

OMISS NET CONTROL PROCEDURES: OPERATING RULES AND GUIDELINES

Key: General Guidelines are in Black text. Suggested Scripts are in Blue text. OMISS RULES are contained in boxes.

1. Try to get on at least 30 minutes early to secure a clear frequency. Be courteous and patient if the assigned frequency is in use. Please monitor above and below frequency to ensure it is clear. While seldom necessary, remember we can shift up or down 7 kHz.

RULES FOR NET FREQUENCY

ALL OMISS nets should be held on posted net frequencies. If there is an activity on posted OMISS frequency, nets can be moved a maximum of +/-7 kHz. If a frequency can't be secured, then NCS is to standby until the frequency is clear or NCS can cancel the net after posted net time. Please monitor above and below the posted net frequency to ensure it is clear on both sides of present activity. Monitor for information relayed or posted on AIM regarding activity on adjacent frequencies. If any of the nets need to move, be sure the frequency will not cause harmful QRM to other users of the band. In the cases where intentional QRM occurs, NCS should refrain from responding to the station and encourage others on the net to do the same both on the air and on AIM. Best rule of thumb to handle QRM is to ignore it.

2. Begin taking check-ins

“This is _____ acting as Net Control for this session of the OM International Sideband Society ____m net. We are now taking check-ins for the OMISS ____m net. You do not have to be a member to check in. This is traffic, worked all states awards-type net and all general class and above amateurs are welcome to check in. Calling for check-ins, check-ins, for the OMISS ____m net. Please call _____, net control, for check in.”

RULES FOR CHECKING INTO THE NET

Check-ins are not allowed prior to NCS gaining control of the frequency. Check-ins must use their full call sign to check in. OM# is optional. Net Control or a relay must hear stations wishing to check in. Check-ins are permitted by SSB radio only. NO check-ins from AIM.

3. **Establish Relay Stations:** The use of relays is highly encouraged. Remain flexible and be prepared to shift to different relays as propagation and conditions change.

“Relays for the net will be: _____, _____, and _____. If another station hears something that net control or the designated relays do not hear, please say “relay, identify with your call sign” and wait for net control to acknowledge you. Please do not jump in without being recognized.

4. Ask relay stations to call for check-ins

“Are there any relays from anyone for check-ins not heard by net control or relay stations?”

5. Briefing for first-time check-ins (newcomers)

Welcome the newcomer to OMISS. At a minimum, let the newcomer know we are a worked all states and awards net, we are a list operation, and provide the newcomer with our web address: www.omiss.net let the newcomer know his or her number on the list. If the list is long, save the full briefing until the end of the first round. The full briefing is located in the addendum at the end of this document.

6. Allow portable, mobile, DX and/or QRP stations ample time to be heard.

“Are there any portable, mobile, DX or QRP stations waiting to check in?”

“Are there any relays with portable, mobile, DX or QRP check-ins?”

Have each designated relay station also ask for portable, mobile, DX or QRP check-ins.

7. Read the Preamble

“Welcome to the OM International Sideband Society Net. This is _____, my name is _____, and my OMISS number is _____, acting as Net Control for this session. The objectives of this net are to work for OMISS awards, pass traffic, and promote good will among amateur operators. The net is run by the Net Control Station, and all calls must go through Net Control or a designated relay station.

At this time, we will break the net for any EMERGENCY or PRIORITY traffic. Is there any EMERGENCY or PRIORITY traffic? Come now.

Is there any traffic, general announcements, or Net business of general interest to be announced?”

RULES TO BE ANNOUNCED DURING THE PREAMBLE

“During the net, the minimum acceptable signal report is a 2x1, and the maximum acceptable signal report is a 5x9.

Net Control or a relay must hear both stations acknowledge the correct signal reports for a contact to be “a good one”. This makes the call “official.”

All stations must identify with their full call sign when making or receiving a call. All net times are in Zulu (UTC) time.

8. Read other Administrative Announcements (as applicable):

“Net, we have ___ operators listed as “newcomers” on the list. They are: _____, _____ in _____; _____, _____, in _____; and _____, _____, in _____. On behalf of all the members present, I would like to welcome them to the net, and we look forward to each of them pursuing membership in OMISS. For the non-member stations who are checked in: as a reminder, you can receive a call at any time, but you must wait your turn to make a call.”

“For those of you looking for your 49th or 50th state for OMISS WAS or STATEHOOD: you will be given priority should those states check in. Is there anyone looking for his/her 49th or 50th state? Come now. “

“When working a mobile station, please include both signal reports, and include the mobile station’s location on your QSL card.”

