

Worked All Zones Award Rules

All WAZ Award information is included in this PDF. Broken down in the following eight sections:

Section 1. Introduction, Section 2. General Rules, Section 3. QSO 's and QSL's, Section 4. WAZ Award Types

Section 5. Applying for the WAZ Award, Section 6. Postage Suggestions, Section 7. Processing Fees

Section 8. Arctic note. Section 9. Quick Start Application Guide

Section 1. Introduction

The CQ Worked All Zones Award (WAZ) and its variations are issued to any licensed Radio Amateur Station presenting proof of contact with all 40 CQ Zones.

This proof consists of proper QSL cards; which in many cases may be checked by any of the authorized check points or sent directly to the WAZ Award Manager. (List of authorized check points are available from the CQ WAZ page)

The WAZ program is one of the longest running in ham radio, having its start prior to WWII.

While the WAZ program involves the use of "DX Entities," it does not rely on any particular "Entity's" status as a country. The WAZ award is geographically focused, which is where its challenge lies.

WAZ Award correspondence can be directed to the WAZ Award Manager:

José A. Castillo - N4BAA
6773 South State Road 103
Straughn, IN 47387
USA
e-mail: n4baa@arrl.net

Application Form, Rules and Zone Map are available from the CQ WAZ Award Manager. The request may be made by sending an email to the WAZ Manager with "WAZ Info Request" as the subject line.

Section 2. General Rules

All QSO's must be made by a licensed Amateur Radio Operator, from a licensed Amateur Radio station, using only modes of emission and transmitter output power as permitted by the local licensing authority. QSO's with stations other than Radio Amateur (such as MARS, Commercial or Military) are ineligible for the WAZ award.

All QSO's must be conducted within the radio spectrum as authorized for that licensee by the local licensing authority

Any WAZ applicant found to be operating outside the bounds of their license may be disqualified from the WAZ program.

All contacts must be made from within the same DXCC Entity.

QSO's made by the same applicant using previous callsigns from that same DXCC entity are acceptable. Proof of holding those previous callsigns is requested.

The Official CQ WAZ Zone Map and the printed zone list are used to determine the zone in which a station is located.

If a problem is found with your application or QSL cards, we will attempt to contact you via email to inform you of the issue and attempt to resolve it with you.

The submission of any WAZ award application acknowledges consent to abide by the decisions of the CQ WAZ Manager and the CQ Awards Committee.

Decisions of the CQ DX Advisory Committee on any matter pertaining to the administration of this award are final.

Section 3. QSO 's and QSL's

All QSO's must be two-way with both stations using the same mode of emission.

QSL Cards must include:

1. Callsigns of both stations
2. Date of QSO
3. Time of QSO (UTC preferred)
4. Band or Frequency of QSO
5. Mode of QSO
6. The QTH of the station worked (country, state, city). Indication of the CQ zone is optional

QSL Cards not including the information above may be returned to the applicant for replacement, and not credited towards the WAZ award.

Electronic verifications from sources approved by CQ are acceptable. See the CQ website for acceptable online sources.

Ineligible QSOs:

Cross-Band

Cross-Mode

Aeronautical Mobile

Maritime Mobile

Stations located on floating ice

Ships anchored in port

Except for Satellite QSOs contacts made by the use of repeaters or non-RF paths

Any altered or forged confirmations submitted by an applicant for WAZ credit may result in permanent disqualification. The WAZ Manager may request the resubmission of certain

confirmations. The failure to resubmit QSLs in a timely manner when requested by the WAZ Manager may result in the recall of the award in question.

Section 4. WAZ Award Types

WAZ By Mode			
Mode	QSOs on or After	Field Checking	Notes
Mixed	14 November 1945	Yes	
AM	14 November 1945	Yes	
SSB	14 November 1945	Yes	
CW	14 November 1945	Yes	
RTTY	14 November 1945	Yes	
SSTV	1 January 1973	Yes	
Digital	1 January 2000	Yes	See Note 2
Satellite	1 January 1989	No	See Note 4
EME	1 January 1973	No	See Note 4

WAZ By Band				
Band	Mode	QSOs on or After	Field Checking	Notes
160 Meters	Mixed Only	1 January 1975	No	See Note 3
80, 40, 20, 15, 10	Any Single Mode	1 January 1973	Yes	No Mixed Mode

12, 17, 30	Any Single Mode	1 January 1991	Yes	No Mixed Mode
6	Mixed Mode	1 January 1973	No	See Note 4

WAZ By Technology				
Type	QSOs on or After	Field Checking	Notes	
Traditional (Local control)	14 November 1945	Yes	See Note 5	
Remote (combined local/remote control)	14 November 1945 for local-control QSOs; 1 January 2015 for remote	Yes	See Note 5	
All-Remote	1 January 2015	Yes	See Note 5	

Note 2: This WAZ award is designed to encourage activity and experimentation using any of the digital modes available to amateurs. The list includes, but is not limited to, PSK-31, AMTOR, PACTOR, and Spread Spectrum. QSL cards must indicate the specific mode used for the QSO. RTTY does not count for this award, as it has its own award. This award will not be endorsed for any specific digital mode. You may elect to use a single digital mode or different digital modes in working toward this WAZ award.

