



BOS! Belgium Outdoor Shack

ACTIVATOR GUIDE



How to Conduct a Valid WWFF / ONFF Activation

World Wide Flora & Fauna – Activator Guide

MINIMUM QSOS

44 (for activator award)

STATION LOCATION

fully inside the reference boundaries

REFERENCE FORMAT

ONFF-xxxx

Find an official ONFF reference → Check the boundaries → Confirm legal access → Place your complete station inside → Call CQ WWFF → Make 44 valid QSOs → Submit your log.

A WWFF activation is an excellent way to combine portable amateur radio with enjoying nature. You take your radio station into an officially recognized nature area, make radio contacts, and then submit your log so that both you and the radio amateurs you worked can receive credit for the activity. For Belgium, this is carried out under the national **ONFF - Belgian Flora & Fauna** program.

1 Check the WWFF/ONFF Reference First

Not every nature area is automatically a valid WWFF area. You must start from an official WWFF reference listed in the WWFF Directory. A Belgian reference looks, for example, like: **ONFF-0013**.

Check before departure: is the ONFF reference officially registered? Is it currently active/valid? Where are the exact boundaries? Is access to the area permitted? Are there local restrictions concerning antennas, parking, walking or camping?

 **Important:** The coordinates shown in the WWFF Directory are not necessarily the exact activation boundary. Always check the complete boundaries of the area.

2 Make Sure You Are Actually Inside the Area

This is one of the most important rules (WWFF Rule 4.4): during the activation, the **complete radio station** must be located within the boundaries of the WWFF reference — transceiver, power supply, antenna and any other equipment forming part of the station.

Practical example — Standing in a parking area 50 metres outside ONFF-XXXX with your antenna hanging over the nature area →  not a valid activation. Walking another 100 metres so both station and antenna are inside ONFF-XXXX →  this can be a valid activation.

 **Tip:** BOS! recommends using BOS! Maps on your smartphone so you can see in real time whether you are inside the area.

3 Make Sure You Have Legal Access

A WWFF activation does not give you permission to enter an area where you would normally not be allowed to go. You are responsible for: access rights, opening hours, walking routes, parking regulations, local nature regulations, any required permits, fire safety regulations, restrictions concerning antennas or masts. Illegal access may result in the activation being declared invalid.

4 Choose Only One WWFF Reference

Different WWFF areas may overlap (e.g. ONFF-0123 overlaps with ONFF-0456) — you may not activate both references simultaneously (WWFF Rule 3.6). Choose one reference for your activity. If you want to activate another reference afterwards, first end the first activity, then start a new one.

 **Tip:** Clearly announce your reference at the beginning: “This is ON3XXX/P, activating ONFF-0123.”

5 Plan Properly

A successful activation starts at home. Take: transceiver, battery/power bank, antenna, rope/antenna materials, headset, logbook or logging software, cables and connectors, flashlight, small spare materials, drinking water, food, appropriate clothing, small first-aid kit. Also check beforehand: battery capacity, antenna, coax, connectors, logging software, GPS/map, weather forecast.

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Announce Your Activation

Not mandatory, but strongly recommended. Announce through the WWFF Agenda/Spotline and the BOS! Agenda — the WWFF Spotline automatically distributes your announcement to other clusters and the Radio Beacon Network.

Field	Example
Activator	ON3XXX/P
Reference	ONFF-0123
Date	28 September 2026
Start	08:00 UTC
Bands	40m / 20m / 2m
Mode	SSB / FM / CW
QRG	~7.144 MHz / 14.244 MHz

Always use frequencies that are permitted at that time according to your band plan.

7 Start Your Activation

1. Check once again that your station is completely within the ONFF boundaries.
2. Switch on your station.
3. Check that the selected frequency is clear.
4. Make it clear that you are a WWFF activator.

“CQ CQ WWFF, CQ WWFF, this is ON3XXX portable, ONFF-0123.” / “CQ 44, CQ 44, ON3XXX/P, ONFF-0123.”

WWFF encourages activators to use calls such as CQ FaunaFlora and CQ 44, among others.

8 What Should Be Exchanged During a QSO?

A valid WWFF QSO must contain at least an exchange of callsign ↔ callsign + signal report. The WWFF reference should also be exchanged where possible.

ON3XXX/P: “59, ONFF-0123” — ON4YYY: “59” — this is sufficient for a valid QSO.

⚠ Important: The callsigns and signal reports may not be relayed by other stations. The two operators must conduct the QSO themselves.

9 You Need 44 QSOs

For a complete WWFF activation that counts towards the WWFF Activator Awards, the current global rules require a minimum of **44 QSOs**. The same station worked on different bands/modes counts as separate QSOs. You do **not** have to make 44 QSOs in one session — the WWFF rules allow you to build up the 44 QSOs over multiple activations of the same reference.

