

Olympics Operating Restrictions



The Games have both operating restrictions and Special Event Stations associated with them.

OPERATING RESTRICTIONS. As trailed in RSGB Matters last month, Ofcom has announced details of the temporary operating restrictions that will apply in the 70cm, 2.3 and 3.4GHz bands. These apply between 28 June and 23 September 2012 to both UK amateurs and to amateurs visiting the UK.

The main text of the Ofcom notice is reproduced in the tinted panel. However, it is stressed that the definitive version including illustrated annexes of maps where geographic areas are defined by grid references are all on the Ofcom website (see Websearch). These should be consulted directly, especially if any updates are issued.

The main impact of the measures is in the 70cm band where 4MHz of spectrum

BACKGROUND. The Society made public submissions to Ofcom consultations on the Olympics in 2007 and 2009. Matters remained uncertain until April 2011, when the Society announced it had been approached by Ofcom. This was to see how to minimise the impact on 70cm, if up to 5MHz of spectrum was reserved for Games use (as a duplex pair). The Society is grateful for the resulting team effort by Spectrum Forum members to produce our response. From that date and until April this year no detailed feedback was available on our proposals as it took a considerable time for wider aspects of Games spectrum management requirements to be confirmed. However, one practical development in the intervening period did occur. Last summer,

at last year's RSGB Convention of the likely impact of on amateur spectrum management. This had to be based upon the proposals passed to Ofcom earlier in the year. No further detail of the impact on our bands was released when Ofcom published their Spectrum Plan in February this year. When the Society was briefed by Ofcom on 5 April on the draft temporary restriction notice, we were relieved to see that a number of our earlier requests had been sympathetically taken into account in their notice. Following some refinements, Ofcom published the notice on their website on Friday 21 April, just ahead of the Society's AGM.

70cm OVERVIEW. The actual restrictions designate 4MHz of spectrum in two 1MHz pairs. These are centred either side of the FM simplex and narrow-split repeater frequencies, leaving those available for daily amateur use. The geographic zones defined in Annex A are summarised in the figure. Note though that the Ofcom notice states that considerable care is also needed before operating outside these areas.

Of the four frequency segments, the designation of 432-433MHz is possibly of most interest as it encompasses the main DX/contest segment and is discussed further below. One of the upper segments affects a small number of 7.6MHz split repeaters and talk-through units. Satellites/ATV are also affected but only on a third of that segment.

MICROWAVE BANDS. The lower microwave bands are shared with wireless cameras on a 'business as usual' basis. This use may increase as a matter of course, but the notice also designates small sections of 2.3 and 3.4GHz for exclusive use. This is defined by

Annex B, which includes the same areas as the 70cm restrictions, plus relatively small areas around the football venues in Cardiff, Glasgow, Manchester, Coventry and Newcastle. The designated frequencies are outside of the narrowband DX/contest sections and should be of low impact.

RSGB OLYMPIC COVERAGE

www.rsgb.org/Olympics

e-mail: olympics.enquiry@rsgb.org.uk

Our website now has been expanded to cover 2012 news, operating, special event stations and online Olympic NoV prefixes.

has been reserved in and around London, Weymouth and Hadleigh Farm in South Essex. In addition, areas surrounding football venues around the UK are designated for wireless camera links in the microwave bands.



Ofcom's 70cm restrictions designate three key areas in Annex A of their notice.



Amateur Radio - Spectrum Use During the Period of the 2012 Games (28th June 2012 to 23rd September 2012)

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will place unprecedented demands on the radio spectrum in locations where there is already significant use of the spectrum resource.

The Government has guaranteed to the International Olympic Committee that arrangements will be made to allocate the necessary radio frequencies for the organisation of the Games. Ofcom has worked closely with the Government and other spectrum users to meet the Games requirements with minimum disruption to other users.

Ofcom has identified a need to have short term access to certain segments within bands to which Radio Amateurs have secondary access. Ofcom has been working with the Radio Society of Great Britain to ensure that Games requirements can be met in some of these shared bands, while maintaining enough spectrum for Amateurs to continue to use.

There are segments within several Amateur bands which Ofcom plans to assign to support the 2012 Games and their preparation; some use will also continue for a short time after the Games to support decommissioning of venues. This use will be in geographically limited areas between 28th June 2012 and 23rd September 2012. The frequencies affected are segments of the 70cm band, and 2.390 - 2.400 GHz and 3.41 - 3.44 GHz.

- We do not require use of the whole of the 70cm band but we request that the following segments are kept free of Amateur signals in the areas identified in Annex A: 431 - 432 MHz, 432 - 433 MHz paired with 436.25 - 437.25 MHz and 438 - 439 MHz.
- The microwave frequencies of 2.390 - 2.400 GHz and 3.41 - 3.44 GHz will only be used for the Games in the geographic areas identified in Annex B.
- Annex C gives details of some other changes and restrictions that will apply to repeaters and RAYNET use.

