

Acceptable Use Policy and Basic Rules for Using The W8BLV/ W8JEU Dial Radio Club Repeater Systems:

These repeaters are “G” rated at all times. ANYTHING THAT IS NOT SUITABLE FOR ALL AUDIENCES IS NOT WELCOME ON OUR REPEATER SYSTEMS.

By regulation, Amateur Radio Operators are required to be “self-policing”. On the DIAL RADIO CLUB repeaters, each operator is expected to do this in two ways – by ensuring that their own individual conduct of operations is above reproach; and also by exhorting and challenging other operators to present their best practice on the air. A good operator *that is already engaged in a QSO* should *politely* note that a discussion or practice has “crossed the line” and then demur from further involvement in a QSO gone bad. (Note: if you are not already engaged, PLEASE DO NOT “jump in” and correct any conduct. Leave that up to a Control Operator or the License Trustee.) Instead, please see the following:

It is recommended that - Any *alleged* FCC violations and/or bad behavior should be noted by forwarding the date and time of observation for review to the trustee, W8EH at w8eh@arrl.net and/or the club email address w8blv@qsl.net.

We have a number of control operators who monitor the Dial repeaters. The control operators have a say as to violations occurring. They have the ability to shut down the repeaters for violation. Control operators coordinate and take their direction from the Dial Radio Club license Trustee.

Note that when you are using a Dial Radio Club repeater, you are using the W8BLV/W8JEU club license, which the trustee is legally responsible for. You are still responsible for your own transmissions, but the licensee is responsible to ensure proper legal operation of the repeaters.

There are certain types of conversations and transmissions which are not appropriate for the DIAL RADIO CLUB Repeater Systems. It falls upon the W8BLV/W8JEU Repeater Systems Owner, The Dial Radio Club, through the appointed license trustee and control operators to make the determinations regarding unsuitable content.

These repeater systems are not your personal entertainment system. They are a shared community resource, and are “G” rated at all times. ANYTHING THAT IS NOT SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES AND AUDIENCES IS NOT WELCOME ON DIAL RADIO CLUB REPEATER SYSTEMS.

IN ORDER TO BEST SERVE ALL MEMBERS AND USERS, THE DIAL RADIO CLUB, (REPEATER SYSTEMS OWNER) RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ENFORCE ANY AND ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

AT A MINIMUM, VIOLATION OF THE MAJOR POLICIES, and/or RULES OF ETIQUETTE AND CONDUCT LISTED BELOW WILL PLACE THE OFFENDER IN DIRE RISK OF ENFORCEMENT POLICY, UP TO AND INCLUDING IMMEDIATE BAN FROM USE OF ALL DIAL RADIO CLUB REPEATER SYSTEMS.

Acceptable Use Policy: Major Policies

The Dial Radio Club of Middletown Area will have the final say on any repeater systems operation and/or USERS access by legislation and by appointment of the W8BLV/W8JEU license Trustee, who holds legal station license authority granted to him by FCC Regulation. The DIAL RADIO CLUB Acceptable Use Policy may be periodically reviewed and revised by the Dial Radio Club membership. *USERS and club members are responsible for reading, understanding, and adhering to this Policy. Conduct on the repeaters should also be governed by common sense and courtesy, including the use of plain language (technical acronyms are fine). Just talk normal! Please* don't give bad impressions of our services by making thoughtless or off-color remarks. Instead, set an example which others will be proud to follow!

Questions and concerns may be forwarded to w8eh@arrl.net or a Dial Radio Club officer.

