

# Rules: 2026 North American Sprint (CW/RTTY)

- 1. Eligibility:** Any amateur radio licensee may enter.
- 2. Object:** For North American stations to contact as many radio amateurs as possible. For non-North American stations to contact as many North American stations as possible.
- 3. Entry Classifications:** High Power (up to 1,500 W), Low Power (up to 100 W), and QRP (up to 5 W). Single Operator only. Use of spotting information obtained directly or indirectly from any source other than the station operator, such as from other stations or automated tools, is prohibited.

## 4. Contest Periods:

### February/March Contests

CW: 0000 until 0359 UTC, February 8, 2026

RTTY: 0000 until 0359 UTC, March 15, 2026

### September Contests (NOTE CW DATE SHIFT)

CW: 0000 until 0359 UTC, September 13, 2026

RTTY: 0000 until 0359 UTC, September 20, 2026

These four contests are entirely separate 4-hour Sprints.

**5. Mode:** CW only in CW Sprints; RTTY only in RTTY Sprints.

**6. Bands:** 80, 40, and 20 meters only. Suggested frequencies are above 3,525, 7,025, and 14,025 kHz on CW, and above 3,580, 7,080, and 14,080 kHz on RTTY. You may contact the same station once per band.

**7. Exchange:** To have a valid exchange, you must send all of the following information: The other station's call sign, your call sign, a sequential serial number, your name, and your location (state, province, or country). Stations outside North America may send "DX" instead of a country abbreviation. You may send the exchange information in any order, but the most common format is for the station that will QSY after the contact (see Rule 11) to send both calls first. The station that will stay on frequency sends their call last. Here's an example if K7GM calls CQ and N6TR answers:

N6TR K7GM 154 RICK NC

K7GM 122 TREE OR N6TR

Before leaving the frequency, it is good practice to acknowledge the contact is complete, usually by sending R or TU.

**8. Valid Contact:** A valid contact consists of a complete, correctly copied, and logged two-way exchange between a North American station and another station. Proper logging requires including the time of each contact. Serial numbers must begin with 1 and be sequential thereafter.

**9. North American Station:** Defined by the rules of the CQ World Wide DX contests ([cqww.com](http://cqww.com)) except that KH6 is considered as North America for this contest. FP, 4U1UN, VP9, and OX are also North American countries.

**10. Scoring:** Multiply total valid contacts by the sum of the contacted US states, the District of Columbia, the 13 Canadian provinces/territories (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland-Labrador, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut), and other North American countries to get final score (do not count US and Canada as countries). Non-North American countries do not count as multipliers but do count for contact credit for North American stations (except for KH6, which counts as a state).

**11. Special QSY Rule:** If any station solicits a call (e.g., by sending "CQ," "QRZ?," "Up 5," or any other means of soliciting a response, including completion of a contact where the frequency was inherited), that station is permitted to work only one station in response to that solicitation. The station must thereafter move at least 1 kHz before calling another station, or at least 5 kHz before soliciting other calls. Once a station is required to QSY, that station is not allowed to make another contact on the vacated frequency until or unless at least one subsequent contact is made on a new frequency.

**Table 1 — The 2026 Sprint calendar**

<i>Mode</i>	<i>Times/Dates</i>	<i>Logs Due</i>
CW	0000-0359 UTC, Feb 8 0000-0359 UTC, Sep 13	February 15 September 20
RTTY	0000-0359 UTC, Mar 15 0000-0359 UTC, Sep 20	March 22 September 27

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**12. Additional Rules:** Simultaneous transmission on more than one frequency is prohibited. All contacts must be sent and received using means that require real-time human signal detection and initiation of transmissions. Each operator must use only one call sign during the contest.

**13. Log Formatting:** The file format for electronic logs for *NCJ*-sponsored contests is Cabrillo. Contact the respective contest manager if you have difficulty submitting your log. Entrants who do not use computer logging are encouraged to use the manual Web-to-Cabrillo online forms available at the links below to enter their contact data from their paper logs.

CW: [b4h.net/cabforms/nasprintcw\\_cab.php](http://b4h.net/cabforms/nasprintcw_cab.php) RTTY: [b4h.net/cabforms/nasprintrtty\\_cab.php](http://b4h.net/cabforms/nasprintrtty_cab.php)

**14. Log Submission:** Entries must be received no later than 7 days after the Sprint. Emailed logs are no longer accepted. Upload Cabrillo-formatted log (all modes) via the web upload page at [ncjweb.com/sprintlogsubmit.php](http://ncjweb.com/sprintlogsubmit.php).

**15. Team Competition:** Team competition is limited to a maximum of five operators per team. Groups having more than five team members may submit more than one team entry. To qualify as a team entry, the team registration form on the *NCJ* website must be completed before the contest starts:

CW team registration:

[ncjweb.com/cwsprintteamreg](http://ncjweb.com/cwsprintteamreg)

RTTY team registration:

[ncjweb.com/rttysprintteamreg](http://ncjweb.com/rttysprintteamreg)

**16. Penalties and Disqualification:** Contacts with incorrect received information will be removed. Contacts not found in the other station's log will be removed with a one-contact scoring penalty. Any entry may be disqualified for illegal or unethical operation.

**17. Certificates:** Downloadable certificates for the top scorers in each state, province, and North American country will be available at [ncjweb.com/ncj-certificates](http://ncjweb.com/ncj-certificates) after the contest results are published.

