



Response to AO8HQ Charges

To:

IARU and ARRL; permission has been granted by the DARC / DA0HQ only to the IARU and ARRL to publish this letter in its entirety. No further publication has been authorized.

From:

Lothar, DL3TD, DA0HQ license holder and Chairman of the DX and HF Contesting Committee of the DARC, is currently very ill and requested this response to be written and submitted by Dietmar, DL3DXX, Committee member, and Ben, DL5ANT, club president of X34 TU Ilmenau, which is responsible for the club station DF0HQ/DA0HQ

Conclusion:

The DA0HQ team has concluded that at no point were any contest rules (IARU HF, ARRL HF or ARRL general rules) or German regulations broken. All contacts in the log are real and are considered legal under both the IARU rules and German regulations.

Background points:

- The DA0HQ logs were thoroughly checked and found to contain QSO's that all took place.
- The German amateur radio community was overly eager in assisting DA0HQ to win the contest, and used means that, although legal, were construed by the AO8HQ team of being illegal. DA0HQ had no control over these actions, and did not request them in any way.

These include the following examples:

- Liberal use of club station call(s) in addition to personal call signs. Note that under German regulations, the holder of the club license only has to agree to let someone use their call; it is not required to be used only by the licensee. The station location is also not required to be the licensed address. Note also that not only DA0HQ was contacted by these stations, so many should appear in other HQ station logs.
- Spotting, although publicly not condoned by DA0HQ, was also used by many German ops. No self-spotting took place. DK8NC stood out as a particularly heavy abuser of spotting. Note that this appears to be a problem across all HQ stations, and is not restricted to DA0HQ.



- Casual operators that were not participating in the contest, but gave DA0HQ a contact to indicate their support, resulting in a Unique.
 - The many German participants at IARU Field Days that passed around the mike/key to give DA0HQ contacts on several bands.
 - The DA0HQ Award publicly promotes activity to contact the DA0HQ station on as many bands and modes as possible. It is mentioned on our web page to work other stations to reduce the issue with Uniques. This award is not new, and until now this has not been brought to our attention as a problem, but could be terminated at any time if considered inappropriate.
 - There are a very small (documented) number of contacts received from German stations that were not legal under German regulations, e.g. using a training call sign in a manner not allowed. It is neither possible, nor the responsibility of DA0HQ, as well as any other contest station in any other country, to validate every QSO made as having been made legally under the local regulations of these stations. Therefore, these contacts must be considered legal from the DA0HQ standpoint.
- Full details are included in the large document attached in German. If a full translation is necessary, please let us know and allow us another 1-2 weeks to complete our response.
 - Note that we have also collected a significant list of complaints on how the AO8HQ team used unfair tactics and abused the cooperation of DA0HQ. This is despite that we were unable to verify some details, because they refused to reciprocate in sending us their log. In the interest of taking a positive approach towards our response, we have left these points off of this document (many are contained in the details document), but we can provide this list upon request.

It is therefore requested at this time that the IARU and ARRL please take their time to review this document, along with the details document, to come to a fair and balanced judgement based upon the facts provided above. If there are any further questions or translations requested, we will act on them as quickly as possible and fully cooperate with your analysis. We apologize for the delay caused by Lothar's illness.

Thank you and vy 73,
Dietmar Kasper, DL3DXX
Ben Bieske, DL5ANT