



# AUSTRALIA (VKFF)

## World Wide Flora & Fauna in amateur radio (WWFF)

### Australia - National Rules.

**VKFF National Rules for Amateur Radio activation  
of Australian Flora & Fauna areas**





## Release history of VKFF Rules

Version	Date	Author	Status	Remark
0.1	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2013	Paul VK5PAS	Draft	Commencing from the WWFF Global rules
0.2	3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2013	Paul VK5PAS	Amended	Additions
0.3	11 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2013	Paul VK5PAS	Amended	Additions/removal of certain rules
0.4	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	Paul VK5PAS	Amended	Additions
0.5	18 <sup>th</sup> June 2014	Paul VK5PAS	Amended	<p>2.13 listed twice. Numbers in this section amended.</p> <p>2.17 changed: Operators that use different personal call signs, count as the same individual. e.g. As an activator you <b>cannot</b> use your own call sign, and then a club call sign or vanity call, and claim this as one activation. Changed to read "you can use..."</p> <p>3.4-3.6 Details of the new VKFF Worked All Australia certificate added</p> <p>3.7 Details of the new VKFF DX Hunter certificate added.</p> <p>4.6 LogSearch facility added.</p>
0.6	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Paul VK5PAS	Amended	<p>Significant structural change of the rules.</p> <p>Deleted old rules e.g. percentage activation rule, period of time required for activation</p>

0.7	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	Paul VK5PAS	Amended	<p>Modification to Rule 1.2 - Structure</p> <p>Addition in Rule 3.10 relating to remote stations.</p> <p>Addition in Rule 3.12 re relaying of call signs, signal reports, etc.</p> <p>Addition to Rule 4.4 re park boundaries – reference to VK3OHM's boundary files, and parksnparks.</p> <p>Addition in Rule 5 of recommendation of no activations on total fire ban days or days of extreme fire danger.</p> <p>Modification to Rule 6.2 re logs to State/Territory representatives</p> <p>Modification of Rule 6.3 – VKFF National coordinator – now reference to State/Territory Representative</p> <p>Rule 6.5 – addition of a link for Fast log Entry (FLE)</p> <p>Rule 6.9 – Change of VKFF National coordinator to State/Territory Representative</p> <p>Rule 7.1 – Clarification re Hunters not having to provide a log.</p> <p>Rule 11.1 – removal of term VKFF National co-ordinator. Replaced by relevant State/Territory Representative</p> <p>Rule 14.2 added re parksnparks website</p>
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# 1. VKFF program introduction

## 1.1 Purpose

*World Wide Flora & Fauna in amateur radio*, abbreviated as WWFF (WWFF), is an international amateur radio program, the purpose of which is to:

*'draw attention to the importance of protecting nature, flora and fauna, and to encourage the development of radio skills, especially in portable operations'.*

The WWFF program encourages amateur radio operators to operate portable from designated parks and/or protected nature areas around the world, and in turn generate attention for these areas, whilst providing the amateur radio community an interesting and rewarding activity.

## 1.2 Structure

WWFF is an international and non-commercial program run by the National Co-ordinators of a large number of national Flora and Fauna programs.

Further information can be found on the WWFF website at:-

<http://wwff.co/about/>

## 1.2 History

The Flora and Fauna movement within amateur radio commenced in 2008, and was initiated by the Russian Robinson Club as World Flora and Fauna (WFF). In November 2012 the program was relaunched as WWFF.

## 1.3 VKFF program

Australia Flora and Fauna in amateur radio' abbreviated as 'VKFF' (VKFF), is an authorised partner of WWFF.

VKFF is a recognised National program of WWFF.

The VKFF program commenced in March 2013.



## 2. VKFF program structure.

### 2.1 Scope

This particular set of rules govern the operation within Flora & Fauna areas in Australia. These rules have priority over the WWFF General rules which apply to DXCC entities which are not covered by a National program. The WWFF General rules can be found at:-

<http://wwff.co/rules-faq/>

### 2.2 Participants

The VKFF program is open to the following participants:-

- Activators
- Hunters
- Short Wave Listeners (SWL)

Activators are those amateurs who operate portable from within a designated VKFF reference area.

Hunters are those amateurs who make contact with Activators who are operating portable from within a designated VKFF reference area.

Short Wave Listeners are those who hear and log the activities of Activators operating portable within a designated VKFF reference area.

### 2.4 How does VKFF work?

VKFF operates on the accrual of VKFF reference areas. It is not a point based system.

