Contest Online Scoreboard: Getting Started and More…

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This document was developed to help new users learn how to access the Scoreboard to highlight a near real-time display of contest ebb and flow. The intent is to do a step-by-step walk-through to help you recognize the pages and have a reference document if and when you wish to join a team or perform some other role as a scoreboard participant.

It is also intended to help general users understand the availability of more advanced capabilities to improve personal performance.

PVRC users can benefit in many different ways. First, it provides a perspective of how you are performing against other PVRC members or more broadly, how you are performing relative to other contest participants. Second, you will likely find that watching the scoreboard will trigger a desire to catch up to another participant or team member resulting in an increase in "butt in chair" time and a logical improvement in your score and how that is contributing to PVRC's overall standing.

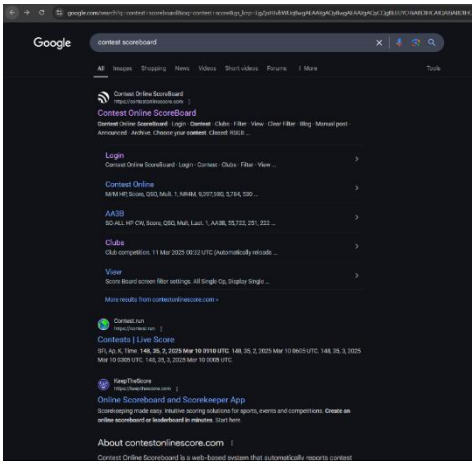
This Document

The document is organized into five sections. These are:

- Basic Access
- Pages
- Setting Up the Logging Program
- Creating/Registering/Participation on a Team
- Using the Scoreboard to improve your performance

Getting Started

There are many ways to get to the starting point. A web search for "contest scoreboard" will likely yield the following:



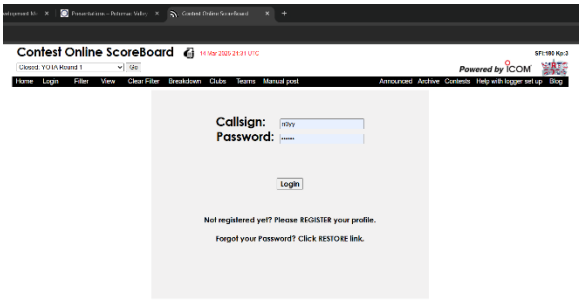
Click on the Contest Online Scoreboard and it will take you to the Login/Menu page. Or maybe you will want to Bookmark the page for future use.

The URL is: https://contestonlinescore.com/

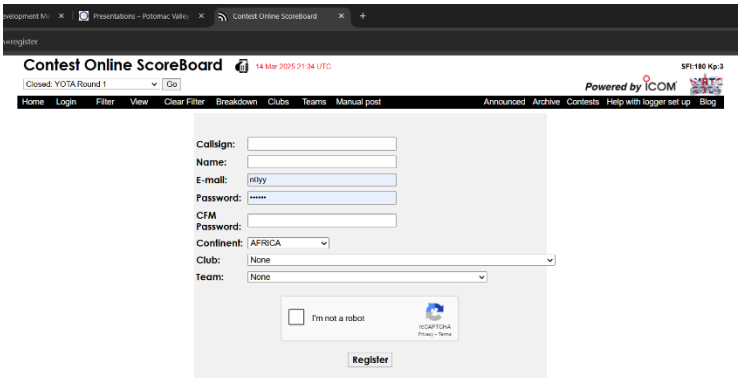
Basic Access

The first screen you will see when you access the Scoreboard is the **Login/Register** screen.

If you are a returning user, you will just Login with your Call and Password that you established when you registered.

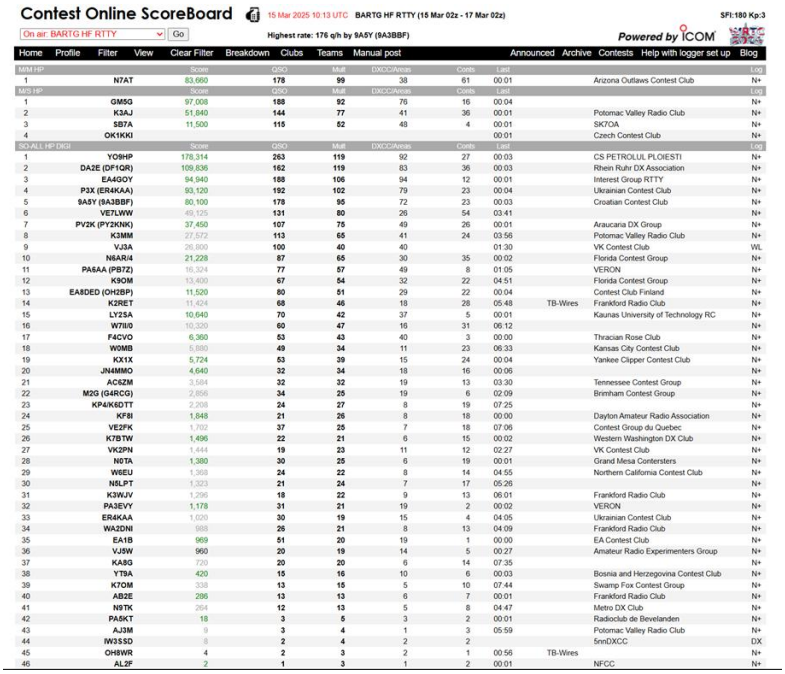


If this is your first time, you will need to **Register**. Clicking on **Register** takes you to the following screen.

