

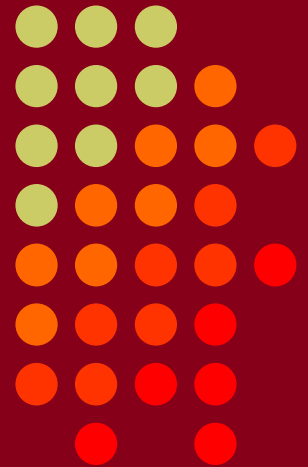
CTU Presents

Inside vs. Outside *How to Enjoy Contesting*

Dave McCarty, K5GN

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Who is this guy?



WB2GAV ORS NNJ

K5GN, Check 72, STX @W5KU

A73A 5921

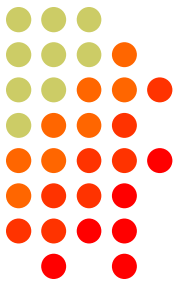
NU5A Cat Texas

Who are you?



It's an important question, when it comes to contesting.

Contesting Ethics



**What goes on inside and outside
*matters***

The topic:



CHEATING

It's a hot topic:



***cq-contest@
contesting.com***

***topband@
contesting.com***

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Cheating is pure hypocrisy.

– Carla Burnham Martin

Are you a winner if you cheat?

– Frank Sonnenburg

If you are good at your game, you would not cheat.

– D J Kyos

Radiosport – an unusual game



- Entrants keep their own score in real time
- Complex rules govern scoring
- Individuals and team entries permitted
- Competitors and casual participants all together
- Winners of top-level events often invest \$50K or more including travel to favorable locations
- An on-line network helps participants increase their scores
- Spectators don't find it particularly interesting

In other words ...



An open, massively multi-player, on-air, real-time, intensely interactive game of cooperative exchanges, defined by rather arbitrary rules.

Why are we here?



- **The contest rules set the boundaries of the playing field**
- **What goes on within those fences ...**

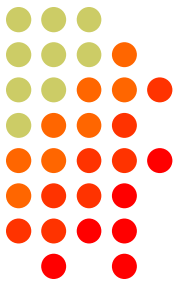
IS A TOTAL BLAST!

What do we mean ... Ethics?



- Ethics denote the theory of right and wrong actions
- Ethics in practice is knowing the difference between right and wrong and choosing to do what is right
- N0AX refers to our “Good Arrow.” We know which way it points. Our ethics begin here.
- We also know where it doesn’t point (narcissism, psychopathy, Machiavellianism)

Cheating hurts you and us



- Cheating degrades you
- Cheating hurts other participants
- Cheating undermines the sport



Mark Doherty

@dohertymark



You cheated not only the game, but yourself.

You didn't grow.

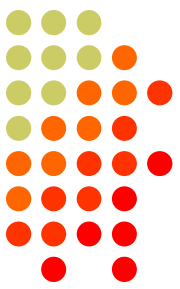
You didn't improve.

You took a shortcut and gained nothing.

You experienced a hollow victory.

Nothing was risked and nothing was gained.

It's sad that you don't know the difference.



When people cheat in any arena, they diminish themselves – they threaten their own self-esteem and their relationships with others by undermining the trust they have in their ability to succeed and in their ability to be true.

– Cheryl Hughes



IT'S IMPORTANT THAT ATHLETES CAN COMPETE ON A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD. AND YOUNGSTERS COMING INTO THE SPORT CAN KNOW THAT IF THEY ARE WORKING HARD AND TRAINING HARD, THEY'LL SEE A TRUE REFLECTION OF WHERE THEY STAND AND WHAT THEY CAN ACHIEVE WORLDWIDE AND NOT BE SWAYED BY PEOPLE WHO ARE CHEATING.

– AUTHOR: PAULA RADCLIFFE

Lance Armstrong



- Led the cycling world for years
- Win at all costs attitude
- Thought of himself as invincible
- In the headlines for years suspected of doping
- “Confessed” in 2012 on Oprah



Cyclist Lance Armstrong overcame incredible personal adversity to reach the highest levels of success. Then, just as spectacularly, he fell from grace in a public scandal that destroyed not only his reputation, but also the reputations of many others who had devoted themselves to him—in **the end, tarnishing the entire sport** of professional cycling.

— Michael Blanding

Inside Factors



What does winning the contest mean to you?