Use of radio by Amateurs in the areas defined in Annexes A and B could cause interference to Games applications; it is also possible that higher power transmissions from outside these areas could cause interference. Consequently, to avoid the risk of interference to Games applications, we request that Amateurs do not operate within the frequency ranges identified in the areas defined in Annexes A and B, and that Amateurs ensure that any signals that could be received in these areas are negligible.

Individual Amateurs should assess if their transmission is likely to be received in the defined areas and if in any doubt please DON'T operate within the frequency ranges identified.

There are a number of Amateur contests that fall within the period of the 2012 Games. We can accommodate these providing the Amateur activity is kept to the dates of 6th - 8th and 10th July, 4th - 5th August and 14th August, 8th - 9th and 11th September.

Ofcom requests that Radio Amateurs observe these temporary restrictions on their use. Ofcom must ensure that all spectrum used for the Games is fit for purpose and will take appropriate action if interference is caused by an Amateur to a Games application. Such action may include variation of the Amateurs licence to remove the right to use the above mentioned bands or a requirement to close down radio equipment.

Ofcom knows that the Amateur Radio community is keen to support the Games. We have arranged special call signs for a number of flagship stations and all UK Amateurs may apply for a commemorative prefix to their call sign for the period 21st July 2012 to 9th September 2012.

Amateurs should be aware that radio spectrum and **all devices** that use radio spectrum will be carefully controlled at Olympic venues. This means that the public, including Radio Amateurs, should not attempt to take any radio equipment (other than mobile phones, car key fobs etc) into any Olympic venue as they will be refused entry [1].

[1] LOCOG terms and conditions for ticket purchase can be found at www.tickets.london2012.com/purchaseterms.html

CONTESTS. Following requests by the Society, it is pleasing that a number of contests in the period have been accommodated on specific dates as stated in the Ofcom notice, including VHF Field Day. This goes a considerable way to mitigate the designation of 432-433MHz. However, the notice is clear that the Games retain priority and the Ofcom website should be checked to see if changes to this arrangement occur.

REPEATERS. The designated segments do not affect 1.6 and 9MHz split repeaters. This greatly minimises the impact on the repeater network, to just a few 7.6MHz split systems. Annex C of the Ofcom notice includes frequency changes to GB30K (Orpington) and GB3NS (Banstead) and a power reduction to GB3EK (Margate). Ofcom have already issued NoVs for these changes, along with the bonus of an NoV for a temporary 'Olympic repeater' in North London, GB30Y, that the RSGB ETCC proposed to enhance coverage for the Games period.

RAYNET TALKTHROUGH. Similar to repeaters, the 70cm restrictions also affect 7.6MHz spaced RAYNET talkthrough units. Annex C also mitigates this by a new 9MHz pairing. For the period, affected systems would move from 430.8 / 438.4MHz, to 430.225 / 439.225MHz.

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND SAILING. The experience of the Sailing test events in Summer 2011 proved to be valuable. We understand from Ofcom that the frequency of the timing/telemetry equipment has been moved out of the 70cm band so it does not interfere with the paired communications segments, which take priority in the area as per the notice.

INTERFERENCE ENFORCEMENT.

Following the amateur restrictions notice, Ofcom issued a consultation on 25 April on separate regulations that will enable prompt enforcement action for any interference cases that affect the Games. The draft regulations are more generic and designate 25-35km radii around all major venues across the UK, including football venues, where enhanced enforcement could be applied for the games period. In most cases these radii are far larger than the exclusion zones in the amateur band restrictions notice. Ofcom's proposals can be found on their website (see Websearch).

WEBSEARCH

Ofcom Operating Restrictions Notice and Annexes:
http://licensing.ofcom.org.uk/radiocommunication-licences/amateur-radio/ar_spectrum_use

2012 Draft Enforcement Regulations:
<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/undueinterference-olympics-2012>

RSGB Olympics: www.rsgb.org/olympics

London 2012 Olympic Special Event Stations



2012xx SPECIAL PREFIX FLAGSHIP STATIONS. The Olympic Games and Paralympic Games provide an outstanding opportunity to publicise amateur radio. To that end the RSGB negotiated a very limited number of special prefixes, 2012xx, with the intention that these calls are given a proper airing over the Olympic period this summer. We already have special stations planned for London, 2012L, and Wales, 2012W. We also have a special call for the National Radio Centre at Bletchley Park. But we would like to encourage groups in Scotland and Northern Ireland to take advantage of calls we have secured for them. Groups who would like to use the calls for all or part of the Olympic period should bear in mind that public access and a good world-wide coverage will be required.