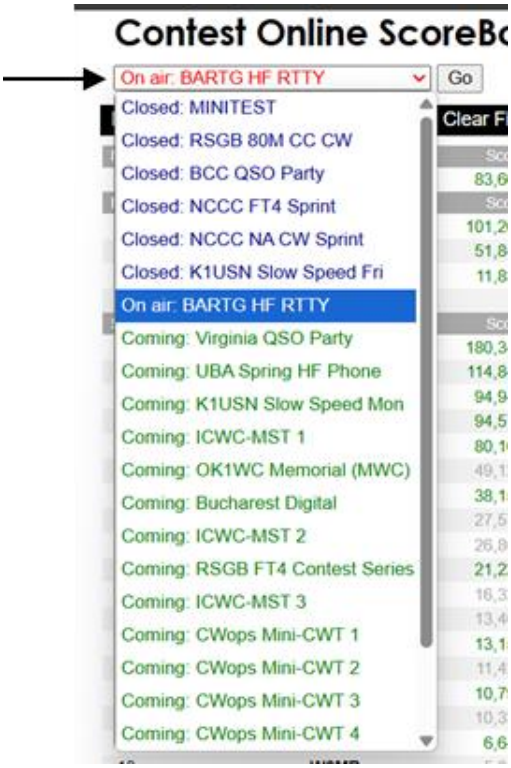


Enter your callsign, name, a Password of your choice (there are no guidelines of length, special characters, etc.), then a second entry of your proposed Password to Confirm that it matches the first entry, your continent (likely North America), select PVRC from the drop-down menu, and leave the Team None for now. **Check** the "I'm not a robot" box and press **Register**. That will complete your registration. This registration will become your Profile.

After completing your registration, you will be presented with the Home page.



The first stop will be the **Contest List** and the **Go** button. Click on the Contest/Go panel.



Note several things in the drop-down menu. There are **Closed** contests. These are contests already completed.

Next will be **On air** contests. These are currently active contests.

At the bottom of the list are the **Coming** contests. Usually, you will select from the **Coming** contest as part of your pre-contest setup. But you can also join "on-the-fly" by selecting an **On air** contest and doing a quick setup.

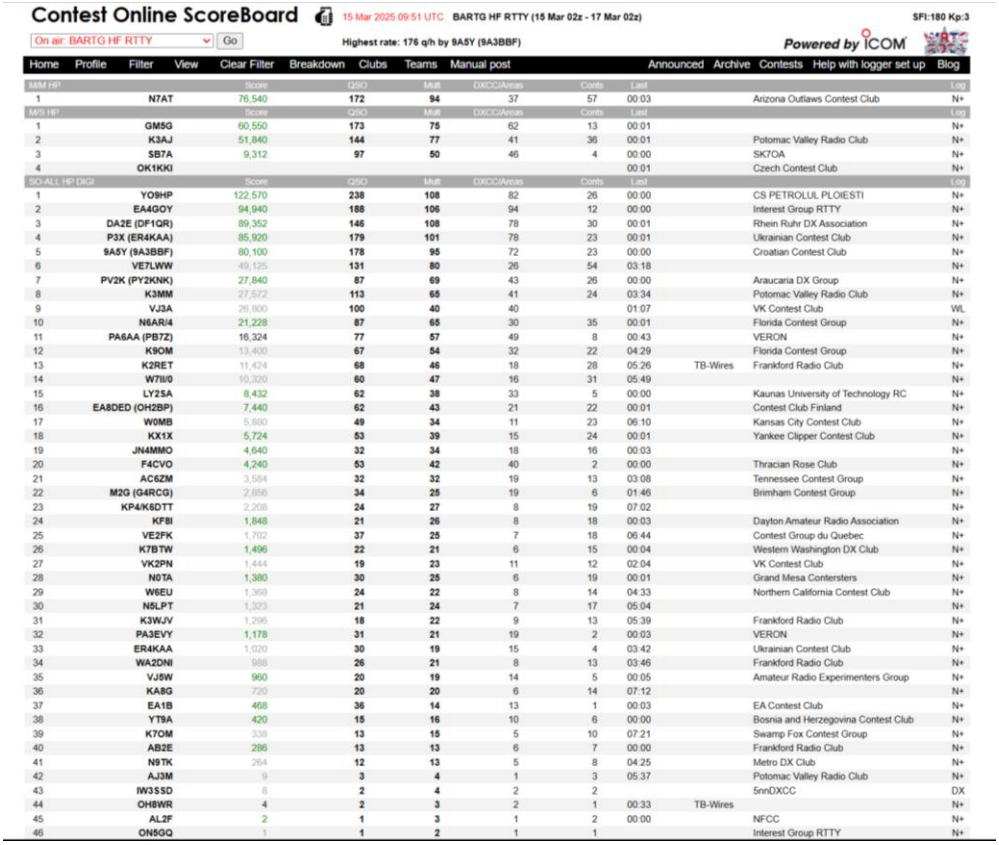
Once the contest of choice has been identified, Click the **Go** button to complete the selection.

The value of the **Coming** contest listings is that it allows you to prepare for an upcoming contest. Scoreboard access will be just another step in our pre-contest preparations including ensuring that you have enabled the reporting capability in your logger. Then you can log into the Scoreboard and find your call on the various pages as part of other competitors by class of entry or within the club.

When the defined start time for the contest indicates the start of the contest, the status of **Coming** becomes **On air**.

