Summits on the Air

General Rules

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SOTA:	an original concept by G3WGV and developed with G3CWI	

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1   Change control

Date	Version	Details
02-Mar-02	1.0	First formal issue of this document
06-Mar-02	1.1	Addition of clause in rule 3.4 excluding the use of IOTA continent abbreviations as SOTA region descriptions
01-Apr-02	1.2	SOTA rules separated from the Association Reference Manuals and renamed "General Rules". Clarification of wording related to minimum number of qualifying QSO counts per Expedition. Clarification of bands permitted on expeditions. Correction of minor grammatical errors.
23-Apr-02	1.3	Clarification on scoring principles for Activators, Chasers and SWLs added.
04-Feb-03	1.4	Clarification of certificate issue policy in Rule 3.13. Inclusion of an SWL certificate.
01-Mar-03	1.5	Rule 3.7.1 changed to permit use of other callsigns by Activator. New clause 6 to Rule 3.8 explicitly permits Summit to Summit QSOs to be counted towards Activator's Chaser score. Rule 3.13.1: Clarification on certificate issuing policy.
24-Jun-03	1.6	Rule 3.17 added – trademarks and copyright.
19-Aug-03	1.7	Clarification of licensing requirements for Activators, Chasers and SWLs.
01-Jan-04	1.8	Rule 3.7.1 clarifies location requirements for the Activator's operation position. Rule 3.7.4 contains additional safety information. Rule 3.8 implements one claim in 24 hours revision. Rule 3.11.2 updated to include more information on rationale.
02-Apr-05	1.9	Rule 3.12 substantially rewritten to bring the documentation requirements into line with established practice and to clarify the documentation obligations of the Association. Clarification of Vertical Separation rule.
19-Oct-05	1.10	New clause 12 added to Rule 3.7.1 to clarify activation rules from Summits that are on the borders of two or more Associations. Rule 3.13.1 substantially rewritten to include the Unique Summits award and to clarify certificate issue beyond 1000 points.

Date	Version	Details
11-Feb-07	1.11	Rules 3.2.6 and 3.15 updated to reflect implementation of the SOTAWatch system.
		Rule 3.2.3 amended to avoid conflict with clause 3.14 regarding responsibility for the appointment of Association Managers.
		Rule 3.7.1, clause 8 amended to clarify the number of QSOs required for a valid activation and to claim points.
		Rule 3.12.4 updated to clarify precedence in the case of translations of the General Rules into other languages
		Rule 3.14 amended to normally require that the Association Manager is a resident national of the Association.
		Rule 3.17.1 updated to specify web site linking rules for the SOTA logo.
10-Jan-08	1.12	Change to permissible format of International Reference Numbers.
		Definition of Relative Height amended to specify minimum value of 150m.
		Rule 3.5 amended to remove discretionary use of Relative Height values of less than 150m
		Rule 3.7.1, clause 9 amended to clarify the validity of QSOs made with participants on the same summit but outside the Activation Zone.
		Rule 3.7.1, clause 13 amended to clarify the rules related to activations of summits shared by one or more Association.
		Rule 3.8, clause 3 amended to clarify validity of chaser points where UTC is not local time.
		Rule 3.11 amended to remove guidelines related to summit band percentages. New provision to allow less than five scoring bands where appropriate.
		Rule 3.14 updated to provide for continued participation should the Association Manager post become vacant.
01-Apr-08	1.13	Rule 3.5 amended to allow discretionary use of Relative Height values of less than 150m, down to a minimum of 100m subject to MT approval.
01-Mar-09	1.14	Rule 3.1 amended to bring it into line with Rule 3.5
		Rule 3.5 amended to clarify handling of re-surveyed and deleted summits
		Rule 3.7.1 clause 3 - simplified rules for Final Ascent
		Rule 3.7.1 clause 13 - simplified rules for operation from Shared Summits
		Rule 3.9 amended to bring SWL rules into line with those for licensed chasers