“Contacts made with a husband and wife combo only count as one call.”

“Contacts made with a Control Operator and his/her Club Station, only count as one call.”

9. Decide whether to designate first-time check-ins as a “free call”. While a “free call” is encouraged, net situations vary and it is at the Net Control’s discretion whether to invoke this or not.

10. Announce the number of calls on the first round. Allow one or two calls depending on the number of stations on the list and conditions. Consider starting with only one call if the list has twenty-five or more check-ins. This is a judgment call. (Choose one of the following):

“Net, we have ___ “newcomers” on the list. We will start with a free call plus one, but the first call has to be to a newcomer.”

“Net, we will start with ___ call(s) on the first round.”

COMMENCE THE NET

1. Start running the list. Conduct priority calls first. When giving a station his/her turn, give out complete info including their call sign, name, state, and OM# (at least for the first round). Stations may call anyone they have heard on the list or they may simply announce their call sign and go “up for grabs”.
2. Ask relays for assistance as necessary. If Net Control or designated relays fail to contact a station, ask for assistance from any other relay that can help. Do not assume that if a station does not respond that they have left the net.
3. Try to minimize Net interruptions. It is your choice to take check-ins as they occur, or take at different intervals, but this interval should not exceed 20 check-ins on the work list. Take check-in information to include call sign, name, state, and OMISS number only and try to avoid other discussion. If the list is long, wait until the end of the list to give information to first time check-ins.

4. Advise the net when the list has been completed. Try not to overlook anyone. Use relays as necessary. Pay particular attention to first-time check-ins (newcomers), if other members have not contacted them.

5. At the end of the first round, provide OMISS information to newcomers who have not received it. For those with internet access, advise them of the OMISS website.

www.omiss.net For those without internet access, give them the address of the Information Officer and what they should send in to obtain more information; i.e., #10 SASE with two units of postage. The address information is in the addendum located at the end of this document.

6. Look for additional check-ins and run the list again as appropriate.

NOTES:

A. Net controls may run the list as many times as they deem productive. There is no set duration for OMISS nets. The original Net Control may pass the net to a new Net Control if conditions warrant it, and there is sufficient support from the members checked in. It is acceptable to stop the list from time to time and just simply rag-chew, during an extended net, provided we keep the net open by announcing who we are, and we look periodically for check-ins.

B. When unusual circumstances arise: i.e., instances involving rare stations, states, or counties, etc., it is the Net Control's prerogative to handle each situation as he/she deems appropriate. For example, Net Control may designate additional calls for a mobile or a rare station. It is always the decision of the Net Control as to how best handle these or any other unusual situations that may arise.

7. Run Last Calls.

CLOSING THE NET

"While closing this session of the OM International Sideband Society Net, I would like to thank everyone who checked in to the net and those who assisted Net Control as relays. Many thanks go out to _____, _____, _____, _____, and everyone else who assisted Net Control, because without their kind assistance, the net would not be possible. We meet here, on the frequency of _____ (+ or -), depending on conditions, every _____ at _____. Net Control would like to invite all stations to participate in the net again on _____. You can visit our website at www.omiss.net for more information about this net. The net is officially closed at _____ UTC, and the frequency is clear and available for normal and customary amateur use. 73 everyone. This is _____.

ADDENDUM: Full Newcomer Briefing

This is how the net operates:

When checking into the net, the Net Control station places your call sign on a list. The Net Control station goes through the list and gives each station a turn to work any

station that they heard and want to work.

When you make a call or receive a call, give your call sign, name and state. When a station gives you a signal report, acknowledge the report you received and send back a signal report. The minimum acceptable signal report is a 2x1 and the maximum acceptable signal report is a 5x9. Net Control or a relay, must hear both stations acknowledge the correct signal reports for the contact to be "official". Net Control (or a relay) can provide a fill on any of the information about the other station except for the signal report.

Do you have access to the internet? Please jot down our web address: www.omiss.net

On our website, you will find information on how to become a member of the Society and how to use the free QSL Bureau. You will also find a schedule showing the times and frequencies of the seven different bands on which OMISS Nets operate, along with the information about the numerous awards available to members, as well as a section for downloads. Do you have any questions?

If the newcomer does not have internet access, give the Information Officer's mailing address:

For a "hard copy" of information about OMISS, send a #10 SASE with two units of first class postage to:

OMISS INFORMATION OFFICER

Mr. Ken Whitehouse N4JLT

480 Boone Trail

Danville, KY 40422

(Last revised by **AIOA** Dec 2016)