Pages

After you press Go and your contest is selected, the following screen will be displayed. Let's take a moment to look at all the choices of the items listed in the top ribbon. These are:

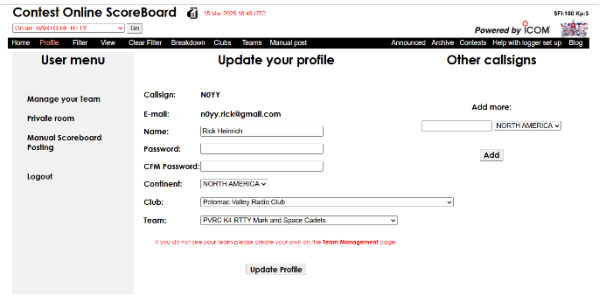


- Home
- Profile
- Filter
- View
- Clear Filter
- Breakdown
- Clubs
- Teams
- Manual Post
- Announced
- Archive
- Contests
- Help with logger setup
- Blog

We are on the Home page now. The listing shows the evolving standings in each class of the competition sorted by class of entry. The columns are the reported scores (as calculated by the logging program and reported real time to the Scoreboard) and the QSO, multiplier, etc. counts that make up that score. The scores update every 5 minutes. Note that the clubs and logging program of each entry is also shown.

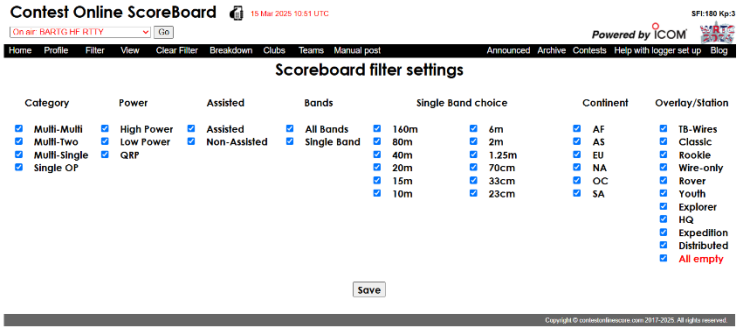
Let's step through each of the different screens.

Profile



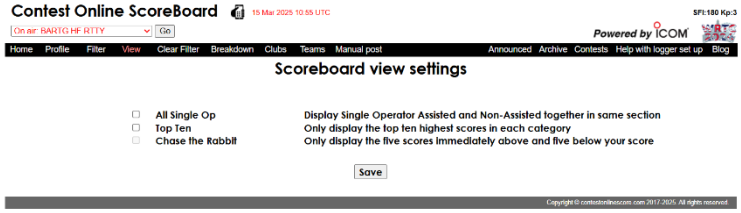
This is the same page you populated when you registered. It allows you to Update elements of your profile based on the contest you are entering. But it has also added a User Menu for additional functionality.

Filter



The Filter allows you to track the evolving standings in a specific area of interest. Maybe you want to see how the low power/assisted/40M stations are doing. You can select these filters for future use by saving them.

View



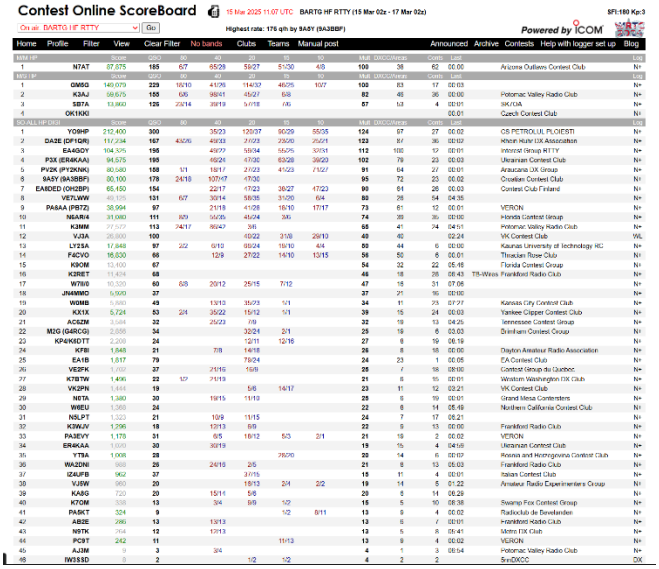
In large contests there are hundreds of individual stations that are posting their scores. Is that helpful to you or distracting? You can narrow the displayed results to offer you the most helpful results. Maybe Chase the Rabbit would be a motivation tool for you to push a bit harder or maybe spend some more time in the chair!

Clear Filter

The caption under the button indicates – *Clear all Filter and View Settings in case you cannot find some entries that may be hidden.* This allows you to clear previously set filters and see the total scores reported.

Breakdown

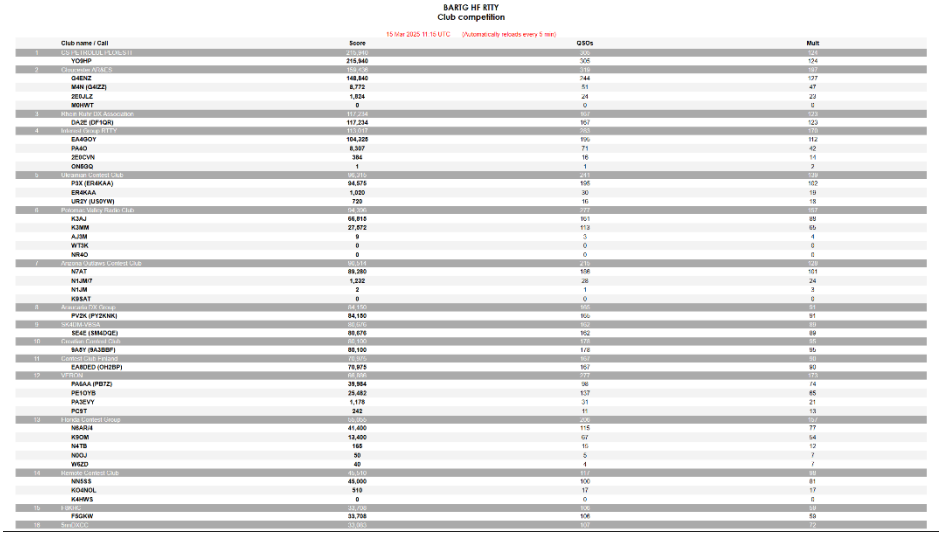
This provides significant insight into how your competitors are performing. Note that QSOs per band, multipliers by band, and other parameters are helping to build their score. Because the Scoreboard is updated every five minutes you can watch to see when your competition is changing bands or what strategy they might be pursuing.