Note 3: The 160 Meter WAZ Award requires that the applicant submit QSL cards from at least 30 zones. Endorsement stickers are issued at the 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, and 40 zone levels.

Note 4: The Satellite, EME and 6 Meter WAZ Awards require that the applicant submit QSL cards from at least 25 zones. Endorsement stickers are issued at the

35, 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40 zone levels. The Satellite and EME Awards are not band specific; you may apply QSOs from multiple bands. **Applications and cards for these awards must be submitted to the WAZ Award Manager.**

Note 5: There are three technology categories recognized for the WAZ Award: Traditional, Remote and All-Remote.

- a. Traditional - The operator is physically present at the station location (location of transmitter, receiver and antenna) for all contacts. All contacts must be made from within the same DX entity.
- b. Remote - The operator uses remote station technology to make **ANY** claimed contacts on or after January 1, 2015. All contacts must be made from within the same DX entity. Remote WAZ awards will be numbered separately from Traditional awards.
- c. All-Remote - The operator uses remote station technology on or after January 1, 2015 to make *all* claimed contacts. All contacts must be made from within the same DX entity. All-Remote WAZ awards will be numbered separately from Traditional and Remote awards.

Special Endorsements

All WAZ Awards (except 5BWAZ and 160 WAZ) may be endorsed for unique situations, as provided for in the rules for each specific award, such as all QRP or all mobile provided the application includes an additional signed statement from the applicant that so states it was done via QRP or /M.

There is no special numbering system for these awards and they must still meet all the other requirements for CQ Awards.

5 Band WAZ

Applicants who succeed in presenting proof of contact with the 40 zones of the world on each of the 80M, 40M, 20M, 15M and 10M bands (for a total of 200), receive a special certificate in recognition of this achievement. There are separate numbering tracks for Traditional, Remote and All-Remote 5BWAZ Awards.

NOTE: A prerequisite for 5 Band WAZ is that the applicant must already be a holder of any 40-zone WAZ.

The first plateau is a total of 150 zones across any combination of the 5 bands listed above. A certificate will be issued with a unique award number, indicating the initial number of zones confirmed.

After reaching the 150 zone plateau, each 10 zones require the submission of QSL cards or LoTW confirmations and the application fee.

Upon reaching 200 zones confirmed, the applicant will be issued a 200 zones endorsement sticker to affix to their 5BWAZ certificate that was previously issued. No other endorsement stickers are issued.

Upon reaching the 200 zones level, the applicant may wish to purchase an engraved plaque to acknowledge the achievement.

MODES: Mixed Mode ONLY. The 5 Band WAZ Award is not available for any single mode.

QSLs accepted: Contacts for Traditional 5BWAZ must have been made after 0000Z January 1, 1979. Contacts for Remote or All-Remote 5BWAZ must have been made after 0000Z January 1, 2015.

Card checking: Checking of 5BWAZ awards by CQ awards checkpoints is available **for initial applications of up to 170 cards.**

Applicants wishing to submit more than 170 cards may do as follows:

Submit 170 cards to a checkpoint. Once these cards are approved and the application is signed by the checkpoint, another application can be prepared for the additional cards (as an endorsement). The original application (signed by the checkpoint) must be submitted along with the endorsement application and cards to the WAZ Award Manager.

ALL QSLs TO ENDORSE A 5BWAZ AWARD MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE WAZ AWARDS MANAGER

Application forms: CQ form 1479 or a facsimile shall be used. A separate application form is required for each band.

NOTE: For Multi-band QSLs please include a summary sheet indicating the callsign and bands for each particular card. This will aid in checking of QSL cards. If the applicant wishes his/her QSOs be added to their LoTW account, an Excel file with all required QSO data will be most helpful. An Excel file can be downloaded from the CQ WAZ page or requested from the Award Manager.

Section 5. Applying for the WAZ Award

The Application Form

ALL Application submissions **that do not involve LoTW** shall use any form that will require all the following info:

1. Callsigns used by the applicant, as shown on the QSL cards
2. Name of Applicant
3. Complete Mailing Address of Applicant
4. Date of Application
5. Type of WAZ Award being applied for (mixed, SSB, Single Band)
6. Zone of Contacted Station
7. Callsign of Contacted Station
8. Date of QSO (YYYY-MM-DD) format
9. Time of QSO (HH:MM:SS) format
10. Band (Not freq) For example (80M, 40M 10M)
11. Mode of QSO
12. Applicant's e-mail address

Submitting the Application Form

**PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION FORM USING BLOCK LETTERS OR
TYPE THE APPLICATION or send in EXCEL format.**

If the CQ WAZ application includes 100% LoTW QSOs, no further action other than submitting the LoTW application is required. **Please ALWAYS use the NOTES/COMMENTS field in the LoTW application to indicate what award type you are applying for (MIXED, CW, DIGITAL) etc.**

If the CQ WAZ application includes physical QSLs that will be checked by an authorized CQ WAZ card checker OR sent to the CQ WAZ Award Manager, form 1479 is required. Additionally, it is a requirement to also email your QSOs in an EXCEL file to the CQ WAZ Award Manager. This helps update the applicable LoTW account; otherwise, you may be charged a fee to have your QSOs manually typed up by the Award Manager. Excel file can be requested from the Award Manager as well.