Date	Version	Details
01-Jun-09	1.15	Rule 3.6.1 amended to reflect current practice regarding update submission. Option for retrospective approval of summits removed.
		Rule 3.7.3 renamed "Code of Conduct" and significantly re-written
		Rule 3.11.2 amended to allow more than one seasonal bonus within an Association
		Rule 3.12.2 amended to require specific format for positional information and agreement on effective date for changes to the ARM
		All references to "Programme Management Team" amended to "Management Team"
01-Aug-10	1.16	Rule 3.2.6 amended to link to SOTAwatch Reflector rather than Yahoo group.
		Rule 3.6 amended to require supporting documentation for proposed summits when requested.
		Rule 3.7.1 paragraph 3 amended to stress invalidity of activations in the vicinity of motor vehicles.
		Rule 3.7.1 paragraph 14 added to include "the spirit of SOTA" as a factor in the validity of an activation.
		Rule 3.11.1 (Alternative scoring strategy option) deleted. Subsequent sub-sections re-numbered.
		Rule 3.13.2 renamed "Other SOTA Awards" and re-written to allow award rules to cross Association boundaries.

2   Definitions

The following terms are defined and have the meanings shown below. Defined terms are capitalised, e.g. "Activator". Terms that are themselves used within the following definitions are shown herein in *Italics*.

Term	Definition
Activator	An individual or group of individuals that activates a *Summit* for the purposes of *SOTA*
ASL	Above (mean) Sea Level, referring to the height of a *Summit*
Association	An *Entity*, *Subdivision* of an *Entity* or group of *Entities*. The Association has an agreed set of parameters and Summits, which complies with the *General Rules* and which has been registered with and agreed by the *Management Team* (The *Association* is said to be *Incorporated*)
Association Reference Manual	The document produced by each *Association*, containing the *Association* parameters and a listing of all qualifying *Summits* and other such information as may be considered useful to the local running of the *Programme*.
Chaser	An individual who participates in *SOTA* by working *Activators* and submitting claims
Class	The forms that participation in the *Programme* may take. The Classes are *Activator* and *Chaser*
Col	The lowest point along a ridge between two *Summits* (also known as a "saddle")
Entity	A listing on the DXCC List; a counter for DXCC awards. Previously denoted a DXCC "Country". See http://www.remote.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/rules.html for more information
Expedition	A single visit by an *Activator* or team of Activators to a *Summit* in which at least the minimum number of QSOs specified in the *Programme* are made
General Rules	The rules of the Summits on the Air programme, with which all *Associations* and *Participants* must comply.
Incorporated	An Association is said to be incorporated when its *Association Reference Manual* has been accepted by the *Management Team*
International Reference Number	A reference in the form G/LD-003 or W2/WE-003 which uniquely identifies a *Summit* throughout the *Programme*
IOTA	Islands on the Air. A programme administered by the Radio Society of Great Britain in which contacts with islands or island groups throughout the world can be claimed for awards
Management Team	The team charged with overall, worldwide administration of the *Programme*
Operating Position	The precise location of the transmitter that is being used by an *Activator* for the purposes of activating a *Summit*

Term	Definition
Participant	Any individual who is active within the *Programme*, including *Activators*, *Chasers* and *Short Wave Listeners*
Programme (The)	Summits on the Air (abbreviated to *SOTA*)
Reference Number	A reference in the form LD-003 which uniquely identifies a *Summit* within an *Association*
Region	A convenient geographical subdivision of the *Association* into smaller areas of land for administrative purposes.
Relative Height	The height of a *Summit*, relative to the surrounding countryside. This is not related to height ASL, except where the surrounding countryside includes coastal areas. This value, also sometimes referred to as Prominence, will never be less than 150m.
Set of Rules	The complete rules of the *Programme* for an *Association*, comprising the General Rules and the Association Reference Manual
Short Wave Listener	An individual who participates in *SOTA* by listening to and logging the activities of *Activators* and submitting claims
SOTA	Summits on the Air (the *Programme*)
Subdivision	The process by which a large DXCC *Entity* is subdivided into several smaller areas, each of which have the same status as a DXCC *Entity*
Summit	A mountain peak that meets the *Association's* qualification criteria and has been issued a *Reference Number*
Vertical Distance	The maximum permitted drop in height at any point along the straight line between the *Summit* and the *Operating Position*.

3   Programme Rules

3.1   Purpose

The purpose of SOTA (the Programme) is to encourage Amateur Radio based activity from the summits of hills and mountains in countries around the world and to provide an award system for Radio Amateurs in all DXCC Entities.