We need to have expressions of interest without delay so we can complete the

formalities with Ofcom. If no offers are forthcoming from Scotland and Northern Ireland then we retain the option of throwing this open to any stations in the UK who feel they can put on a good show.

Please contact Bob Whelan, by e-mail to G3PJT@btinternet.com, in the first instance.

GB2012 SERIES SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS. Members and clubs have asked how they should apply for the NoV for Olympic calls in the series GB2012xxx series, which are available only to special event stations specifically connected with celebrating the London Olympic and Paralympic Games. These NoVs should be requested through the Ofcom webpage <http://licensing.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/spectrum/amateur-radio/apply-for-a-licence/ofw287.pdf>. Please apply as soon as possible in order to allow plenty of time for this NoV to be processed.

2012L & 2012W - THE LONDON AND WELSH FLAGSHIP STATIONS. Some special event call signs will be activated to celebrate the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games: **2012L** (Two Oscar One Two Lima) from London, England and **2012W** from Barry, Wales. The RSGB has been granted the 'Inspire

London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games
To celebrate this event during July and August the UK has issued special call signs for the period 080000Z 24th July 2012 to 235959Z 09 September 2012.

To Radio: _____
Via: _____

Date			Time	Frequency	2-Way QSO	Signal Report
D	M	Y	UTC	MHz	Mode	RST

TRX: _____ WATN: _____ ANT: _____

Power RSGB
 QSL via Bureau
 United

ICOTA EU/005

MO1MPA
MO1MPA is a special call sign for the purpose of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. It is not a valid call sign for any other purpose.

Mr A Barwell, 3 Abbey Court, Fraser Place
 199th Business Park, Inverness, N014 2PH

RSGB QSL cards are available that comply with LOCOG wording guidelines.



Sample certificate for those who work the various clubs and individuals taking part in the Follow the Torch scheme run by the Worked All Britain group.

mark' for these two stations by the London 2012 Inspire programme.

The London station, **2012L**, organised by Cray Valley Radio Society, will be active through the duration of the Games. It will be located at the Royal Greenwich District Scouts Avery Hill Activity Centre, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, London SE9 2HE. Activities will be on all modes, 160m – 2m. Follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/2012L or @2012L on Twitter. More information is on the website www.2o12l.com, or contact the Press Officer, John Warburton, G4IRN, by e-mail to press@2o12l.com.

The Welsh station, **2012W**, organised by Barry Amateur Radio Society, will also be active on all bands from 160m to 23cm and all modes including SSTV and satellite from Whitmore Bay, Barry Island, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales. More information is on their website, www.2o12w.com, or contact station manager Glyn Jones, GWOANA, via glyndxis@talktalk.net.

Amateur radio operators everywhere will be able to share in the Olympic experience by making contact with the stations and to exchange greetings messages with visitors and Games participants who visit the London station – the team aim to make contact with as many of the Games participating countries as possible. Special QSL cards will be available to stations contacted.

The project aims to leave a lasting legacy by encouraging visitors to learn more about radio communications and the social, career and recreational benefits that it brings. Of course, visiting hams will be made very welcome at the stations.

GB1HF – HADLEIGH FARM, ESSEX.

South Essex Amateur Radio Society will be operating GB1HF adjacent to the venue for the Olympic Mountain Bike competitions. The special event station will be operating at various times and days over a 28 day period on all modes and bands from 27 July to 23 August. Security around the venue means that the amateur radio station will be located at the bottom of the Benfleet Downs looking up to the site from the other side of Benfleet Creek. More information is on the SEARS website, www.southessex-ars.co.uk/olympic2012.html.

OTHER STATIONS. From preliminary information currently available, also planned are **GB2012MV** – at the Manchester Venue.

The station will be operated by the Warrington Amateur Radio Club and located at Salford University campus where it will operate on HF, VHF and D-Star. Lead Contact is Mike Isherwood, G4VSS. **GBORA (or GB2012RA)** will be at the Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich, which is the venue for the Olympic Shooting Competition. The station will be nearby, led by Mike Buckley, M1CCF.

FOLLOW THE TORCH! The Worked All Britain Awards group will be tracking the progress of the Olympic Flame across the British Isles. Individual Worked All Britain members and local club stations have been invited to take part.

The Olympic Torch begins its journey on 19 May and finishes at the Olympic Park on 27 July.

The bronze level requires working or hearing 10 Torch relay stations, silver for 20 and gold for 30 stations. The callsign used will depend on which part of the country the Torch is in at the time but will be based on the standard WAB callsign G4WAB.