### 2.5 Tracking your progress in VKFF

VKFF Activators and Hunters can track their progress in the VKFF program by referring to WWFF Logsearch, which is the online database for the WWFF program. WWFF Logsearch can be found at:-

<http://wwff.co/logsearch/>

### **3. Terms of activation of activation of VKFF reference areas**

#### **3.1 WWFF program commencement date**

The WWFF program commenced on 1st November 2012. However, qualifying logs from activations preceding 1st November 2012, can be provided for upload to Logsearch dating back to 1st July 2008. Logs prior to this date will not be accepted.

#### **3.2 Appropriate licence to be held**

All participating amateurs must hold an appropriate amateur radio licence, and must abide by all licence conditions.

#### **3.3 Qualifying reference areas**

Only qualifying VKFF reference areas are valid for the VKFF program. Parks and other nature areas that are not contained within the WWFF Directory will not count towards the program.

#### **3.4 Unique identifying reference numbers**

Each VKFF designated park and/or protected nature area is issued with a unique alpha numeric identifying reference number.

The reference number consists of:-

- a. the ITU allocated prefix;
- b. FF for Flora and Fauna;
- c. and a unique identifying number

e.g. VKFF-0010

#### **3.5 References bordering another reference area**

Activators are only permitted to activate one reference area at a time. There are some instances where a VKFF reference area borders another.

If a VKFF reference area borders another reference area, the larger of those must be activated first.

### **3.6 References contained within another reference area**

There are some instances where a VKFF reference area is located within the boundaries of another VKFF reference area. In these cases, activity is only allowed under one VKFF reference area at a time.

In cases where the activating position is within a VKFF reference (e.g. a Nature Reserve), located within a larger protected area (e.g. a National Park), the small area is to be activated first.

### **3.7 Marine Parks.**

When activating Marine Parks and areas where the activation zone is only a natural water area, all equipment must be kept on board the ship or vessel, or on a coastal area located within 100 metres (300 feet) of the protected High Water tidal mark.

### **3.8 Mobile operation**

Mobile operation is accepted. However, operation external to the vehicle is encouraged.

### **3.9 Activations from buildings within park**

Valid activations can be made from dwellings or other buildings located within park boundaries, e.g. some amateurs reside within park boundaries.

### **3.10 Forms of operation not allowed**

Aeronautical mobile (AM) on board any aircraft (e.g. plane, helicopter, hang glider, balloon, blimp, etc) located above a WWFF reference area is not allowed.

Contacts via Repeaters, IRLP, Remote stations, Echolink do not count for valid QSO's.

The use of remote stations, including remote receivers as a hunter is not allowed, unless using a remote station owned by the Hunter in the State or Territory that the hunter is located in. The use of interstate or overseas remote stations is not allowed.

The use of a remote station as an activator is not allowed.

Contacts via amateur satellites are allowed.

### **3.11 Power sources.**

There is no restriction on the type of power source that can be used during an activation. However, some jurisdictions restrict the use of generators in parks. It is the responsibility of the activator to ensure that they are abiding by relevant rules.

### **3.12 Valid contact exchange**

Valid contacts will include an exchange between the activator and the hunter of their respective call signs, a signal report, and wherever possible the VKFF reference number. Relays of callsigns and signal reports by other stations are not allowed. If they occur, this can make the contact void.

### **3.13 Time operating from the reference**

There is no time limit that an activator must operate from a reference.

### **3.14 Time between activations**

There is no restriction with regards to time between one activation and a subsequent activation.

### **3.15 In the spirit of VKFF**

All participants are expected to be fully aware of the VKFF rules and are expected to adhere to the rules.

If it is established that a participant has not complied with the rules, the activation may be declared void.

The VKFF National Co-Ordinator also reserves the right to request documentary proof of an activation should the need arise. Failure to do so may result in the activation being declared void.

The VKFF National Co-Ordinator also reserves the right to impose possible sanctions on any participant who has not participated in the spirit of the VKFF program.

## **4. Activator information**

### **4.1 Only valid references will count**

Ensure you are in a valid VKFF reference area.

#### **4.2. Lawful access is required**

It is the responsibility of the activator to ensure that access to the reference area is permitted. This includes using lawful access routes into the reference area, and compliance with all relevant local laws and regulations whilst in the reference area.

#### **4.3 Unlawful access to a reference area**

Unlawful access may deem the activation to be invalid.

#### **4.4 Working within boundaries of the reference**

While activating a VKFF reference area, all equipment (including antenna/s, transceiver/s, power supply/ies, etc) must be within the boundaries of the relevant VKFF reference area.

It is not sufficient for part of the station to be within the boundary of the reference area.

Boundary files have been created by Marc VK3OHM and can be found on the relevant State/Territory page on the WWFF Australia website at.....

