



SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

PO BOX 1721, STRUBENSVALLEI 1735, SOUTH AFRICA
Telephone 011 675-2393 – Fax 011 675-2793
Email: admin@sarl.org.za Web: www.sarl.org.za

GUIDELINES FOR PACKET RADIO IN SOUTH AFRICA

The following guidelines for Packet Radio operators and sysops are intended to give both operators and sysops an indication of what is expected of them in order to maintain order and goodwill on the South African Packet Radio network. Whilst not regulations *per se*, operators and sysops are urged to adhere to these guidelines.

GUIDELINES FOR PACKET RADIO OPERATORS (USERS)

1. Amateur Radio takes pride in being self-regulated. Packet Radio Operators should continue this tradition.
2. Packet Radio Operators, like all Amateur Radio Operators, should observe published Band Plans. (Local bandplans included).
3. A Packet Radio Operator should not send the following traffic either direct or via mail boxes:
 - a. All advertising for selling, buying or trading goods, including amateur equipment (except if permitted by local regulations);
 - b. All statements or propaganda on political or religious subjects;
 - c. All inappropriate language, as, for instance, the use of swear words, obscenities, defamatory or libellous language, etc.;
 - d. All material which may infringe Copyright;
 - e. All material which infringes privacy, whether personal or corporate.
4. A Packet Radio Operator utilizing a BBS should avoid transmitting unnecessary or redundant messages and documents in order to enhance or degrade network efficiency.
5. A Packet Radio Operator utilizing a BBS should ensure that the callsign of the originating station, including the name of the person responsible in the case of a club station, is clearly shown on every message so that the sender can be identified.
6. A Packet Radio Operator should avoid messages that are too long for efficient relay through the network. He should discuss this problem with his Sysop who could possibly find a solution.
7. A Packet Radio Operator utilizing a BBS should ensure that all messages transmitted are addressed to the appropriate group of recipients and not addressed to inappropriate areas in order to enhance or degrade network efficiency. The practice of

sending a bulletin to 'ALL' is frowned upon. Choose a suitable topic name; e.g. CLUBS; SARL; RTTY; PACKET; ROSE, etc.

8. A Packet Radio Operator of the National Packet Radio Network should not cause undue QRM by having his TNC parameters set in such an 'aggressive' manner so as to claim an unfair advantage on the channel.

9. A Packet Radio Operator shall not degrade the normal 'flow' or routing of traffic on the Packet Radio Network. (See paragraph-8 above).

GUIDELINES FOR PACKET RADIO BULLETIN BOARD OPERATORS (SYSOPS)

1. The Operator of a Packet Radio Bulletin Board is obliged to provide a reliable service, within a defined area for a defined purpose. If he requires funds to run the Radio Bulletin Board, it must be in mutual agreement with his Users.

2. A Packet Radio Bulletin Board Operator is morally responsible for all messages forwarded by his system. He should make his best efforts to insure that the traffic forwarded is appropriate to the Amateur Radio Service and in accordance with the Guidelines for Packet Radio Operators. The use of word-filters in the BBS help in this case. The Sysop has the right to read personal messages only if the author of that message is suspected of contravening the Guidelines for Packet Radio Operators.

3. HF Mailboxes should only be used where there is a genuine need that cannot be provided by VHF/UHF or other means.

4. A Packet Radio Bulletin Board Operator shall not degrade the normal 'flow' or routing of traffic on a Packet Radio Network. Synergy must be attained between Packet Radio Bulletin Board Operators. This includes notifying the adjacent forwarding partner/s of temporary or permanent closure of your Bulletin Board System. Also notifying Users well in advance of temporary closures of the BBS (more than 24 hours).

5. A Packet Radio Bulletin Board Operator may take action to exclude a User who 'persistently' contravenes the Guidelines for Packet Radio Operators. Excluding a User should only be done as a last resort after the User has been warned and where exclusion does not contravene local regulations. Petty grievance is not a just cause for exclusion!