Also note that the data is not present for all calls listed. You have control of deciding to exchange that information when you set your reporting parameters in your logging program.

Clubs

This is a consolidated list of Clubs and their participating members. This is how Club competition is presented. Note this illustration shows that PVRC is in 6th place of all clubs reporting. It's fun to watch the jostling of position as the server updates.

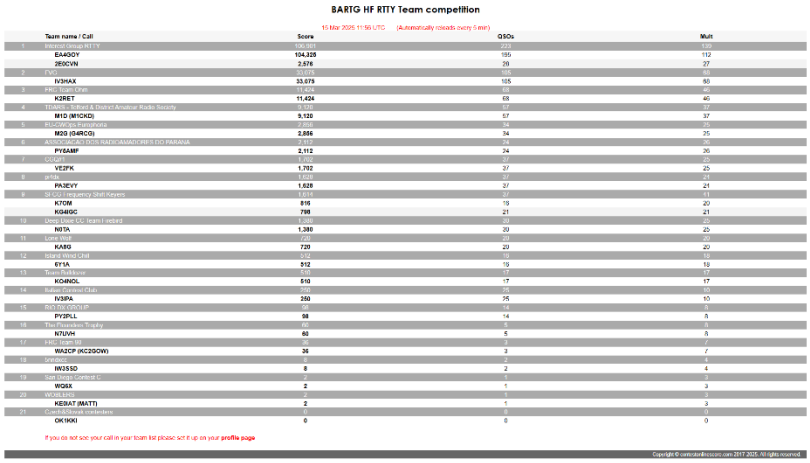


The selection of Club scores and observing the club members contributing is a key motivating tool. It is much easier to see how you are performing compared to another Chapter member or someone in a low power class vs your unlimited entry. Select PVRC and watch how the rank moves over time. And watch how your score moves up (or down) based on your strategy. Are you motivated to spend an extra hour to catch and maybe pass another member of the club? That helps the club as well as shown in our standing in the annual Club Competition statistics. It's a combination of the total contributing scores not just the two or three leaders at the top.

My guess is that this will be the screen you keep open as the contest progresses!

Teams

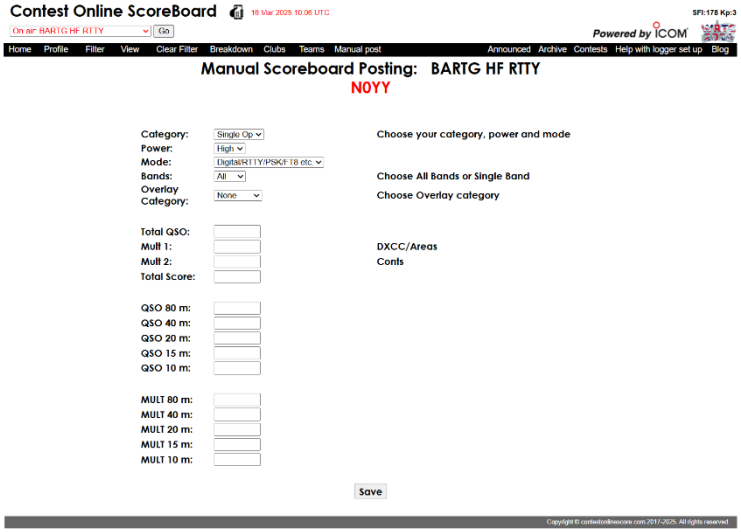
This is another subset of the overall Scoreboard tracking. Teams can be formed from within a club or a group of friends that just enjoy creating "bragging rights". Form a team and watch that small group move up and down in the overall competition. Or find additional motivation from just within the team!



Manual Post

The normal mode of providing score progress is automated through a logging program that provides updates every 5 minutes. It is possible to provide score updates manually using the following page. Any Manual Post must be provided by the end of the contest to be viable.

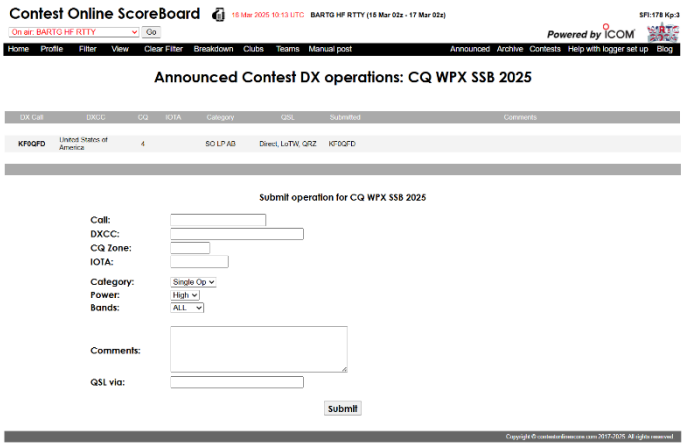
The Manual Post form provides information that is consistent with the contest requirements.