How important is your radio identity to you?

Who am I?



Born in Virginia to W8 dad and PT7 mom

Graduated HS in Houston

Texas Aggie

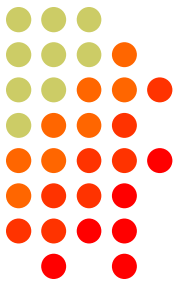
Husband and father of two

Engineer

Soccer enthusiast

Follower of Christ

Who are we?



- When we sit down at the rig, we sometimes find ourselves taking on a different persona.
- Do we forget that we are brothers, fathers, professionals?
- Does our chronically self-centered human nature lead us astray?

Ethics and Respect



- Ethical behavior requires ***respect***...
 - Respect for ***others***
 - Respect for ***the game***
 - Respect for ***yourself***
- Our fellow competitors want the same respect that we want for ourselves (the Golden Rule)
- To get respect, you have to ***give*** respect



We judge ourselves by our internal motives and everyone else by their external actions...it's just easier to know those motives when we are the perpetrator. The adverse consequences of this are wide and deep. Moreover, the pull towards judging yourself less harshly than others easily resists the rationality of deterrence.

– Robert M. Sapolsky



Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.

– 1 Samuel 16:7

God's standards and weighing scales differ from that of the world.

– Janneker Lawrence Daniel



How do we know what to do?

- Written Rules
 - Specified by the contest sponsor in writing
 - Black and white
 - May, can, must ...
- Unwritten Rules
 - Expectations about behavior
 - Interpreted norms
 - Gray areas

Some written rules are very clear

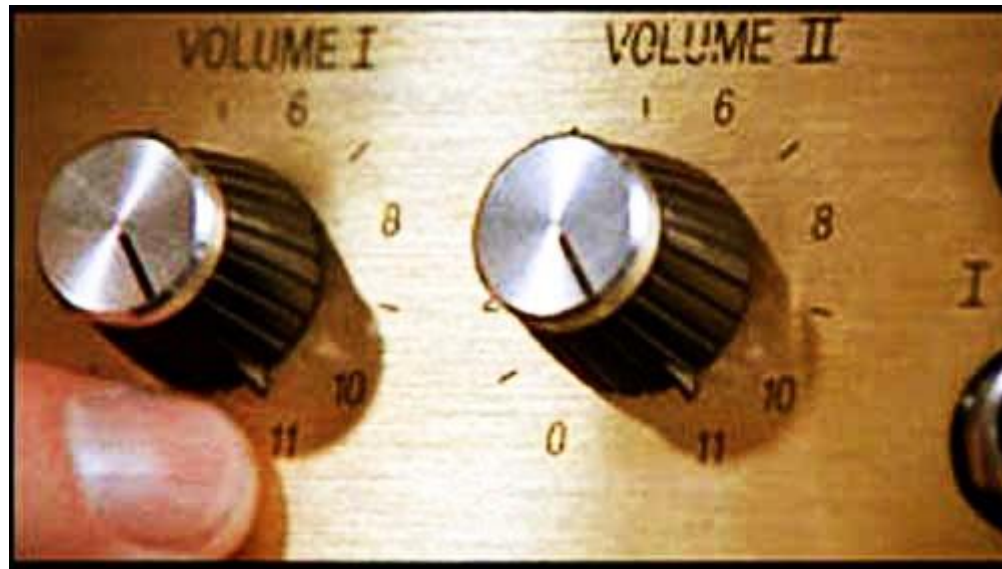


- (some people break these anyway)
- A. Single Operator categories:** For all single operator categories, only one person (the operator) can contribute to the final score during the official contest period.
- B. High Power:** Total output power per band must not exceed 1500 watts or the output power regulations of the country in which the entrant is operating, whichever is less.

“It’s the *size* of the watts!”



- Don’t exceed the power limits for the contest and your category
- Just because the knobs go to 11 ...

