It’s not just the NFL. Every other league has a draft. It has been fundamental to the success of professional sports.

-Roger Goodell
How I Get By
Assumptions
● You are a contesteer
● You are interested in attracting youth to contesting

Sources
● LOTS!
● Youth contesters, experienced contesters, editors, bloggers, Elmers, educators

Definitions
● Youth = < 26
Contesting Back in the Day

- Novice Roundup
- BSA
- Paper logs
- SSB and CW modes only
- EVERYBODY YOUNG (or young-ish)
Youth Contesting Now

- YOTA YCP (Region 1)
- Dave Kalter YDXA
- Team Exuberance
- YARC YCP
- Corporate/Club Support
- NACC
- WRTC Youth Teams
Youngsters on the Air (YOTA)

- Region 1
- Youth Contesting Program (YCP)
- Some funding through IARU
- Participants provide own travel
- Philipp Springer DK6SP PoC
Dave Kalter Memorial YDXA

- Founded 2010
- Takes youth to DX locations
- Current organizers: Don Dubon N6JRL, Jim Storms AB8YK, Ron Doyle N8VAR
- Challenges: finding DX stations & fundraising
Team Exuberance
- 1st all youth team at K3LR
  - KM4ATT, NN1C, VE7DZO, K6JO, HA8RT, KG5HVO
- Operating CQ WPX SSB M/2
- Average age 16
- Challenges – fundraising, forming team, travel/lodging logistics, communication
Team Exuberance

- Take-Aways
  - Be Coachable
  - Concise comms, quick response
  - YL – secret weapon
  - Persevere in the doldrums
  - Not 48 hours of fun but 48 hours of satisfaction
YARC YCP/ CQ WPX Youth

- Brainchild of Sterling Mann N0SSC
- Matches youth contesters with host stations
- New territory
Corporate/Club Support

- NCDXF – CTU scholarships
- CWops – CW Youth Academy
- Deep Dixie Contest Club
NACC

- Sponsored by SMC and NCJ
- Active in NAQPs
- Started 2 years ago by K9CT and K7JOE
- 15+ collegiate clubs participated
- Live Scoreboard
Youth Teams

- WRTC 2014 = 1 youth team
- WRTC 2018 = 3 youth teams
- WRTC 2022 = 6 YOUTH TEAMS!!!
Challenges

YOUTH
- Not mainstream
- Station access
- Coaching
- Not taken seriously
- Looked down upon

UN-YOUTH
- Awareness
- Cost
- Space/restrictions
- Our people

Lots of competing things
- Coachable ops
- Parent trust
Youth Contesters...

- Tend to be motivated
- Do hard things
- Are involved in many things
- Embrace coaching/Elmering
- Take criticism well
- Are committed
- Are COMPETITIVE!!!
Live Scoreboard

Love it. I think it is a must. Nothing more exciting than trying to stay on top!

-NN1C

I love the live online scoreboard! It makes it feel more like a competition because you know where you stand ...I think it makes you try harder...”

-ZL4YL
**Play Ball!**

**At Bat - This Weekend**
- YOTA YCP Phillip DK6SP
- Contest Forum Marty NN1C
- YDXA booth
- Sterling/Chris/Neil Ham Radio 2.0

**On Deck - Back home**
- Learn about youth contesting endeavors
- Invite youth to contest with you
- Open station to YARC YCP
- Consider inter-club challenges with youth/elmer teams
- Make the most of field day!
  - Have a follow-on event ready

**In the Hole - Long Term**
- Marketing/branding ham radio
  - Fred Kramer AB1OC NARS
- Include youth voice in all levels
- Youth recognition
- Grow Region 2 WRTC YTL
Questions/Resources

I found out that if you are going to win games, you had better be ready to adapt. All coaching is, is taking a player where he can’t take himself.

-Scotty Bowman, hockey

-Bill McCartney, football

Resources

- yarc.world (Sterling N0SSC YCP)
- ham-yota.com (YOTA - Region 1)
- n1fd.org (NARS)
- qsl.net/n6jrl (YDXA)
- n0ssc.com (Sterling Mann)
- w9smc.com/nacc (NACC)
- contestonlinescore.com