<https://www.wwffaustralia.com/>

or on the parksnparks website at.....

<https://parksnparks.org/viewMaps.php>

#### **4.5 How to call CQ**

Activators are encouraged to call 'CQ WWFF', 'CQ World Wide Flora Fauna' or 'CQ Parks'.

Activators are also encouraged to explain the WWFF/VKFF program to any Hunters who call, who are unfamiliar with the program.

#### **4.6 Ten (10) QSOs required**

For all VKFF activations, a minimum of 10 QSOs are required for the VKFF activation to be valid.

Contacts with the same individual using a club call sign, a vanity call sign, or a special event call sign for example, are allowed and will count towards the 10 QSO threshold.

A contact with the same call sign on a different band or on a different mode, counts as a separate QSO.

A contact with the same call sign on a different date counts as a separate QSO.

A contact with a station from a portable location who then goes mobile, counts towards the 10 QSO total.

#### **4.7 Accrual of 10 QSOs over multiple activation**

The 10 QSOs can be accrued over multiple activations. They do not have to be attained during one activation.

e.g. activate a VKFF reference area today and attain 5 QSOs. Then return a week later and attain a further 5 QSOs. You have now qualified the VKFF reference area.

#### **4.8 Invalid contacts**

Contacts (QSOs) with other activators within the same reference are not valid.

The exchange of call signs and a signal report are required for the contact to be valid. Call signs and signal reports are not to be relayed by other stations.

Activators and Hunters are encouraged to exchange accurate signal reports, not just 5/9.

#### **4.9 Consideration to other users of the reference area**

VKFF activators will ensure that their operation does not impact on the enjoyment and safety of other users of the reference area that they are activating. This includes such issues as excessive noise, tripping hazards from antennas, etc.

VKFF activators are to be cognisant that they are representing the wider amateur radio community whilst activating. VKFF activators are encouraged to engage with the community and park officials.

#### **4.10 Consideration for wildlife and the environment**

VKFF activators will ensure that they will observe due diligence with regards to wildlife they encounter during any activation.

Activators are not to cause any damage to the environment in which they operate. This includes deliberate damage or actions resulting from recklessness. It also includes littering. Whatever you take to the activation, please take home with you.

## 5. Safety issues for Activators

### 5.1 Safety of activator and others

VKFF activators are to ensure that any activation does not impact on their own safety and that of other users of the reference area.

It is strongly recommended that activations do not occur on total fire ban days or days of extreme fire risk.

### 5.2 Participation in WWFF at own risk

VKFF activators participate in the WWFF program entirely at their own risk. The WWFF Committee and the VKFF co-ordinator shall accept no responsibility for injury, loss of life, or any other loss.

## 6. Providing Activator logs

### 6.1 Log must be submitted to claim the reference

For the accreditation of a VKFF area as an Activator, you are required to submit an electronic log (ADIF file or CSV template) of all QSOs made.

Only ADIF or the CSV template will be accepted. Other forms of log, e.g. handwritten, typed, spreadsheets are not acceptable.

It is not the role of the VKFF National Co-Ordinator to convert logs into ADIF or CSV. This is the responsibility of the activator.

### 6.2 Log submission to relevant State/Territory Representatives.

The activator log is to be submitted to the relevant State/Territory Representative, who in turn will upload the log to Logsearch.

Activators do not upload their own logs.

Details of VKFF State/Territory Representatives can be found at.....

<https://www.wwffaustralia.com/vkff-team.html>

### 6.3 Vetting of logs for accuracy

Please vet your log for any potential errors prior to submitting it to the relevant State/Territory Representative. Simple errors such as wrong reference area quoted, incomplete or inaccurate call signs, or logs not in the appropriate format, simply means delay in uploading the files and additional work for both the State/Territory Representatives and the park activator concerned.

Once logs have been uploaded, State/Territory Representatives cannot modify logs. For all log corrections, please place a post in the 'Log Corrections' area of the WWFF Forum. Here is a link....

<https://wwff.co/forums/forum/wwff-helpdesk/log-corrections/>

### 6.4 ADIF files

The log may be submitted in ADIF format (Amateur Data Interchange format). ADIF is an open standard for exchange of data between ham radio software packages available from different vendors.

For more information on ADIF files, please see:

<https://www.wwffaustralia.com/adif-files.html>

### 6.5 Fast Log Entry (FLE)

The WWFF Committee highly recommend the use of the Fast Log Entry (FLE) program, which will allow the creation of an ADIF file.

<https://df3cb.com/fle/>

### 6.6 CSV files

The log may also be submitted in CSV file format (comma separated value). A CSV file allows data to be saved in a table structured format. CSV's look like a standard spreadsheet but with a .csv extension. They traditionally take the form of a text file containing information separated by commas, hence the name.