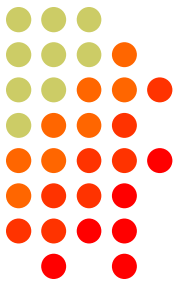


Unwritten Expectations



- “Can” is not the same as “Should”
- Just because it’s not specifically prohibited by the written rules doesn’t mean you should do it!
- Learn and follow the spirit of the rules
- Keep the contest on the radio and within the contest period.
- Don’t give or take unfair advantage of others
- Pay attention to changes to the rules (RTFR)

Examples of Unwritten “Rules”



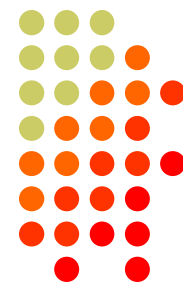
- **Do not** make pre-arranged schedules
- **Do** identify frequently
- **Do not** ask friends to work only you
- (**Do** encourage friends and club members to work you and everyone)
- **Do not** work friends with multiple calls
- **Do** log the QSO at the time of the QSO (no “rubber clocking”)

Examples of Unwritten “Rules”



- **Do not** use non-amateur means to get others on the air to work you
- **Do** make an effort to help casual callers enjoy the contest and make contacts
- **Do not** let others “help” your single-op effort
- **Do** not cheerlead
- **Do** work and spot stations equally

No “Log Washing”

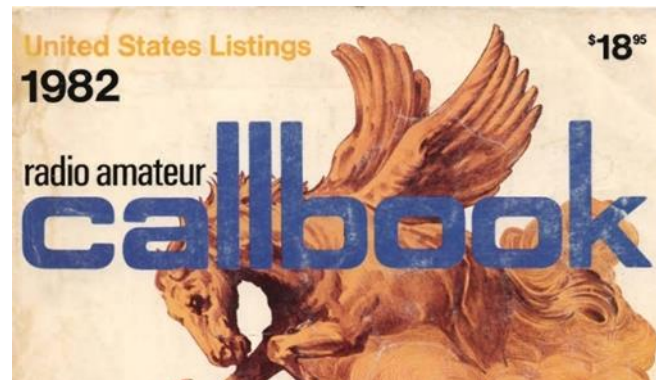


- **Do not** scrub your log after the contest
- Using QRZ.com, spot history, 3830 reports, LoTW, club databases, QSLs & emails received to make corrections to QSOs
- Using utilities to analyze and correct the log
- Asking others who they worked or if a callsign is correct
- “Fixing” off times or band change times
- **It’s over when the clock rolls over**

No “ghost” QSOs



- **Do** make sure **you** are the one being worked in the QSO
- **Do not** log an incomplete QSO (no wishful thinking)
- **Do** log duplicate QSOs (the log-checker will handle them)
- **Do not** log QSOs you haven't made (“working the callbook”)



Unobservable vs. Observed



- Behavior inside the shack is not typically observed
 - Only WRTC has on-site referees
- Behavior on the air is observable
 - Considerable tools are available to log-checkers



For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. – John 3:20

It's amazing how many cheaters and liars believe they won't be caught. News Flash: in today's age of technology, there won't just be a paper trail. There will be multiple electronic and digital trails, as well.

– Carla Burnham Martin



CHEATING is a CHOICE,
not a MISTAKE.

At some point, you make a decision



Play by the rules

- Work on improving skills
- Power consistent with class
- Assistance consistent with class
- Submit log as logged when the contest ends

Make your own rules

- Work on being obnoxious
- More power (amps to “11”)
- Use the cluster – who will know?
- Wash the log (fix calls, add calls, “adjust” times, etc.)



Overall, cheating is not limited by risk, it is limited by our ability to rationalize the cheating to ourselves.

– Dan Arielly

How do people excuse cheating?





Let us count the ways...



- Everybody does it
- I like being an outlaw
- It was exciting to push the rules
- Nobody was getting hurt
- Nobody was watching
- Rules don't mean much to me, I'm bigger than that
- It doesn't make a difference anyway
- Little to lose and much to gain by it
- It helped me overcome my unfair disadvantage
- I had to do it to win!
- The rules weren't clear but it seemed to me it might allow it
- The rule I broke was unfair anyway

Which ways tempt you?