If the CQ WAZ application includes eQSL or a combination of eQSL and LoTW and or physical QSLs, please submit application as indicated in the previous paragraph. If in doubt, contact the CQ WAZ award manager via email

Single Band WAZ awards may be applied for credit on a 5BWAZ application.

Plaques and Certificates

Effective September 1, 2022 the 'standard' award certificate will be a high-definition digital award (suitable for printing and framing) delivered via email from the award manager the same day as the CQ WAZ Award Letter is sent.

The traditional CQ WAZ “hand-lettered” Award is available directly from CQ for an additional \$20.00 USD fee which includes shipping. Payment for Hand Lettered Certificates should be paid to the Award Manager via any of the payment methods outlined in Section 7.

Award recipients who would like to purchase a customized plaque for any earned 40 Zone award, contact the CQ WAZ Award Manager directly for details. These plaques are delivered within 60 days globally.

Hand-Lettered WAZ Certificates are mailed 30 to 60 days after processing of your application.

Plaques are processed directly from the CQ WAZ Award manager. Plaques can be delivered anywhere in the US in under 10 days and globally in under 21 days.

Section 6. Postage Suggestions

Return Postage

Be sure to include sufficient return postage with your application.

Section 7. Processing Fees

Fees shall be paid by the following methods:

1. U.S. currency
2. Cashier's Check or Money Order (U.S. or Canadian Banks only - US Funds only)
3. Personal Checks (drawn on US Banks only) made out to **Jose Castillo** only.
4. You can now pay for your WAZ fees via Pay Pal. The account is in the name of the n4baa@arrl.net (friends and family please).

Remember to include additional funds for the safe return of your cards.

Processing Fee Schedule	
Award	FEE
Any "40 QSL" WAZ Award	\$12.00
"Basic 5BWAZ" application fee (First 150 Zones)	\$15.00
5BWAZ endorsement application fee (Each Additional 10 zones)	\$5.00
160, 6, EME, Satellite endorsement application fee	\$5.00

Any zones added to WAZ account manually (from QSL data that have been card checked). (Per 10 QSOs)	\$8.00
160, 6, EME, Satellite endorsement stickers (35,36,37,38,39,40 zones)	\$4.00 each
Legacy 5BWAZ or 160 Meter Plaque (shipped to USA address)	\$165.00
Legacy 5BWAZ or 160 Meter Plaque air shipment (non-USA address)	\$200.00
New CQ WAZ wood plaque for ANY WAZ award (shipped to USA address)	\$80.00
New CQ WAZ wood plaque for ANY WAZ award (shipped to non-USA address)	\$121.00
New CQ WAZ acrylic plaque for ANY WAZ award (shipped to USA address)	\$139.00
New CQ WAZ acrylic plaque for ANY WAZ award (shipped to non-USA address)	\$194.00

Section 8. Arctic Note

The boundaries of CQ zones 12, 13, 29, 30, 32, 38 and 39 converge at the South Pole.

Stations KC4AAA and KC4USN are at the South Pole and will count for any one of the listed zones. Most Antarctic stations indicate their zone on the QSL card.

Section 9. Quick Start Application Guide

If **ALL** credits are submitted via LoTW: (ARRL/LoTW charges a fee for using their system)

- Log into your LoTW account and submit desired CQ WAZ credits.

There is nothing else to do! (Easiest)

If **ALL** credits are submitted via eQSL: (eQSL does NOT charge a fee to submit credits; however, **ALL 40 zones must be submitted at the time of application**). Submitting credits just to advance closer to completion is not allowed via eQSL.

If you do want your credits from eQSL added to your LoTW CQ WAZ account, this service is available for \$8 USD fee for up to 40 zones.

- Log into eQSL and navigate to awards and go to the bottom of the page to submit credits for desired WAZ award.

There is nothing else to do!

ANY combination of LoTW, eQSL or physical QSL cards:

- Log into LoTW and submit any desired CQ WAZ credits.
- Log into eQSL and navigate to awards and go to the bottom of the page to submit any desired CQ WAZ credits.
- Mail QSL cards to be checked / verified to N4BAA (QRZ.com address) or have your QSL cards checked by a local CQ WAZ card checker.
 - If you have more than 5 QSLs to be checked, please contact the CQ WAZ Award Manager, N4BAA at N4BAA@ARRL.NET and request a CQ WAZ EXCEL Upload file to be submitted with your application.

If you have ANY questions at all, please contact the CQ WAZ manager via email at N4BAA@ARRL.NET.

January 2026

José Castillo – N4BAA