### 6.7 CSV file template

A CSV template can be found at:

<http://www.wwffaustralia.com/csv-template.html>



Instructions for the use of the template can be found on the template itself.

The 'operatorCall' column should be completed if the operator call is different to the station call used for the activation. An example of this is if you use a club call sign. Place the club call sign in the 'station Call' column and your own personal call in the 'operator Call' column.

Please ensure that you use the correct date format YYYYMMDD.

Please only record the band in the 'qsoBand' column, e.g. 40m. Do not use 7.090, etc.

## 6.8 Naming of logs

Electronic logs are to be named in the following way:

callsign@reference YYYYMMDD

Using this file name is a very simplistic duplication check. Logs simply named XXFF-123.adi for example, are triggering the 'dupe check' when a log of the same name is uploaded.

## 6.9 Uploading of logs by State/Territory Representative

The relevant State/Territory Representative will in turn upload the log to the WWFF Logsearch facility which can be found at:

<http://wwff.co/logsearch/>

## 6.10 What if 10 QSOs are not attained?

As an activator, even if you do not attain the required 10 contacts during an activation, please still submit your log for upload. Despite the fact that you have not reached the 10 QSOs, your activation will still count for those hunters that worked you, and for your future activation of the same park.

# 7. Hunter information

## 7.1 Activator logs must be uploaded to Logsearch to claim the reference

For hunters to claim a park contact, the activator's log must be uploaded to WWFF Logsearch. There are instances where park activators do not provide their logs for upload to Logsearch. Unfortunately, in these instances, the contact will not count towards WWFF global awards.

Hunters in the VKFF program are not required to provide any information re their QSOs with Activators. Only activators provide their logs. Hunters can track their progress via Logsearch.

## **7.2 Valid QSOs**

All QSOs are valid for Hunters, regardless of the number of QSOs made during the activation by the Activator, provided that the Activator log has been submitted and uploaded to Logsearch.

## **7.3 QSL cards not required**

There is no requirement to exchange QSL cards in the VKFF program.

QSL cards are not required for VKFF awards.

Valid QSOs between an activator and a hunter are displayed in Logsearch.

## **7.4 Please keep your overs short.**

A valid exchange of call sign, signal report and whenever possible the relevant VKFF reference number is all that is required.

Protracted overs will potentially only frustrate the activator and the hunters who are waiting to work the activator. Remember, the activator is seeking 10 QSOs and may often be working in adverse environmental conditions.

# **8. SWL information**

## **8.1 How do SWLs participate?**

Currently Logsearch will not allow SWL interface.

SWL Hunter certificates can be requested directly from the VKFF National Co-Ordinator.

A list of stations heard, with relevant dates, times, frequencies, signal reports exchanged, and relevant reference numbers, is to be sent in XLS format (not XLSX) to:-

[vk5pas@wia.org.au](mailto:vk5pas@wia.org.au)

## 9. DX Code of Conduct

### 9.1 Participants encouraged to abide by the Code of Conduct

VKFF participants are encouraged at all times to abide by the DX Code of Conduct.

More information on the DX Code of Conduct can be found at:

<http://www.dx-code.org/>

## 10. WWFF Directory

### 10.1 Purpose of Directory

A WWFF Directory is maintained by the WWFF Reference Managers. The directory records all qualifying WWFF reference areas throughout the world.

### 10.2 Where to find the Directory

The latest WWFF Directory can be located by clicking on the following link:

<http://wwff.co/directory/>

## 11. Logsearch

### 11.1 Purpose of Logsearch

A WWFF database exists which is known as Logsearch. VKFF activator logs are uploaded to Logsearch by the relevant State/Territory Representative.

VKFF park activators and hunters can view their progress on Logsearch and apply online for awards.

### 11.2 Where to find Logsearch

WWFF Logsearch can be located at:-

<http://wwff.co/logsearch/>

## 12. Agenda

### 12.1 What is the WWFF Agenda?

The WWFF Agenda is a place where you can place details of your proposed activations. All entries are moderated before publishing, so please allow some time for your details to be displayed.

### 12.2 Where to find the Agenda

The Agenda can be located at:

<http://wwff.co/agenda/>

## 13. VKFF awards

### 13.1 Various VKFF award certificates on offer

There are many award certificates on offer within the VKFF program. Details of the VKFF awards can be found at:

<http://www.wwffaustralia.com/awards--recipients.html>

There is also a WWFF Global award system, and many of the participating National programs also offer their own award certificates.