The Programme is intended to encourage activity from clearly defined peaks, including major mountains. To enable participation in the Programme to be as wide ranging as possible, lesser peaks may also be included. An incremental scoring system recognises the higher peaks accordingly. The Programme does not accept operation from a motor vehicle.

The programme provides for participation by Activators who make QSOs from the Summits, Chasers who make contact with the Activators and Short Wave Listeners.

3.2   Programme structure

3.2.1   Scope

The Programme is open to all radio amateurs, worldwide. There are no restrictions on who may activate Summits, although it is probable that most activators will live in the general area. Chasers and Short Wave Listeners may be in any country, even if there is no Association covering their area.

3.2.2   Management Team

A small Management Team is responsible for the overall management of the SOTA Programme. Specifically, it is responsible for creating and maintaining the General Rules and for determining the suitability of proposals made by Associations (see below).

3.2.3   Associations

Logically distinct geographical areas form organisational components of the SOTA Programme, known as Associations, by adopting the General Rules. There are three possible variants of Association:

1. Each DXCC Entity in the world may separately participate in SOTA. The Entity forms an Association.

2. In the case of large DXCC entities, such as the USA, Subdivision, e.g. into states or provinces, may occur. The area created by Subdivision forms an Association.

3. In the case of relatively small DXCC Entities, or groups of Entities that naturally group together, several Entities may form a single Association

Each Association must have an Association Manager. The Association Manager determines parameters that are appropriate to local needs. He then creates the Association Reference Manual and submits it as a proposal for participation to the Management Team. When the Association Reference Manual has been accepted by the Management Team, the Association is said to be Incorporated.

3.2.4   Regions

Within an Association's area there may be one or more Regions. These should be distinct geographically or geologically.

3.2.5 Participants

There are three Classes of participant: Activators, Chasers and SWLs. Teams may be formed to participate in the Activator Class. Points are awarded in each Class and awards are available recognising specified levels of achievement.

3.2.6 Programme operation

The Programme is managed via the Internet, using web sites, reflectors and e-mail to keep costs to an absolute minimum. The Programme is self-funding through charges for certificates, etc. The worldwide SOTA web site is at http://www.sota.org.uk. A discussion group is available for Expedition reports and other topics directly related to the Programme, at http://www.sotawatch.org/reflector.php.

3.3 Programme start date

The Programme commences on 2 March 2002. Each Association has its own start date being the date that it became Incorporated. Summits can be claimed at any time after the start date for the responsible Association.

3.4 The reference system

Each mountain Region in the Association is assigned a unique two-character identifier. Individual Summits within the Region are assigned a number in the range 001 to 999 (it is not anticipated that any region will exceed a few hundred Summits; if necessary, subdivision will occur).

Within an Association, this creates a unique Reference Number in the form, e.g. **LD-003.** Leading zeros are applied as shown where the number is less than 100. The Reference Number is used throughout the programme to identify the Summit.

For the sole purpose of unique identification worldwide, an International SOTA Reference Number is created by prefixing the Reference number with the Association description. This is either

- The ITU allocated prefix, in the event that Subdivision has not occurred, e.g. G/LD-003

- The ITU allocated prefix plus the subdivision identifier, where Subdivision has occurred, e.g. W2/WE-003

To avoid confusion with the Islands on the Air (IOTA) programme, the Summit identifier letters must <u>not</u> be one of the continent abbreviations, namely AF, AN, AS, EU, NA, OC or SA.

If a summit is "moved" due to more accurate survey measurements, the summit will retain its original reference number if the new highest point is within the Activation Zone of the old highest point, otherwise a new reference will be issued and the old one deleted. When a summit is deleted for any reason, the reference number will not be re-allocated.

3.5 Guidelines for the definition of a Summit

Each Association is required to determine a strategy for defining a list of Summits that is consistent with the nature of the general terrain in that Association. The definition must take account of the following guiding principles

1. The Association must have sufficient topology to enable meaningful Summits to be defined. The SOTA Management Team recommends a minimum prominence for summits of 150m. The minimum association prominence that can be accepted in the Programme is 100m. In the event that this rule cannot be met, the Entity or Subdivision will, unfortunately, be unable to participate in SOTA. Prospective associations wishing to use a prominence of less than 150m will need to be able to

offer sound justification for their preferred value, and be able to demonstrate how the use of a lower prominence value will significantly add to the viability of a prospective association.