- A. Do not violate any provision of FCC Part 97. Period.** If it becomes apparent that a user is willfully ignorant of, and/or disregarding FCC regulation, that station may be asked by the Trustee or his Control Operators to immediately cease transmissions and to review FCC requirements before returning on-air on the DIAL RADIO CLUB repeater systems. *Alternately, the repeater in use at the time of violation may be shut down without warning.*
- B. Refrain from discussing religion excessively.** Criticizing or ridiculing (as opposed to discussing, clarifying, or edifying) anyone else's religious beliefs will not be tolerated.
- C. Politics is a topic that can be very highly charged.** However, most ham operators of voting age already know who they are going to support, and no amount of persuasion will change an individual's political position and platform. *THUS, please refrain from discussing politics excessively. While better avoided entirely, a few brief remarks pertaining to domestic politics are OK... Occasionally. Somewhat. Raised voices and/or name calling (even in jest) will NOT be tolerated. Frequently repeating a political opinion / soliloquy will be considered excessive. Criticism of foreign politics and policies of other countries IS NOT OK.*
- D. Do not engage in political, religious, or personal soap boxing** (can be related to B & C above). Soap boxing (often during overly long conversations), is when people carry on a conversation on the repeater that is a thinly disguised broadcast of personal rhetoric (especially when often repeated over time). The subject is generally to "put down" or ridicule an institution, group, or

an individual in the presence of as wide an audience as possible (repeater listeners). *This is very objectionable to other users and listeners.* Using the DIAL RADIO CLUB repeater systems as a platform for soap boxing of any sort, especially harassing or baiting / ridiculing of other ham operators, is unacceptable.

- E. Do not belittle, berate, defame or speak ill of others....period.** This includes individuals, groups, nations, etc. Using words such as idiot, stupid, hate monger, etc. in reference to any person, entity or group will not be tolerated.
- F. DO NOT REBROADCAST OR OTHERWISE ANNOUNCE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY!!** Placing LEO personnel or their work at risk *will not be tolerated.*
- G. Emergency Traffic, Service NETS, and Special Events sanctioned by The Dial Radio Club on the W8BLV/W8EJU repeater systems hold absolute priority over routine use of system resources.**

Are we talking about censorship? No, not exactly. A person may have the right to stand on the street and say bad things about someone. However, they don't have the same right when they are a guest in that person's house and expect to stay welcome. When using the DIAL RADIO CLUB repeater systems, you are a guest operator of our club station, and no one retains the right to use our repeater systems in ways that the Dial Radio Club feels are objectionable.

In the event that users become derelict in their charge, repeater owners must step in – thus, violating the preceding **MAJOR POLICIES** and the following **Rules of ETIQUETTE AND CONDUCT** will put any guest operator at immediate risk of any and all of the **Enforcement Policy** listed below:

Acceptable Use Policy: Rules of ETIQUETTE AND CONDUCT

The following information is a simple guide (and are also system rules USERS are expected to follow) to supplement our Major Rules and foster courteous operation on the DIAL RADIO CLUB amateur radio repeaters. It is inspired by best-practices reported from repeater owners and operators across the country (some who have adopted zero-tolerance for violations and discourteous behavior).

If you operate by these simple guidelines, you should be welcomed on any amateur radio repeater, including those of the DIAL RADIO CLUB repeater systems:

1.) There shall be absolutely no communications containing obscene, indecent, or profane words, language, or meaning. Period. Even 'mild' obscenities are not good operating practice and are prohibited on DIAL RADIO CLUB repeater systems. This includes suggestive phrases, *innuendo* (sexual or otherwise), and suggestive phonetics OR enunciation of such using Morse Code.

1A.) Juvenile behavior is not appropriate for the repeater. Talk like mature and polite adults.

2.) Do not monopolize the repeater. The repeater is a SHARED resource. *Please be attentive to the amount of time you use the system during a given day, thereby allowing more amateurs the opportunity to use the system under their terms and topics.* Long winded QSO's discourage other users from making use of the system (and no, not everyone wants to break up or join a multiple-hour QSO). So, please be courteous to your fellow operators while using our system. Remember that the DIAL RADIO CLUB repeaters cover most of SW Ohio. Please use the appropriate resources (simplex per ARRL Band Plan or a shorter-range repeater) for extended-duration local coverage QSO's (i.e. more than ½ hour).

Note: Other hams probably want to use the repeater but might not be interested in the subject your group is discussing. None of us should monopolize the repeater, even unintentionally.

Note: It's not enough to just pause now and then and invite others to join in. They may just not be interested in the topic. Be polite, and don't be a "repeater hog."

