# 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 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 n4baa.com website on the WAZ page.

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

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.

## 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.

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

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

## 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 the CQ manager are acceptable. Acceptable sources are LoTW, QSL and eQSL only.

### 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 and **** |

| **WAZ By Band** | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Band | Mode | QSOs on or After | Field Checking | Notes |
| 160 | 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 |
| 3cm, 13cm, 23cm, 70cm, 2m | 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.

**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 Award is not band specific; you may apply QSOs from multiple bands.

**** EME Band Awards (ALL 40 zones only) are available for the 3cm, 13cm, 23cm, 70cm and 2m bands.**

**If applicable, stations earning a special band specific EME award will automatically earn a regular CQ WAZ EME award Serial Number to align with the intent of the original CQ WAZ EME award.**

For very special accomplishments such as a band/mode CQ WAZ EME Award (70cm CW for example) will be granted a CQ WAZ EME award with this extraordinary accomplishment noted as applicable. Special plaque medallions are also available.

**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 5BWAZ BASIC AWARD requires only 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 the150 zone plateau, each 10 zones require the submission of QSL cards and the associated CQ WAZ application fee.

Upon reaching 200 zones confirmed, the applicant will be issued an 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. 5BWAZ plaques can support future medallions for achievement of the 195-200 zones OR medallion support for achievement of 160, 170, 180 190, 195 and 200 zones.

**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**

**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 frequency) 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 Manger, 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 since 2022 the 'standard' award certificate will be a very 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.

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

Plaques are available for ALL CQ WAZ awards and 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 7. Processing Fees

### Fees shall be paid by the following methods:

1. U.S. currency
2. Personal Checks (drawn on US Banks only) made out to **Jose Castillo** only.
3. You can now pay for your WAZ fees via Pay Pal or Zelle. The account is in the name of the n4baa@arrl.net (friends and family please or ensure the full amount is received after any and all fees are taken out).

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

| CQ Processing Fees | |
|---|---|
| **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 |
| Zones added to WAZ account manually (from QSL data that have already 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) | $185.00 |
| 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 all eQSL applications that are LESS THAN ALL 40 zones (you must mention this in your eQSL application notes or the system will not correctly know).**

- 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.

***August 2026***

***José Castillo – N4BAA***