Announced

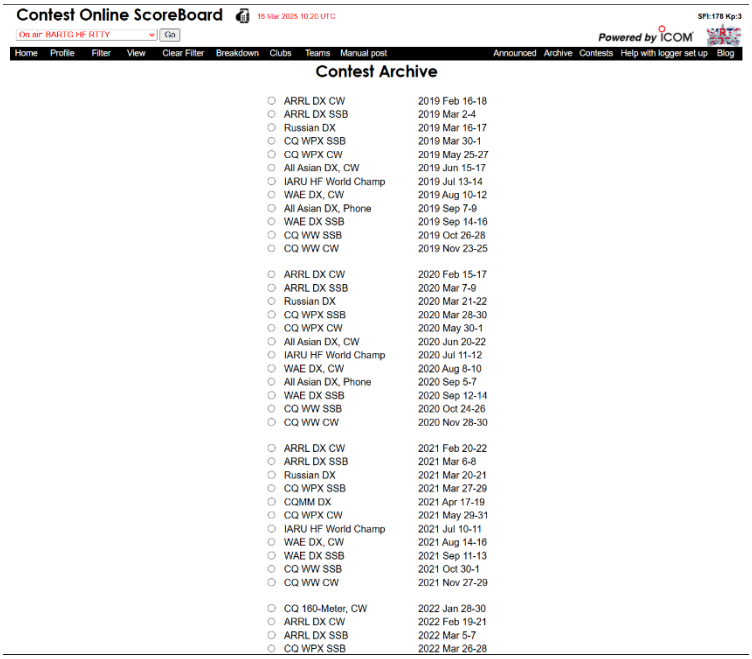
Prior to the start of a contest, it is possible to provide information for a planned contest operation. While there are other sites that can provide similar information visible to others, this is intended for use by the Contest Online Scoreboard for populating their scoring.

This is optional.



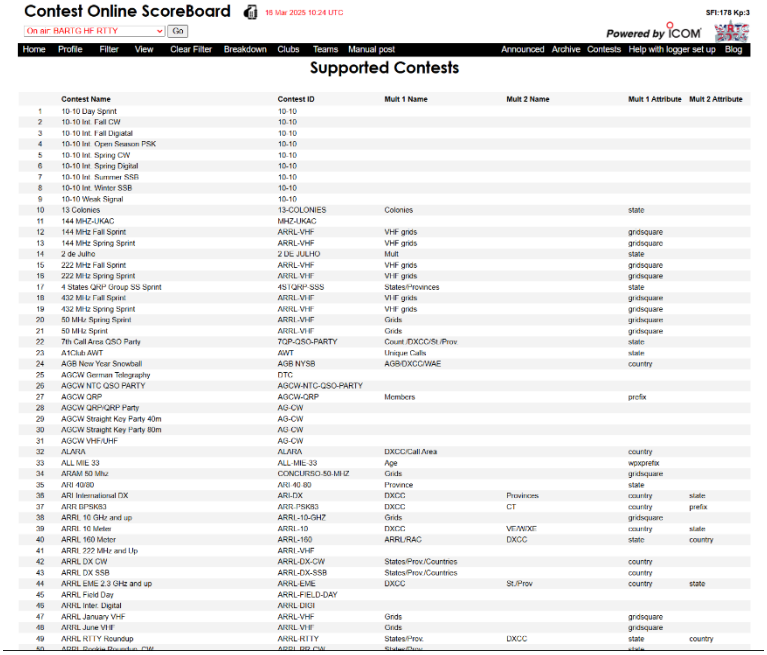
Archive

Certain contests are held in an archive for retrieval. This is a great tool to help contest entrants to develop operating strategies and goals based on the range of competitors or evolving propagation for major contests.



Contests

This page highlights the supported contests for the Contest Online Scoreboard. It is yet another tool to be used for scheduling and planning.

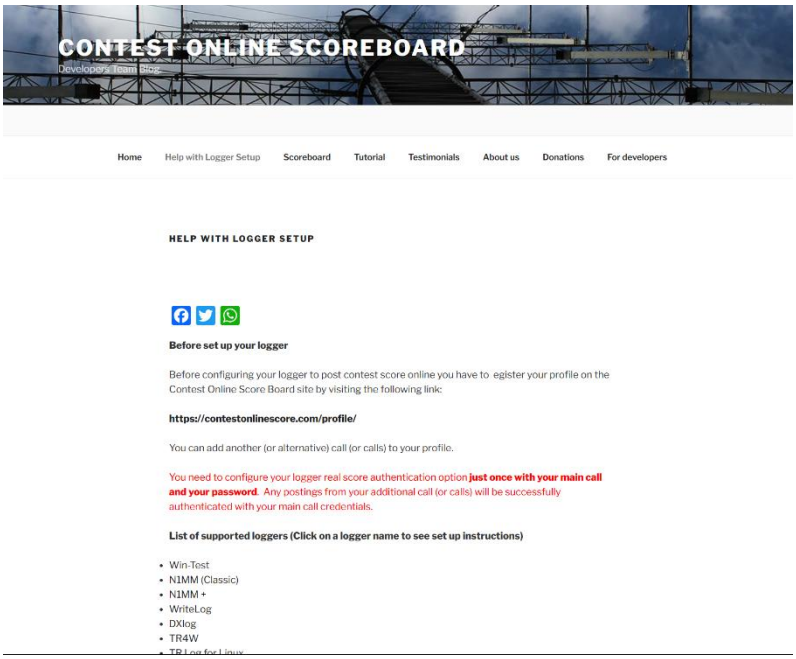


Help with Logger Setup

As an aid to the user, the sponsors of the Contest Online Scoreboard have included information for configuring your logging program for reporting your periodic results.

