

Limitation on participation by stations from Russia, Belarus and Donbas region in the 2022 OCDX Contest

The Oceania DX (OCDX) Contest Committee has decided to limit the participation of stations from Russia, Belarus, and the separatist Donbas region of Ukraine (unofficial D1 prefix) in the 2022 OCDX Contest. Logs submitted by these stations will be treated as check logs and contacts with these stations by other stations will have zero points value and not count as multipliers.

The committee considers that this is an appropriate action to take in response to Russia's unprovoked and unjustifiable war against Ukraine and the role of the Belarusian government in facilitating the war.

It's consistent with the [second joint statement](#) statement signed by the Australian and New Zealand governments (along with 33 other countries) on limiting Russian and Belarusian engagement in international sporting events. This statement requests that if sporting organisations choose to permit sports people from Russia and Belarus to participate in sporting events then it should be clear that they are not representing the Russian or Belarusian states, and the use of official state Russian and Belarusian flags, emblems and anthems should be prohibited. We consider that the call signs of Russian and Belarus stations are analogous to state flags and it's not possible to be clear that these stations do not represent the Russian or Belarusian states.

We understand and support the view that amateur radio should be apolitical but we also consider that the invasion of Ukraine, along with the immense suffering inflicted on its citizens, has crossed a moral line that goes well beyond normal politics and no longer permits us to take a passive stance. Respect for human rights and peaceful relations between nations form the foundation of international sport, including amateur radio contests.

We also recognise that that many of our fellow amateurs in Russia, Belarus and Donbas are innocent bystanders and may not support the Russian war against Ukraine. We regret the impact of our decision on these amateurs in the 2022 event and hope they understand that it's not aimed at them but rather in response to the decisions made by their governments to allow the war to occur.

Finally, we realise there is a wide range of views amongst the amateur community on the issue of permitting Russian and Belarusian stations to participate in contests while the war continues. We know some will be supportive of our decision and others will be disappointed. Some may also consider the contest should be cancelled but this would be less effective as a sanction and would simply penalise all the amateurs outside Russia, Belarus and the Donbas region who are keen to participate.