

SPECIAL EVENT AND 'SPECIAL-SPECIAL' EVENT STATIONS IN 2016

Arrangements for HM the Queen's 90th birthday, WW1 centenaries and the centenary of the Cub Scouts

1. Introduction

This year sees a number of key anniversaries:

- the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen
- the centenary of various events in the First World War; and
- the centenary of the formation of the Wolf Cubs, known today as the Cub Scouts.

We consequently expect to receive requests for Special and 'Special-Special' Event Station call signs to enable Radio Amateurs to take part in events to mark these occasions.

In view of the significance of the occasions and bearing in mind the likely demand for call signs, we have drawn up the following arrangements, to allow as many Radio Amateurs as possible to participate in celebrations or commemorations.

2. Special Event Station ('SES') call signs

During 2016 only and only for the events mentioned above, we shall, extraordinarily, relax some of our normal rules on SES call signs, if they relate to these events

- We may allow SES call signs with the prefix 'GB9', so allowing call signs starting 'GB90'(eg 'GB90ER') or 'GB9O' (eg 'GB9OHM'); and
- We shall relax our normal policy of 'resting' SES call signs for two years. The same call sign may therefore be used at different events in 2016 though we shall not allow the same call sign to be used simultaneously at different events.

Beyond these concessions, the normal rules for a SES will apply. For example:

- The station must be open to members of the public;
- Only one SES will be permitted per event;
- The event must be in one location;
- The event is to be of no more than 28 days' duration;
- Call signs are available only to holders of Full, Full (Club) and Full (Reciprocal) Licences;
- Call signs may not exceed six characters;
- Call signs must be in the format GBncca ('n' is a number between 0 and 9; 'c' is an alphanumeric character; 'a' is a letter); and
- Call signs are available first come first served.

3. 'Special-Special' Event Station ('SSES') call signs in 2016

During 2016 only and only for the events mentioned above, the relaxation of the rules for SES call signs will also apply (adapted as appropriate) to SSES call signs:

- We may authorise call signs with the prefix 'GB9';
- We may reuse call signs, if necessary;
- Call signs may not be used simultaneously at more than one event; and
- Call signs may be up to nine characters in length, to allow for call signs that include 'GB100' (eg 'GB100SOM'; GB100HMSH').

Beyond these concessions, again, the normal rules for SSES call signs will apply. For example:

- Applications must relate to radio events or stations that are themselves part of a national celebration (a local event, for example, to mark Her Majesty's birthday or to mark a local unit that fought in WW1 would not qualify but may qualify as an SES);

- Applications must be endorsed by the national organisation responsible for the national celebration of which the Amateur Radio station is part;
- Call signs must be in the format GBnccccca ('n' is a number; 'c' is an alphanumeric character; 'a' is a letter); and
- Call signs will be available first come, first served.

4. SSES variations and call signs for the Cub Scouts' centenary

For Special-Special Event Stations associated with events celebrating the Cub Scouts' centenary, we shall further adapt our normal rules, as follows:

- We shall consider applications for SSES call signs from members of the Scout Association at District (rather than national) level. Individual Cub Scout Groups may apply for SES call signs only;
- The District Commissioner (or equivalent) must endorse applications; and
- SSES call signs
 - o may be up to nine characters in length (see above)
 - o must be in the format 'GB100cccc', 'GB100cccc', 'GB100cccc' or 'GB100cccc' where 'c' is an alphanumeric character and 'a' is a letter

5. Call signs covered

The following is a selection of call signs to which these arrangements may apply. It is not an inclusive list nor is it intended to be. We may update it periodically.

Special Event Call signs

GB90ER	GB90ER	GB90HM	GB90HM	GB9HMQ	GB9E2R
GB1SOM	GB1RBP	GB10CS	GB10CS	GB90QE	

'Special-Special' Event Call signs

GB90E2R	GB90E2R	GB90HMQ	GB90HMTQ	GB90HMQ	GB90HMTQ
GB100SOM	GB100SOM	GB100CS	GB100WCS	GB100RBP	GB100DYB
GB100CS	GB100WCS	GB100RBP	GB100DYB	GB90QEII	

6. Future arrangements

The special arrangements will remain available in 2017 and 2018, to enable Radio Amateurs to continue to participate in events commemorating milestones from the Great War.

From 2017, however, we shall reimpose the normal rules for all other events, as follows:

- The resting period for call signs will be two years;
- We normally allow SES call signs to be reused at annual events. However, the events covered by the special arrangements described above are peculiar to 2016. The question of recurring events should therefore not arise;
- We shall not issue call signs that start 'GB9'. This prefix is set aside for experimental stations; and
- A call sign may be used at one event only in the course of any year.

Ofcom, April 2016