2. Summits should be distinct peaks. This means that there must be a vertical separation of at least the association's prominence value, between Summits and their associated cols (also known as saddles). Peaks separated by a shallow col should be considered as a single Summit. This principle ensures that there is a distinct climb associated with every Summit.

3. The Programme is intended to be inclusive in nature and therefore Summits should not be limited to the highest points in an Association. To encourage participation by as many people as possible, any summit that meets the requirements of principle (1) above should be eligible for inclusion in the programme. An Association Reference Manual that does not include a suitably wide range of Summits, when such peaks exist within its boundaries, is liable to be rejected by the Management Team.

4. Summits that are accessible by road can still be included in the programme, although operation from vehicles is not permitted.

It is recognised that operation from the exact top of the Summit may be difficult or even impossible. It is also important that SOTA operations do not disturb the enjoyment of the mountains by others. Accordingly, each Association shall define the Vertical Distance from the precise summit, within which a Summit operation will be considered valid.

3.6   Adding and deleting summits

The list of Summits for an Association is not necessarily exhaustive. It is acceptable that the list will evolve over time, as the Programme develops within the Association.

Summits can be added to the Programme provided they meet the definition agreed for the Association. A Summit that is added in this way will be valid for general activation from the date that the Reference Number is issued.

The Management Team reserves the right to demand sufficient information to confirm that any proposed summit meets the required criteria. Such information may include references in publicly-available independent lists (e.g. www.peaklist.org), official government publications, or the results of detailed analysis of mapping data. In the event that such additional information is not supplied, the summit will not be added to the Programme.

3.6.1   Activation of potential summits

Activators of potential new summits should provide materials to the appropriate Region Manager and Association Manager, prior to the Expedition, which demonstrate that the criteria are met. A reference number will then be issued by the Association Manager, and a start date agreed with the Management Team.

3.6.2   Deletion of Summits

A Summit will be deleted if it fails to meet the criteria (e.g. due to more accurate mapping). Existing credits for the summit, for activation prior to its deletion, will be retained.

3.7   Rules for Activators

All Expeditions must use legitimate access routes and comply with any local rules regarding use of the land. In particular, Activators must ensure that they have any necessary permission to operate from their chosen Summit. Note particularly that it may not be acceptable to camp overnight in any area of mountainous terrain, without permission from the landowner.

3.7.1   Criteria for a valid Expedition

For an Expedition to be considered valid, the following criteria must be met:

1. The Activator must hold an appropriate transmitting licence.

2. All operation must comply with the amateur radio licensing regulations and must use the permitted amateur radio bands of the country in which the Association is based.

3. The method of final access to the Summit must be non-motorised. Operations must not be in, or in the vicinity of a motor vehicle. No part of the station may be connected in any way to the motor vehicle.

4. The Operating Position must be within the permitted Vertical Distance of the Summit, as defined in Rule 3.5. The terrain between the operating position and the actual Summit must not fall below the permitted Vertical Distance.

5. All equipment must be carried to the site by the Activator team.

6. All equipment must be operated from a portable power source (batteries, solar cells, etc). Operation is expressly forbidden using permanently installed power sources or fossil-fuel generators of any kind.

7. All operation must comply with any limitations on the use of transmitting equipment that may exist for the Summit.

8. At least one QSO must be made from the Summit to qualify as an activation. In order for the activation to qualify for the points attributed to that Summit, a minimum of four QSOs must be made, each of which must be with a different station.

9. QSOs with others within the same Activation Zone do not count towards the QSO total.

10. QSOs via terrestrial repeaters do not count towards the QSO total.

11. Activator points accrue to the operator regardless of the callsign used. The operator must be entitled to use the callsign. Multiple operators of the same station may claim activator points. Each individual operator must make the minimum number of QSOs stated above in order to claim Activator points.

12. Activators must submit a log of the Expedition in order to claim points. In the event that a claim is not to be made, Activators are still asked to submit logs so that Chaser claims can be substantiated. Logs may be submitted by filling in an entry form on the SOTA web site or as a log file. Full details are on the SOTA web site.

