heard again during the next twenty-four hours, submitted no log, and the only other entry naming it anywhere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

Figure 2-3.

MB2M — EU8E held 14003.5 kHz until 11:59:26z

EU8E was spotted without a break for forty minutes, in thirty-eight reports from independent skimmer receivers. At 12:00z MB2M appeared within 100 Hz — and its first logged contact of the contest is EU8E itself.

■ Team call — MB2M ■ Holding station — EU8E



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:	<i>UT4MD 5NN27</i>
12:03:36	UT3MD:	5NN TT1
12:03:40	MB2A:	<i>UT3MD ?</i>
12:03:45	UT3MD:	UT3MD 5NN 9
12:03:49	MB2A:	<i>UT3MD TU</i>

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	HB9ARE, 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