There are several helpful pages included in the setup.

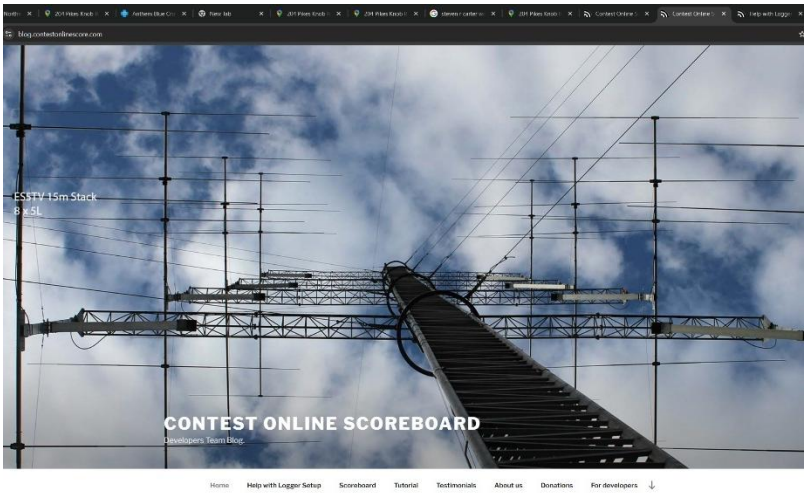
I've got a more focused section on N1MM Logger + in the next section for those interested.



Blog

The Blog is intended for developers to have a place to exchange ideas. That said, there are interesting statistics and data tools available to support more detailed planning and strategy development based on each specific contest,

It is an interesting read.

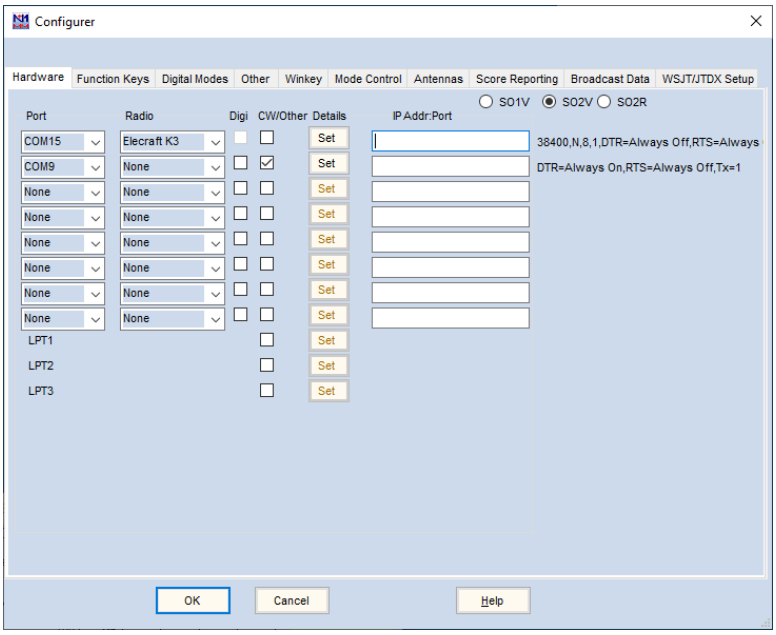


A word of caution is in order. The Scoreboard is mesmerizing. Watching scores build and the jostling for position will likely distract you from the business at hand. It's OK to give a quick glance. Pick a page that supports your strategy or enhances your motivation. But remember –

You are in a contest! Run 'em!!

Setting up the Logging Program

Contest Online Scoreboard has been working with many of the popular logging programs to ensure near seamless integration.

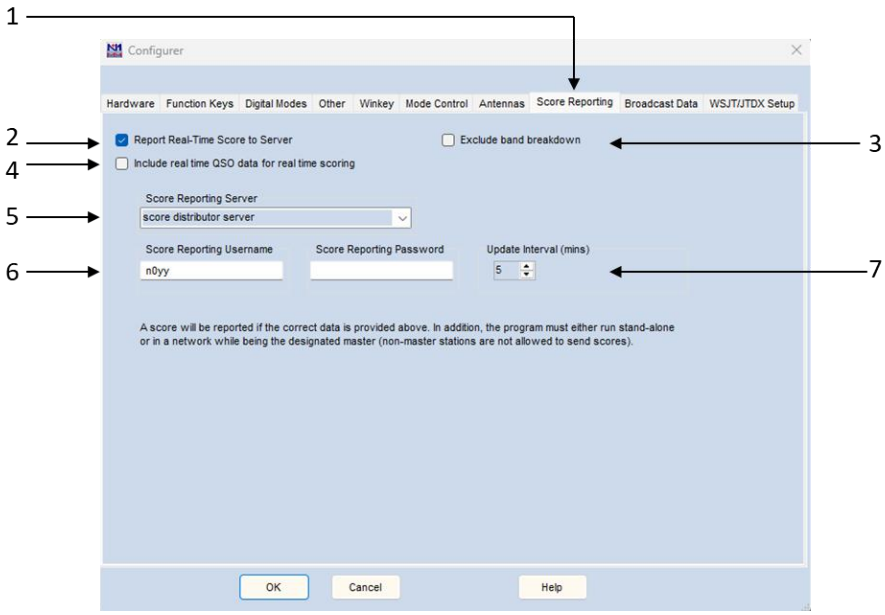


This is a list of supported loggers:

Win-Test	DXlog	QARtest	SDC (Software Defined Connector)
N1MM (Classic)	TR4W	N3FJP loggers	
N1MM +	TR Log for Linux	RUMLog	
WriteLog	UCXlog	SkookumLogger	

Let's walk through setting up N1MM+ to report your score to the Scoreboard.