3.) Don't just break up a QSO and change the topic (hint, you can wait until they finish their discussion); *Do not interrupt existing conversations unless you have something meaningful to add.* If you feel compelled to interrupt an existing conversation, remember that it is just as distasteful to do so on the air as if you did it in person. If you do “jump in”, please be patient and keep in mind that previous parties may wish to take a moment to finish their line of thought.

4.) Ignore jammers and others who try to disrupt the repeater's normal operation. Without any reaction from the repeater users, they will have no audience and probably go away in short order. When you attempt to engage them, it only fuels their actions. *If you feel compelled to help, DO check the repeater input and report your observations (signal strength and other identifiable attributes) to the license trustee via email or private message.*

5.) You May BE the Problem - Note: If you are someone who is the subject of frequent interference, it may be a sign that you are aggravating people with your operating habits. This may be a sign that it is time for you to adjust your attitude and use of the repeater (no trolling for purposes of self-entertainment by controversy are allowed).

6a.) “For Identification” - The Dial Radio Club understands the minimal FCC requirements set for identification, however, FCC regulation also allows repeater owners to set additional guidance and rules for use of their repeater systems; *Thus – while on the DIAL RADIO CLUB repeater systems, please transmit your call sign when you first come on the air, in order to state the source of the signal being transmitted.* Make sure that your station transmits its ID a minimum of once every 10 minutes (you are encouraged to operate in good practice, but there is no need to identify too often). If a contact is less than 10 minutes, please give your station's call sign as you end the contact.

6b.) Unidentified transmissions are not allowed. Period.... (this includes “kerchunking the repeater”)... it's prohibited by FCC regulation. However, testing the repeater is allowable with identification included. Simply say your call sign and the word “test”.

7.) Don't do these! Don't cough, clear your throat, sneeze, perform other bodily functions, etc., on the air; Please un-key your microphone before these "emissions" take place.

8.) Be upbeat and courteous. Don't habitually complain! This especially includes complaining about other hams, the repeater, or some aspect of the hobby.

9.) Do NOT use the word "break" to join a conversation. It is not considered good operating practice and in most circles the word "break" is reserved for announcing emergencies. If you simply want to join in, simply transmit your call sign.

10.) Promptly acknowledge any break-in stations and permit them to join the conversation or make a quick call. **Always - immediately yield the frequency to a breaking station with emergency traffic.**

11.) Please do not use phrases learned on 11 meters, and please use appropriate language for operating ham repeaters. - *Please* speak plain English...period - the truth is, the scanning public needs to hear good operating practice, and... most Amateur Radio operators find the sound of CB lingo worse than fingernails on a blackboard. The main thing to remember is to just talk in a normal manner.

Talk just like you would to someone in person. There's nothing different about talking over the radio. Using slang jargon on FM repeaters just labels a person as a LID. In summary, Conduct on the repeaters should be governed by common sense and courtesy, and the use of plain language (technical acronyms are fine). Just talk normal! Please don't give bad impressions of our amateur radio services by making thoughtless or off-color remarks or using arcane jargon. Instead, set an example which others will be proud to follow!

12.) Be considerate during commuting hours (6-9AM and 4-7PM drive times) should be left to the mobile stations who have limited time to converse. The repeater is there to help extend the range of mobiles and portables, so be courteous and give them priority during commuting hours.

13.) Roundtables - Following a roundtable, or rotation format is the best way for 3 or more to participate. Please don't ignore people by not passing it to them for several turns.

14.) Courtesy pause - Please provide a brief pause between transmissions in order to allow folks to join in. Please do not "quick key" to respond to others. Wait for the courtesy beep before making your transmission. If the repeater doesn't have a courtesy beep (like 147.315), wait for the repeater carrier to drop before transmitting. *People breaking into / joining a conversation* should transmit their call sign when the currently transmitting station un-keys.

For people already in the conversation, we suggest that before you key the mic, count to three (allow others an opportunity), transmit for a moment, then let up to ensure that you are not doubling (or tripling, or quadrupling!), then continue your transmission. It's not hard. Maybe

even consider letting the repeater drop out for a moment during crowded QSOs.

15.) Equipment - There are no minimum “equipment requirements” on the DIAL RADIO CLUB repeater systems. Just do your best to maintain a communications quality signal, and understand that the listening audience certainly appreciates a “full-quieting” signal more than a “scratchy” one. Technical assistance is available to help you achieve your higher signal-quality goals.