13. Where the mountain peak has been issued a reference number in two or more Associations, the Activator may claim points each Association provided that the Operating Position is always within the jurisdiction of the appropriate Association. Unless the licensing regulations decree otherwise, the position of the Operator is deemed to be the Operating Position. The same peak may be activated for points once per year in each Association.

14. All SOTA operations are expected to be conducted in the spirit of the programme

3.7.2   Scoring

The Activator claims the Summit points on an expedition basis, regardless of the total number of QSOs made above the qualifying minimum. A Summit may be activated as often as desired but an individual Activator can only claim points for operation from a particular Summit once in any calendar year.

QSL cards are not required.

3.7.3 Code of Conduct

Participation in the SOTA programme is open to everybody, although use of certain facilities including SOTAwatch and the SOTA database requires registration. However, the Management Team reserves the right to withdraw permission for use of such facilities, and to remove previously entered data, in the event that any participant behaves in a manner contrary to the aims of SOTA. In such, hopefully rare, cases the decision of the Management Team will be final. Examples of such unacceptable behaviour include, but are not limited to –

1. Persistent breaches of the Acceptable Use Policy on SOTAwatch.
2. Making database claims for contacts that are not valid for SOTA

3. Threatening or abusing members of the MT, or other SOTA participants

4. Persistent breaches of SOTA rules

5. Misuse of SOTA software (includes by-passing security checks or masquerading as another user)

6. Behaviour likely to bring SOTA into disrepute

Examples of behaviour likely to bring SOTA into disrepute include a failure to apply the following common-sense provisions.

Activators must not cause any damage to the environment. This includes damage, whether deliberate or resulting from a lack of care, to the mountain itself, walls, fences, livestock, buildings, etc. Care must also be taken to avoid leaving litter. It is both unsightly and potentially hazardous to livestock

Activators must operate with due consideration for other people on the hills. Excessive noise, inconsiderate siting of equipment and antennas, etc. is not acceptable and potentially brings the Programme into disrepute. There can be no justification for trespassing on private property, and the wishes of the landowner must remain paramount. When parking a vehicle in preparation for an activation, care must be taken to avoid obstructing roads, paths and gateways. If your vehicle displays a SOTA sticker, you do not even have to be present to bring SOTA into disrepute!

Both activators and chasers must at all times operate within the terms of their licence. Participation in the SOTA programme makes on-air behaviour extremely visible to other users of the amateur bands, and such malpractices as using bad language or causing deliberate interference will not be tolerated.

Above all, participants are required to operate in a manner that is in keeping with the spirit of the Programme.

3.7.4 Competence to undertake expedition

Activators must be competent to undertake their proposed Expedition and must carry suitable equipment, taking account of the terrain, weather conditions, etc. Activators take part in the Programme entirely at their own risk and the Programme in its entirety shall accept no responsibility for injury, loss of life or any other loss.

Activators are reminded that hill climbing is an inherently hazardous activity. Accidents can and do happen in the mountains and the risk is neither increased nor mitigated by the SOTA programme.

3.8 Rules for Chasers
1. The Chaser must hold an appropriate transmitting licence.

2. The Chaser must make a QSO with the Summit Expedition, in which at least callsigns and two-way reports are exchanged. Wherever possible, the SOTA Reference Number should also be obtained as part of the QSO.

3. With effect from 01-Jan-2004, only one QSO with a given Summit on any one day (defined as 00:00 to 23:59 UTC counts for points.

4. QSOs via terrestrial repeaters do not count for points.

5. Chasers who wish to participate in the award scheme must submit a log showing details of all QSOs with Expeditions for which they wish to claim points.

6. QSL cards are not required.

7. An Activator may claim Chaser points for QSOs made with Activators on other Summits during his Expedition.

3.8.1 Scoring

The Summit score is claimed for a single QSO with the Expedition. Multiple QSOs with the same Expedition do not attract additional points.

3.9 Rules for Short Wave Listeners (SWL)

1. Anyone can participate in the SWL section, whether they hold an amateur radio licence or not.

2. The SWL must receive a QSO between the Summit Expedition and any other radio amateur, during which at least callsigns and two-way reports are exchanged. This information must be recorded by the SWL. Where the SOTA Reference Number is given as part of the QSO this must be recorded.