1 The Score Reporting tab is located on the Configurer banner on N1MM+. Clicking on the Score Reporting tab will take you to this screen.

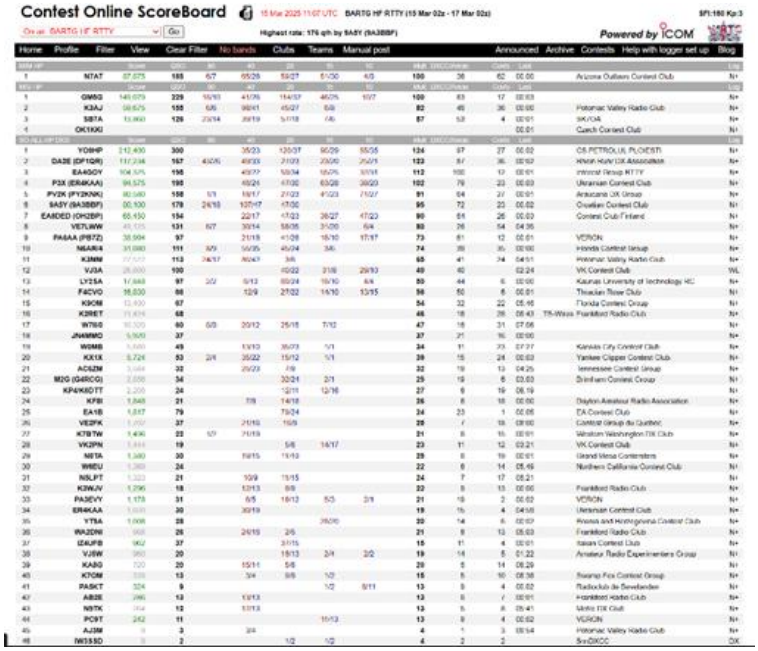


There are several check boxes and entry windows that are part of the set up.

2 **Report Real-Time Score to Server**– this checkbox is checked to start reporting real-time scores. It will stay selected until you uncheck it.

3 **Exclude band breakdown** – if you feel that for competitive reasons you don't want to disclose your band breakdown, revealing your band-change strategy, check this box.

4 **Include real time QSO data for real time scoring** – this will send QSO data to the real-time scoring website (*experimental: performs log cross-checking in real time*).



5 **Score Reporting Server** – The server name is editable. One of the entries in the pulldown list is "score distributor server". For most users, this is the appropriate choice, as it forwards reported scores to all online scoreboards. If the "Include real time QSO data …" checkbox is checked and the contest is one of the ones supported by the real-time scoring website, QSO data will be forwarded to that website for cross-checking in addition to the regular score reporting to the scoreboard websites.

6 **Score Reporting Username** and **Score Reporting Password** – For security reasons, the score reporting web sites require that you register your callsign and password. Once you have done so, enter them in the textboxes provided.

7 **Update Interval** – Adjustable from 2 minutes to 60 minutes. This is the update of your display, not the updating of your QSO data to the server.

To be sure that your scores are being sent, check just above the lower text pane in the **Info Window**. Each time a score is sent and acknowledged by the server, you'll see a notification there.

You are now setup to display your score on the Contest Online Scoreboard and select which page or pages you would find most helpful.

Creating/Registering/Participation on a Team

Team competition is part of a Contest-within-a-Contest capability using the Contest Online Scoreboard. Teams are made up of 2-5 teammates that wish to participate together for many reasons. Maybe they all have similar equipment and want to compare their station configuration. Maybe, they are starting out and are working with a common skill level. Or maybe they are long term friends that use the opportunity to get together to exchange war stories at the end of a contest.

The Contest Online Scoreboard provides different levels of motivation for contest participants. Not everyone is competing at a global or national level, but this provides yet another way of maintaining situational awareness of how the contest is proceeding or might just be as simple as “chasing the rabbit” for any level of participant.

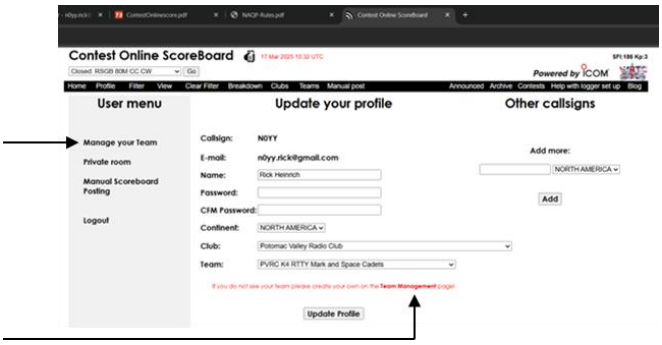
There are several steps to creating a team and configuring your profile to make sure that all of your planning bears the desired result.

Let’s work through an example.