16.) Intimidation is not allowed – direct, implied, inferred, or threats (“joking” or otherwise). Period.

17.) “Advisory Intimidation” is not allowed – including *any* – joking or otherwise... advisory or provocation to physically harm others (example “you ought to shoot Joe” or “You should slap your waitress or your wife”). It’s simply derogatory.

18.) Pecuniary Interest – USERS shall NOT have even the appearance of conducting business-related activities; i.e. pecuniary interest. Communications on behalf of your employer or your business is strictly prohibited by FCC rules.

19.) USERS shall NOT suggest, advise, or otherwise recommend any illegal activity. Period. In any context. Weasel words will not change the inference involved, so just don’t do it.

20.) When using the DIAL RADIO CLUB repeater systems, on-the-air advertisement of personally-owned HAM RADIO related items is permitted, *as long as prices are not discussed on the air, and the deal is not consummated on the air.*

ENFORCEMENT Policy

Please note that ALL DIAL RADIO CLUB repeaters may be recorded.

The Trustee, and his assigned Control Operators prefer *NOT* to intervene on any given conversations held on the System’s repeaters. USERS are expected to “play by the house rules” which are provided in the sections above which are titled “**Acceptable Use Policy: Major Policies**” and also “**Acceptable Use Policy: Rules of ETIQUETTE AND CONDUCT**”. When USERS exceed the boundaries described above, or exhibit behaviors deemed to be out of line with intent expressed above, then access to the DIAL RADIO CLUB repeater system resources is subject to evaluation, restriction, and enforcement.

Enforcement Pathways Include the following:

- **1. First warning:** Verbal reminder, email, phone call, or private message (via Control Operators OR Trustee). Multiple violations are subject to Written Warning.

- **2. Written Warning** - Offender is given a formal written warning (via Owner) and Offender is placed under routine moderation by Control Operators (you now have our undivided attention when we hear you on the air)
- **3. Continued violation after Written Warning:** Individual will be formally banned from the System by Owner. Attempts to use the repeater for other than bona fide emergency after being banned will lead to a complaint filed by the System Owner to the FCC, and relevant civil law options exercised.
- **Note: The repeater owner retains the right to bypass all warnings in lieu of issuing an “immediate ban” for gross violations of the Acceptable Use Policy**
- **Note: The W8BLV/W8JEU Repeater Systems Owner, the DIAL Radio Club retains rights to issue Preemptive Letters as may be required, in order to ensure at-large compliance with Acceptable Use Policy**
- **Note:** In some very rare and unique circumstances, our repeaters will require 100% Control Operator coverage, and have to be shut down due to lack of Control Operator availability. In these cases, the System Owner advises USERS to review the Acceptable Use Policy and adjust operating practices until “Automatic Control” is resumed.
- **Note:** In certain circumstances, Control Operators, or the license Trustee may not be able to respond as quickly as some users might expect; For example, they may have stepped out of the room, be on the phone, the system may be in ‘automatic control’, or they may be otherwise diverted from providing instant responses to radio-induced situations. . **Therefore – “deferred intervention” may take place (after the fact), and additionally, information regarding any interventions (shutdowns, phone calls, etc.) may or may not be shared with the general audiences. In all cases however, USERS are encouraged to review the Acceptable Use Policy for reasonable explanations.**
- **Note:** A repeater may be turned off for “kerchunking”. USERS are advised to review the section above regarding **unidentified transmissions**.
- **Note:** A repeater can be turned off for “doesn’t play well with others” (and also failure to read & follow policies)
- **Note:** A repeater will often be turned off for the reasons including — antagonism, baiting, trolling, grousing / griping at USERS, broadcasting of music, and other content rebroadcasting, and interference. Under these causes, the repeater will stay off the air as long as warranted.
- **Note: USERS may not agree with the reasoning, timing, or severity (or the lack of) of any applied “intervention”, however the license Trustee makes every attempt to find full understanding of each situation, take a reasonable balance from a perspective of ham-radio and community standards, and has charged his team of control operators to do the same.**