- Many of us are well-trained, morally
 - But, we're also well-practiced at rationalizing
- Others don't see this as a moral issue
 - So we make judgments based on peer norms and cost-benefit assessments
- Let's go through the list, briefly

“Everybody does it”



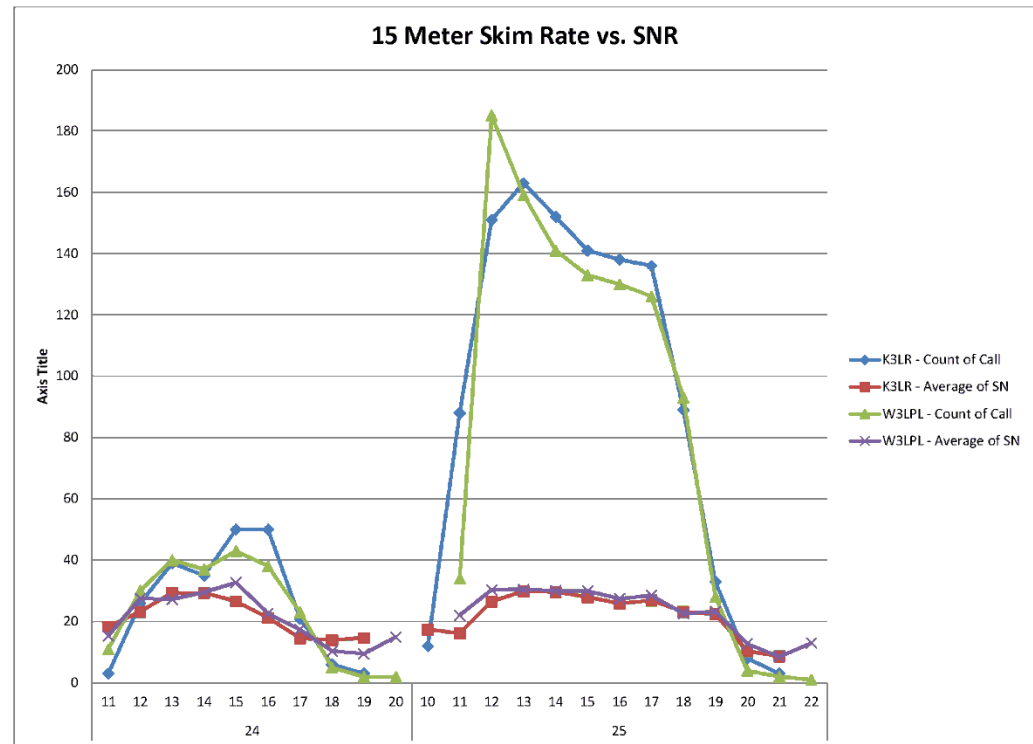
- K5**, NR5*, IQ2*, IR4*
- A little “evidence” easily becomes a widespread suspicion - "That guy is loud. He beats me all the time. He must be running power. I better get me a big amp, too."
- But the truth is that not everybody does it
- In fact the *top* competitors *don't* do it



K3LR vs. W3LPL, CQWW CW



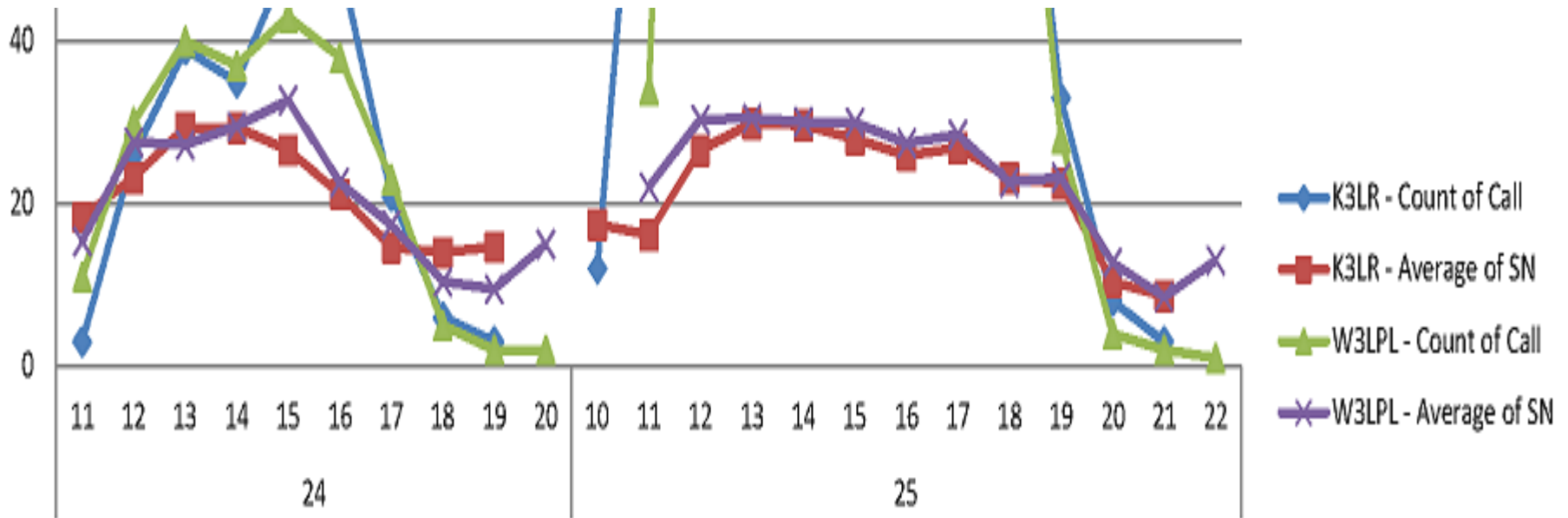
- This is the very top level of competition
- Both strictly hold their amps and ops to the 1500W maximum power limit