### 13.3 VKFF awards offered for free

The VKFF awards are all available in electronic format (.PNG or .pdf) and are all free of charge. All VKFF awards are based on QSO information contained in the WWFF Logsearch database. Other sources of information such as QSL cards, LOTW, eQSL are not accepted for the VKFF awards.

## 14. General information and Tips

### 14.1 What does '44' mean?

During a VKFF QSO you may hear reference to the term '44'.

The first digit '4' represents the four elements: earth, water, air, and fire.

The second digit '4' represents the four directions: north, south, east, and west.

#### **14.2 Placing your intentions on parksnparks**

The parksnparks website is a spotting and alerting facility for park activators. If you do intend to activate a VKFF reference, consider placing an 'alert' on parksnparks. It is also highly encouraged that Hunters place a 'Spot' on parksnparks if they have worked an Activator.

<https://parksnparks.org/>

#### **14.3 Placing intentions on the WWFF Agenda**

If you intend to activate a VKFF reference, consider placing your intentions on the WWFF Agenda.

You may also like to post your intended actions on the WWFF Australia Facebook site and/or the WWFF Australia Yahoo group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1805720889702979/>

<https://au.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/wwffaustralia/info>

This can dramatically increase the exposure of your activation, and thus increase the number of Hunters that call you.

#### **14.4 Using the DX Cluster**

As a Hunter, consider placing the details of any Activator that you work / or hear on the DX cluster. This will not only assist the activator reach the required 10 QSOs, but also helps out your fellow park hunter.

Please remember that it is impolite to 'self spot' ('spot' your own callsign) unless you are desperately trying to start activity on an open but quiet band – and even then it is preferable to 'spot' a real DX station with a comment to the effect that the band is open.

For more information on the DX Code of Conduct for using the DX Cluster, please see:-

<http://www.dx-code.org/cluster.html>

## 14.5 WWFFwatch

For specific information on WWFF Activators appearing on the DX cluster, please look at WWFFwatch at:

<http://wwff.co/dx-cluster/>

## 14.6 Hamspots

Another useful resource to track WWFF activity is Hamspots.net. It can be located at:

<http://hamspots.net/wwff/>

## 14.7 Frequencies

The following are recommended global WWFF frequencies.

Please remember, that no individual or a group 'owns' a particular frequency.

### Phone

- 1.848
- 3.644
- 7.144
- 14.244
- 18.144
- 21.244
- 24.944
- 28.444

### CW

- 1.824
- 3.544
- 7.024
- 10.124
- 14.044
- 18.084
- 21.044
- 24.894
- 28.044

## 15. Adding VKFF reference areas

### 15.1 Expansion of existing VKFF National program

The VKFF National program can be expanded and new VKFF reference areas added.

The VKFF National Co-Ordinator shall add the proposed new reference area/s to WWFF Logsearch, and the area/s will then be approved by the WWFF References Manager/s.

Proposals for new VKFF reference areas should first be referred to the VKFF National Co-Ordinator.

### 15.3 IUCN Protected Areas Categories System

When giving consideration to adding new WWFF reference areas, please ensure that the proposed area falls within the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Protected Areas Categories System.

- Ia Strict Nature Reserve
- Ib Wilderness Area
- II National Park
- III Natural Monument or Feature
- IV Habitat/Species Management Area
- V Protected Landscape/Seascape
- VI Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources

More information on IUCN can be located at:

[http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap\\_home/gpap\\_quality/gpap\\_pacategories/](http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_quality/gpap_pacategories/)

### 15.4 Restriction to new references

Per calendar year (1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December) the VKFF National Co-Ordinator can add up to a maximum of 500 NEW references.

### 15.5 Validation date of new references.

New references will be valid from the date of approval by the WWFF References Managers. Logs for references prior to the validation date are not valid for VKFF and will not be uploaded into Logsearch.

## **16. Deleting WWFF reference areas**

### **16.1 Criteria for deleting references**

Deletion or discontinuation of VKFF reference areas is possible.

### **16.2 Who can arrange deletion?**

The VKFF National co-ordinator in conjunction with the WWFF References Managers will arrange for deletion of VKFF references.

### **16.3 Deleted reference numbers**

Deleted or discontinued reference numbers can not be re-used.

### **16.4 Deleted dates to be recorded**

An end date for deleted or discontinued areas will be recorded in the WWFF Directory.

## **17. Further reference**

### **17.1 Further reference sources**

Further reference to the program and various awards can be found at the following websites:-

#### **WWFF Australia website**

<http://www.wwffaustralia.com/>

#### **World Wide Flora & Fauna global website**

<http://wwff.co/>



## **18. Notes.**