A couple of different forms of the award will be issued – pdf or printed. They will be issuing the certificate in pdf format as standard, with the option of a printed version for those who would like it.

The award is open to all, WAB members and non-members alike. All are invited to participate. There will be a charge of £3 (or €4 or US\$5) for the certificate. Please do not send any claims until after 28 July when the run is finished and then claim the one award at the level you have reached.

For more information, please contact the Awards Manager, GOBWB, QTHR, or consult the website at www.worked-all-britain.co.uk.

GB1PJ – PORTCULLIS JAMBOREE

25-27 MAY. The official Olympic Torch will leave Monmouth on 25 May as it starts its journey around Wales. GB1PJ will be operating from a Scout Jamboree Camp at Vauxhall Fields, Monmouth. More details from Hydren Harrison, GW1IOT and the RSGB website at www.rsgb.org/Olympics.

LOGOS AND WORDING GUIDANCE. Do not use the various logos associated with the Games on QSL cards unless you have express permission, as these 'Games Marks' are strictly controlled by LOCOG. The wording "*Amateur radio [special event] station to celebrate the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games*" is quite acceptable to use on ordinary QSL cards such as those associated with GOyxxx call and G2012xxx series.

Planning a SES? – Apply now - don't delay!
Have you got an Olympic Special Event Station we haven't mentioned? – Let us know!
E-mail: olympics.enquiry@rsgb.org

CONFIRMED STATIONS TAKING PART IN THE FOLLOW THE TORCH SCHEME

19 May	GX4WAB	Poldhu ARC
20 May	GX4WAB	Plymouth RC
21 May	GX4WAB	Appledore & DARC
22 May	GX4WAB	Taunton & DARC
23 May	GX4WAB	Stroud GORYM Scouts
24 May	GX4WAB	Gloucester AR&ES
25 May	GX4WAB	Worcester RAA
26 May	GC4WAB	Barry ARS
27 May	GC4WAB	Swansea ARS
29 May	GC4WAB	Dragon RC
30 May	GX4WAB	Chester & DARS
31 May	GX4WAB	Widnes & Runcorn ARC
1 June	GX4WAB	Bolton Wireless Club
2 June	GT4WAB	IOM ARS
3 June	GN4WAB	Glengormley E&ARS
4 June	GN4WAB	Causeway RC
5 June	GN4WAB	Castle Rock ARC & Foyle & District ARC
6 June	GN4WAB	Glengormley E&ARS
7 June	GN4WAB	Antrim & DARS
8 June	GS4WAB	Wigtownshire
9 June	GS4WAB	Mid Lanark ARS
10 June	GS7WAB	Orkney ARC
10 June	GS4WAB	Lerwick Radio Club
11 June	GS4WAB	Aberdeen ARS
12 June	GS4WAB	Aberdeen ARS
13 June	GS4WAB	Dundee ARC
14 June	GS4WAB	Lothian RS
15 June	GX4WAB	North East SEG
16 June	GX4WAB	North East SEG
17 June	GX4WAB	Durham & DARS
18 June	GX4WAB	East Cleveland ARS
19 June	GX4WAB	Ripon & DARS
20 June	GX4WAB	York ARS
21 June	GS4WAB	The Eddie Stobart club
22 June	GX4WAB	Thornton Cleveleys ARS
23 June	GX4WAB	Central Lancashire ARC
24 June	GX4WAB	South Manchester R&CC
25 June	GX4WAB	Denby Dale ARS
26 June	GX4WAB	Sheffield ARC
27 June	GX4WAB	Grimsby ARS
28 June	GX4WAB	Lincoln Short Wave Club
29 June	GX4WAB	South Notts ARC
30 June	GX4WAB	Nunsfield House ARG
1 July	GX4WAB	Stratford-upon-Avon & DRS
2 July	GX4WAB	Coventry ARS
3 July	GX4WAB	Leicester RS
4 July	GX4WAB	Peterborough
5 July	GX4WAB	Norfolk ARC
6 July	GX4WAB	South Essex ARS
7 July	GX4WAB	Chelmsford ARS
9 July	GX4WAB	Luton WAB Members
11 July	GX4WAB	Reading & DARC
12 July	GX4WAB	Blackmore Vale ARS
13 July	GX4WAB	BYLARA
14 July	GX4WAB	Brickfields ARS (IOW)
15 July	GP7WAB	Guernsey RAYNET
15 July	GH4WAB	Jersey ARS
16 July	GX4WAB	Horndean & DARS
17 July	GX4WAB	Newhaven Fort ARG
18 July	GX4WAB	Brede Steam ARS
22 July	GX4WAB	Loughton & Epping Forest ARS
23 July	GX4WAB	Wimbledon & DARS
26 July	GX4WAB	Wimbledon & DARS