K3LR vs. W3LPL



- Zooming in on the Skimmer SNR data



Living Dangerously?



- “It’s exciting to break the rules”
- “I like being an outlaw”



- “Nobody is watching”



Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.

– Proverbs 9:17

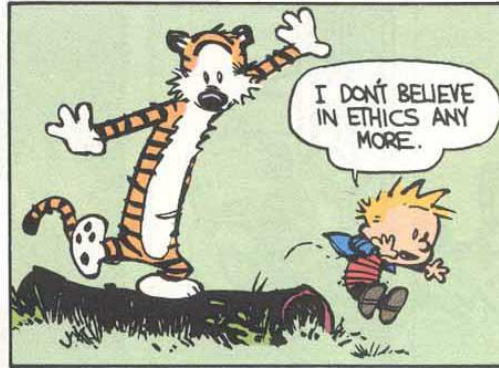
In my mind, it's justified



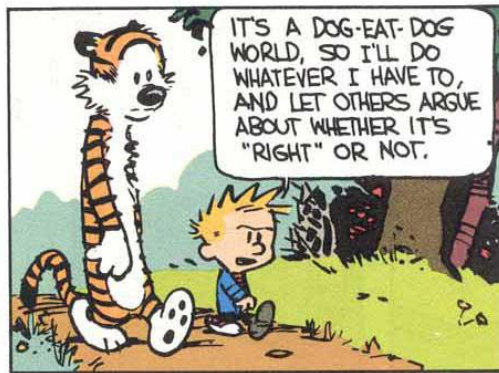
- “It helped me overcome my unfair disadvantage”
- “I had to do it to win!”
- “The rule I broke was unfair anyway”

calvin and Hobbes

BY WATKINSON



GET WHAT YOU CAN WHILE THE GETTING'S GOOD - THAT'S WHAT I SAY! MIGHT MAKES RIGHT! THE WINNERS WRITE THE HISTORY BOOKS!



No harm, no foul



- “Nobody is getting hurt”
- “It makes no difference anyway”





Cheating is cheating. No reason can justify it and no explanation can make it better.

– Sarvesh Jain

“That’s not how the world works”



- Only cheaters prosper
– Howard Tayler
- There’s no such thing as cheating. There is only winning or losing.
– Kiersten White
- If you can cheat, so can I. I won’t let you beat me unfairly – I’ll beat you unfairly first.
– Orson Scott Card



IT'S NOT CONSIDERED
CHEATING

IF YOU DON'T GET CAUGHT

FUNNY
HUMAN
COMEDY



The thought of cheating to win will never even cross a true competitive player's mind. For the true win, the competitive player will accept defeat. The cheater already accepted defeat for the false win.

– ijie

I'm at the top of the food chain



- “That rule was unclear so I thought I could stretch it to suit my operation”
- “Rules don’t mean much to me, I’m bigger than all that “



Cheating is cheating, no matter who is doing it. It's wrong.

– Carla Burnham Martin

I'm just a little gun



- “I’ll never be #1 so what does it matter?”
- “It won’t matter if I cut corners a bit – it’s just for fun”
- Bad habits early on become seriously bad habits later.
- Your reputation is established early



Claiming to love self, but willingly defaulting to cheating at the first sign of trouble is nothing short of playing yourself.