3. With effect from 01-Jan-2004, only one QSO with a given Summit on any one day (defined as 00:00 to 23:59 UTC counts for points.

4. QSOs via terrestrial repeaters do not count for points.

5. SWLs who wish to participate in the award scheme must submit a log showing details of all QSOs heard with Expeditions for which they wish to claim points.

6. QSL cards are not required.

3.9.1 Scoring

The Summit score is claimed for hearing a single QSO with the Expedition. Multiple QSOs heard with the same Expedition do not attract additional points.

3.10 Modes and bands

All modes and amateur radio bands are valid for the Programme.

3.11 Scoring system

A scoring system relating to the height of the Summit ASL must be implemented unless this is clearly and demonstrably impractical (see below). Each Summit is worth a certain number of points, dependent upon its height ASL. Six height bands are defined, expressed in metres ASL, and optionally in feet ASL, the values of which are determined on an Association basis. Height bands for an Association are determined by the Association Manager and must be shown in the Association Reference Manual.

Points are awarded to both Activators and Chasers as follows:

    Band 1   1 point
    Band 2   2 points

Band 3   4 points
Band 4   6 points
Band 5   8 points
Band 6   10 points

For Associations containing relatively few peaks, such as Belgium or the Isle of Man, it may not be appropriate, or indeed possible, to allocate summits to each height band. In such a case, one or more of the higher-value height bands may be omitted.

3.11.1 Seasonal bonus option

A seasonal bonus may be made available to all Activators undertaking Expeditions within an Association, at the discretion of the Association Manager. The seasonal bonus is intended to reflect the fact that for safe travel in the hills during the bonus period, extra safety equipment is necessary plus the skills to use it. The bonus may, for example, be applied to winter conditions where there is significant seasonal variation in temperatures or to other parameters, such as monsoon seasons, etc.

There shall be only one seasonal bonus period in a year, up to a maximum duration of four months. The bonus shall only apply to Expeditions to the higher Summits and shall be, in all cases, three points. The Association Manager shall determine eligibility of his Association for the seasonal bonus, bearing in mind local safety considerations. He shall also define the inclusive dates that constitute the bonus period and the minimum height of qualifying Summits.

In large Associations there is provision for different seasonal bonus criteria to be defined for different Regions where significant climatic variations make this appropriate. Association Managers should submit such a request, together with supporting evidence, to the Management Team.

3.11.2 Activator scoring precedence

In the event that an Activator activates a Summit more than once during the year, he may claim points for any one Expedition. If one expedition was during the period that the seasonal bonus was in operation, then he can claim that expedition together with the higher score.

3.12 Documentation

The SOTA document library is maintained as Microsoft Word documents and is published in Adobe PDF format. All SOTA documents must be formatted to accurately conform to the SOTA house style. Templates are available on request.

All documents have a unique document number which is issued by the *Management Team* to indicate that the document has been officially released. A register is maintained listing all officially released documents.

3.12.1 General Rules

The General Rules (this document) provides a framework in which *The Programme* operates. It is maintained by the *Management Team*.

3.12.2 Association Reference Manual

Each *Association Manager* shall create an Association Reference Manual (ARM), which comprises Association-specific data that customises *The Programme* to the needs of the *Association's* area.

ARMs shall be published in English and optionally in any other language that is appropriate to the Association.

The ARM shall comprise the following sections:

- Chapter 1 – Change control

- Chapter 2 – Association Reference Data. At a minimum, this must contain the Association parameters but it may also contain general information of use to prospective participants

- Chapter 3 – Summit Reference Data. This chapter contains the eligible summits in tabular form. The tables may be split into *Regions* and may also contain Region specific information of use to prospective participants. The minimum information required in the tables is:

  1. The SOTA Reference Number.

  2. The name of the *Summit*. Preferably this should be the name shown on local maps. If no such name is shown then a locally used name may be used.

  3. The location, accurate to no worse than 250 metres, using latitude and longitude in signed decimal format. The location may additionally be specified in another format such as the Maidenhead locator system or a nationally-recognised rectangular reference system.

