

RADIO RELAY INTERNATIONAL

EXPANDED AFFILIATION POLICY & CRITERIA

I. Background

The mission of *Radio Relay International* (RRI) is to provide reliable and effective public service communications world-wide, and particularly across designated U.S. geographical areas and the regions within those areas, led and operated by trained amateur radio operators. See *Articles of Incorporation*, Article IIB.

The *primary* affiliates of RRI are: a) domestic (U.S. and Canada) and international supporting organizations through a *Statement of Affiliation*; and b) wide-area supporting functions (nets, networks and facilities) -- particularly by regions, by and between the three designated U.S. and Canada geographical areas -- through *Terms of Reference* approved both by the active operators within each area and by the RRI Governing Board.

However, RRI *Bylaws*, Section 4.1 (iv) provides that the Governing Board may “authorize the *secondary* affiliation of other nets, networks and facilities in accordance with written policy criteria adopted by the Board.” The terms “function” or “functions” refer to directed nets, digital networks, or other facilities supporting the RRI mission.

The radio operators active in the affiliates are the linking-pin resource through which the organization’s mission and objectives are achieved. They are considered “RRI operators” under the policy set out below.

II. Affiliation Processes & Criteria

A. Primary Affiliates

1. Affiliated Organizations. The RRI Board shall develop and adopt a standard-form *Statement of Affiliation* through which supporting organizations may seek and establish RRI affiliation. The *Statement* shall emphasize cooperation and coordination in the following primary areas, as applicable:

- a). Message format
- b). Basic Operating Standards of Practice
- c). Digital Mode software, Routing and Network Topology
- d). CW or Voice Linking Circuits between areas or countries
- e). Frequency Coordination

2. Affiliated Functions. The RRI Board shall consider for approval *Terms of Reference* recommended by elected area staffs representing supporting nets, networks and other facilities. The *Terms* shall address:

- a). A statement of purpose and general functions consistent with the RRI mission
- b). The role and duties of area staff members, including staff coordinator
- c). Full (voting) staff members elected by function active operators
- d). Staff governance provisions, including staff coordinator as RRI Board representative

International area supporting functions may be considered by the RRI Board upon application by designated function representatives. Additional criteria for such affiliation requests may be set by the RRI Board as circumstances require.

B. Secondary Affiliates

This section establishes specific criteria under which the Governing Board shall consider the secondary affiliation of supporting functions operating within an RRI-designated region or area, not otherwise subject to the *Terms of Reference* for that area. The Board shall:

1. Apply the below applicable criteria to each net-affiliation application;
2. Adopt a resolution that describes the decision and the basis on which it was made; and
3. Notify the applicant-net of the decision (in writing or by electronic means).

C. Secondary Affiliate Criteria

1. Structure & Management. Is the net effectively organized and staffed (elected Net Manager with delegated duties to appointees) appropriate to size and scope of service area?
2. Active Operators. Is a net active operator roster maintained? Are records kept to assess the scope and degree of participation?
3. RRI Compatible Service Area. Does the net conflict or compete with another RRI-designated net? An ARRL sponsored NTS net?
4. Assigned Liaison Stations. Will there be reliable net operators assigned and performing consistent liaison functions to and from the established RRI-designated state (for local nets), region (for state) or area (for wide coverage) net?
5. Band, Frequency, Mode & Scheduling. Has the net established a proper utilization of band, frequency and mode rules and conventions? Is the scheduling of net sessions compatible with general propagation conditions and designated RRI liaison nets?

III. **Active Operator Affiliation**

A. Designation by Net Manager. Primary and secondary RRI affiliated net managers shall develop and maintain a current roster of radio operators active on their respective nets. The operators identified on such rosters shall be considered "RRI operators." Rosters shall be filed periodically with the RRI Statistician.

B. RRI Operator Appointments & Recognition. RRI operators shall be eligible for election or appointment to RRI leadership positions and established recognition programs under standards adopted by the RRI Governing Board.

C. Proficiency Certification. The RRI Board may develop and establish written operator proficiency standards leading to appropriate certifications.

IV. **Supported Organizations**

The RRI Governing Board may adopt a separate policy statement on establishing formal relationships with organizations and agencies supported by RRI.

Adopted by the RRI Governing Board on December 6, 2016.

Robert E. Griffin
RRI Secretary