– T. F. Hodge

Cheating, loyalty, unfaithfulness – they start out as little things justified by clever reasonings of the brain, but never do they fully convince the knowing heart.

– Richelle E. Goodrich

Another factor or two



- Fear of loss of status
- E.g., a 10x increase in research misconduct (chasing grants to keep the lab alive)
- Cheating begets cheating – once the initial barrier is overcome, the next hurdle may seem smaller (the “what the hell” effect)
- E.g., Dr. Yoshitaka Fujii – 183 articles faked

Reputation



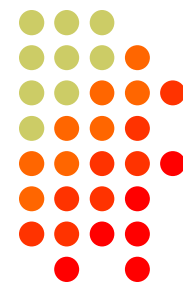
- You are responsible for your own reputation
 - Follow the rules!
 - Don't participate with people who cheat
- Lead by example
 - You never know who is listening or watching
 - Don't do anything you would not want to be made public
- Be vocal
 - Confront cheating when you see it
 - Every incident is an opportunity to teach proper behavior

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Negative Peer Recognition



- “That station was too loud in the NAQP”
- “That guy uses a pair of 8877s and has remote receivers in Europe”
- “He uses spots but enters as unassisted”
- “His ‘cousin’ was there as a second operator to help him”
- “He always operates with a broad signal to push away nearby stations and keep his freq clear”
- “He pads his logs with dead people’s callsigns”



I'll spend the rest of my life trying to earn back trust and apologize to people for the rest of my life.

... people will see me as somebody [who] has disrespected the event, the sport, the color yellow, the jersey, and ... I disrespected the rules.

I'd do anything to go back to that day.

– Lance Armstrong



Men [who cheat] do not cheat because they are dogs. They are [regarded as] dogs because they cheat.

– Mokokoma Mokhonoana

Where do you get your norms?



- From those who taught you morality
- From people you admire – your heroes
- From the people you run with – your multi-op team and hosts, your club members
- After childhood, you are responsible for the development of your character



There is a way that seems right to a man,
but its end is the ways of death.

– Proverbs 14:12

Golf shows your character.

– Victoria Brown

Tim Duffy, K3LR



- Strictly legal
- Lockouts, amplifiers, property limits
- High expectations of his guest operators
- #1 CQ WW SSB 2012
- #1 CQ WW CW 2012
- #1 ARRL DX CW 2013
- #1 ARRL DX CW 2013

And other heroes of mine...



K5ZD

N6ZZ

W2SC (8P5A)

N2NT

K1ZZ

N6TR

K4BAI

N5RZ

K1EA

N9RV

K0DQ

N2IC

N5TJ

K5TR

W3LPL

K5KA

N2NL

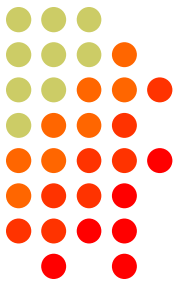
And ...



As cliché as it might sound, I'd rather lose than win by cheating. The latter is a much deeper, more personal loss in that one is admittedly whispering to himself his lack of competence. His cheating then begets more cheating, as he is ever-privately, ever-subconsciously insulting himself; thus gradually deteriorating any remaining confidence.

– Criss Jami

What do we really want?



We put a huge value on our competitive hobby.
We value our radio identities, too.

We know what's right.
We know how to apply the smell test.



Cheating is very easy, try something more challenging like being faithful to yourself, dreams, and partner. After all, it is how responsible we are [to] ourselves, dreams, and partner that we get to mature and grow wiser and more responsible.

– Kabelo Mabona

So here's the challenge



Let's strive individually and together to keep our reputations and our sport clean

Let's strive to emulate our heroes in the observable and the non-observable

Let's work within our clubs and on the 'net to bring our peers – both those who get it and those who don't – to the same goals



When my daughter was about five, she made up a game. I asked her what the rules were, and she said "No lying, no spitting, no cheating."

That covers most things in life.

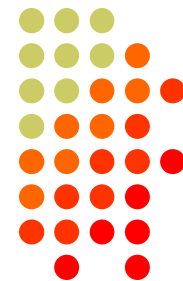
– Kenneth Wolfe K1EA

Thanks for your attention



Go! Fight!! Win!!!

Acknowledgements



- Prior presentations by K5ZD, K4RO, W5ZN, K1DG, N0AX
- Additional input from N6TR, K1TO, K1EA