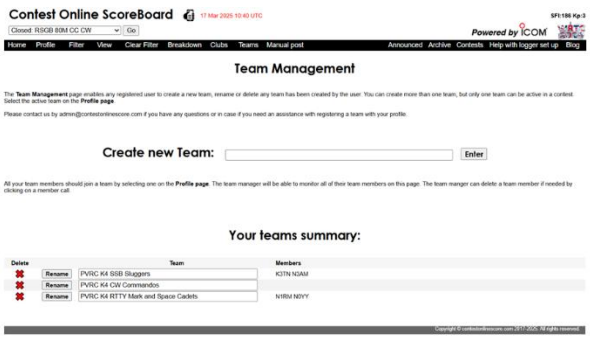
1) Form a Team –
2) Pick a name. Some clubs choose a theme for all the teams participating within the club. An example might be “weather events”. e.g Team 1 is the Tornados, Team 2 is the Thunder, Team 3 the Storm Clouds, and so on. There is no limit to 5-person teams.
3) Identify someone to act as lead. That person’s role will be to coordinate within the Scoreboard.
4) Make sure that all the team members have updated their profile to include the team Name.
5) Check the Contest Online Scoreboard Teams page to make sure they are all listed.

OK – a group with a common interest gets together. We will use the notion that four individuals have recently purchased a new radio - an Elecraft K4. They have spent a few weeks struggling to get all the bugs out of their setups and now feel they are ready to take an operational leap. One of the four volunteers to lead the formation of a team. Hmmm… I know we’ll call ourselves the PVRC K4 CW Commandos!

The leader goes to his Profile page. In the User menu the top heading is Manage your Team. (There is also a hint, just above the Update Profile button that could also be used to get to the Manage your team page.)

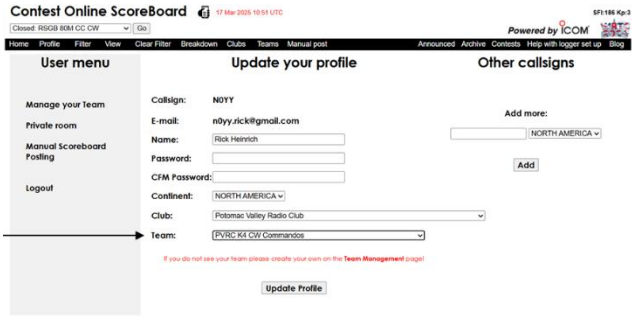


The team manager either creates a new team name or selects from a name that was used in a previous contest. [Note: There is guidance given in the yellow highlighted sections of actions you might take.]



After entering a new name, the **Your team's summary:** will show the name of the Team.

Now it is up to each of the team members to go to their Profile page and select that team. At the bottom of the Update your profile heading is the Team drop down box. Click on the Box and will find a list of all Team Names that have been created. Seach through the list to find the PVRC K4 CW Commandos and select that Team. Once selected, click on **Update Profile**. As each member of the team updates their profile, the call will show on the Team Management page.



NAQP has one additional requirement. While reporting your score on the Contest Online Scoreboard is all that is necessary for being part of the Club Competition, there is an additional step required to register your Team Name with NAQP so that team results can also be included in the overall contest report in NCJ. The following is from the NAQP Rules:

14. Team Competition: You may wish to form a team with fellow NAQP participants. If so, your team must consist of two to five Single Operator and Single Operator Assisted stations whose individual scores are added together to produce a team score. Although clubs or other groups having more than five members may form multiple teams, there are no club membership, distance, or meeting requirements for a team entry. Teams must be registered prior to the start of the contest. Use one of the following online forms to register your team: CW team registration: www.ncjweb.com/cwnaqpteamreg SSB team registration: www.ncjweb.com/ssbnaqpteamreg RTTY team registration:

www.ncjweb.com/rttynaqpteamreg

These team registration forms automatically provide confirmation of team registration by return e-mail. Inclusion of team information in submitted Cabrillo logs is not required, as teams are determined ahead of time through the team registration system.

Now when you select your contest and turn on your ability to report your score in your Score Reporting tab in the Configurer in the logging program, your call will show up in several places depending on where you look. It will be in the View Page, Breakdown Page, Club Page, and the Team Page. You pick which page (or pages) you want to monitor.

Now its time for the fun part – watching all the jostling of positions as the contest proceeds.

Using the Contest Online Scoreboard to Improve your Performance

Now that we have described another tool for your toolbox, what are some of the things that you can do to improve your personal performance.

1 What are your goals? Each of us have different goals that we set. Beat last year's score. Increase S&P rate. Outperform W4XYZ. All of these can be helped by the basic Scoreboard and some of its embedded tools. Probably the largest Scoreboard contribution will be "the thrill of the chase" which will drive an incremental amount of additional time spent in front of the radio. We are all busy, but a few minutes here and there will support your goals.
2 What did I learn from last year? Again, whether it is post-processing your log using external tools or looking at the Scoreboard and applying some of their embedded tools can help set different strategic goals. Improve my error rate – new, experimental capabilities in the Scoreboard allow for near real time "log checking reports" at the end of an event. Consider the CWT or other one-hour contests. Rate, error rate, kinds of errors e.g. mis-copied callsigns, busted exchanges, etc. The tools embedded in the Scoreboard can help analyze those errors.
3 Strategic planning for next year. Successful contesters prepare "after action reports" after a contest. What went well and should be applied in another contest? What fell short of the plan? Band change strategies? Multiplier pursuit strategies? Focus on SO1R and less on SO2R? The Scoreboard and post-contest analysis may help develop some of those answers. The Scoreboard is more than just post-processing your log. You can compare yourself against your peers.

I highly suggest that you look at some examples of what the Scoreboard can offer in their Blog. There are some interesting tools there. Here is the link:

https://blog.contestonlinescore.com/the-contest-online-scoreboard-features/

Then select: Please download tutorial in Adobe Acrobat format. Click on the link below:

- COSB tutorial (English)

But I might also suggest the obvious. If the Scoreboard helps you have more fun, then you are more likely to play a little harder, likely sitting in the seat for minutes or maybe hours more than anticipated, which will help you achieve your goals.

Stay Radio Active!

And

GO PVRC!!!