  4. The height of the *Summit* in metres ASL.

  5. The height of the *Summit* in feet ASL.

  6. The score associated with the *Summit*.

It is the Association Manager's responsibility to maintain the ARM as new *Summits* are added or other changes become necessary. The Association Manager must send the updated manual, and associated database files, to the Management Team whenever changes are made. The effective date will be agreed between the Association Manager and the Management Team.

The ARM is authorised by the Management Team. An Association only becomes operational when its ARM has been duly authorised.

3.12.3 Other documents

Other documents may be produced from time to time.

3.12.4 Precedence

The General Rules have precedence over the Association Reference Manual in case of any conflict. The General Rules also have precedence over all other programme documentation, official or otherwise; e.g. Activator's Guidelines, etc. Where the General Rules have been translated into other languages, the English version has precedence over other language versions in case of any conflict.

3.13 Awards

3.13.1 Programme-wide awards

Certificates and plaques are awarded to recognise achievement in the entire SOTA Programme, comprising all Associations.

There are two categories of award:

- All Summits award. All summits count, subject to the qualification criteria of Rule 3.7, Rule 3.8 or Rule 3.9, as appropriate

- Unique Summits award. Each Summit counts only once, regardless of the number of qualifying activations

Certificates will be awarded for 100, 250, 500, 1000, 2500, 5000 points, and so on in sequence, in each award categories. Separate certificates are awarded in the Activators, Chasers and SWL sections.

In the All Summits award category, the following trophies will be awarded upon request:

- "Mountain Goat" trophy for Activators who attain 1000 points.
- "Shack Sloth" trophy for Chasers who attain 1000 points.
- "SWL" trophy for Short Wave Listeners who attain 1000 points.

All these certificates and trophies are issued upon request, by the Management Team's Awards Administrator, based on logs uploaded to the on-line database. A charge is made to cover the costs.

3.13.2 Other SOTA awards

In addition to Programme-wide certificates and trophies, Associations, individuals, or groups may specify their own award system, using defined SOTA summit data (or a sub-set of it). Such awards may be defined within the boundaries of a single Association, or across several Associations (e.g. the Alps or the USA). These awards may be defined on the official SOTA website, subject to approval by the Management Team.

3.14 Administration

The Management Team administers the Programme on a volunteer basis and has overall responsibility for the operation of the Programme in all Associations. Its decisions are final.

The Management Team shall appoint an Association Manager for each Association, normally a resident national, who is responsible for advising on the Programme's operation in that Association. In particular, the Association Manager creates and maintains the Association Reference Manual for his Association and agrees its contents with the Management Team. If an Incorporated Association finds itself without an Association Manager for any reason, the responsibility will revert to the Management Team until a new Association Manager can be appointed.

The Association Manager will at his discretion, appoint Region Managers as required in each mountainous region of an Association, to provide local knowledge for the Association Manager and the Management Team. The Region Manager can also be contacted to provide advice for would-be Activators planning to visit the area.

3.15 Information dissemination

Summit Activators are encouraged to publicise their intended Expeditions to maximise the opportunity for Chasers to make contact. Internet facilities have been set up for the purpose to which any interested party may subscribe.

Lists of summits that have been allocated numbers will be maintained on the Web. The programme rules for each Association will be published on the web site.

3.16 SOTA frequencies

There are no specified SOTA frequencies but Activators are encouraged to suggest frequencies on which they will be operational for specific Expeditions. As operations are likely to be QRP, the use of internationally recognised QRP frequencies should be considered.

3.17 Trademarks and Copyright

"Summits on the Air", SOTA and the SOTA logo are trademarks of the Programme. All documents published by *The Programme* are the copyright of *The Programme*.

3.17.1 Use of the SOTA name and Logo

The SOTA name and Logo may be freely used for non-commercial purposes that are clearly related to the programme. Examples might be the use of the Logo on a QSL card, or as part of a personal web site.

Commercial organisations wishing to make use of the SOTA name or Logo must first discuss their plans with, and obtain agreement from the *Management Team*.

In all cases the SOTA Logo, as displayed, must be unaltered in any way including content, colour and aspect ratio. Its overall size may be adjusted to fit the layout of the document.

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