Example — Activation 1: 25 QSOs + Activation 2: 19 QSOs = 44 QSOs. The reference is then qualified for activator award purposes.

10 What If You Do Not Reach 44 QSOs?

Upload your log anyway! Suppose ON3XXX/P – ONFF-0123 – 27 QSOs (not yet 44) — the QSOs you made can still be registered for the hunters, and you can return to the same reference later to continue. WWFF explicitly states a log must also be submitted when the 44-QSO requirement has not been reached.

❌ Do not think: “I only have 30 QSOs, so I don't need to upload my log.” ✅ Instead: “I will upload my 30 QSOs so the hunters receive their credit and I can continue later.”

11 Use Correct Logging

Record at least: date, time UTC, callsign, band, mode, RST sent, RST received, WWFF reference. Always use UTC in your log.

12 Use the Correct WWFF ADIF Data

For modern ADIF logging, WWFF preferably uses the official ADIF fields. For an activation: `MY_WWFF_REF = ONFF-0123`. When you also work another WWFF activator: `WWFF_REF = ONFF-0456` — important for correct processing of Park-to-Park (P2P) contacts.

13 Park-to-Park QSOs

An additional and fun aspect of WWFF is P2P — Park to Park. For example, you are active as ON3XXX/P – ONFF-0123 and work ON4YYY/P – ONFF-0456 — this is a P2P QSO. For a correct P2P match, the callsign, reference, date, band and mode must correspond in both logs.

14 Which Contacts Are Not Valid?

The following do **not** count as valid QSOs: repeater contacts, IRLP, Echolink, remote stations, automatic contacts, aeronautical mobile above a WWFF area. Satellite communication such as QO-100 is permitted.

15 You Do Not Need to Be Active for a Minimum Number of Minutes

A common misconception is that a WWFF activation must last, for example, at least 30 minutes or 2 hours. The current WWFF Global Rules do not impose a minimum duration — but take into account any stricter rules imposed by the national program. In practice it is wise to allow enough time to handle a good pile-up.

16 Respect Nature

WWFF is about more than just radio — the program aims to raise awareness of the protection of nature, flora and fauna. Do not damage plants, do not disturb animals, do not leave any waste behind, do not damage trees, make sure antenna wires do not create a hazard, be considerate of walkers, avoid unnecessary noise. Whatever you take into the nature area, take it back home with you.

17 After the Activation: Check Your Log

Before uploading: correct callsigns, correct date, UTC times, correct band, correct mode, correct WWFF/ONFF reference, no duplicate QSOs, correct ADIF data, correct activator/operator.

⚠️ A log is, in principle, final after submission — errors can cause problems for you and for the hunters you worked.

18 Upload Your Log

The current WWFF rules require the activator to submit an electronic log in ADIF or the official CSV format — handwritten logs or ordinary spreadsheets are not accepted. For Belgium, the log is submitted to the national ONFF log manager/coordinator, who processes it in WWFF LogSearch. WWFF currently lists **ON4BB** as ONFF Coordinator and **ON5SWA** as Log Manager.

The easiest way: log in on belgiumoutdoorshack.be and use **BOS! Services → ONFF Log Upload**. Type the reference number, choose your ADIF file exactly as your logging program exported it (it is converted to the WWFF format automatically), tick  **GoGreen** and/or  **QRP** when they apply, and add up to 8 photos of your activation location. The page e-mails everything to onfflogapproval@gmail.com, with your own address as reply address.

 **QRP activation:** also add a **photo of your radio** (with its power setting visible if possible) — a QRP log without it is not accepted.

You can still send your ADIF file by e-mail yourself to onfflogapproval@gmail.com, including activation photos plus your GPS coordinates or a screenshot of BOS! Maps showing your location — and mention whether it was a GoGreen and/or QRP activation.

19 Use a Proper Log File Name

WWFF uses the file naming format: `CALLSIGN@REFERENCEYYYYMMDD`, e.g. `ON3XXX@ONFF-012320260928.adif`. The correct file name helps prevent duplicate uploads.

20 Check WWFF LogSearch Afterwards

Once processed, use WWFF LogSearch to check: your activation registered, your QSOs processed correctly, hunters can see their contacts, your activator statistics are correct, P2P QSOs registered correctly. WWFF LogSearch is the official database for the WWFF program.

The Ideal WWFF/ONFF Activation in 10 Steps

- › Find an official ONFF reference.
- › Check the exact boundaries.
- › Make sure you are legally allowed to enter.
- › Plan your frequencies and equipment.
- › Announce your activity if possible.
- › Place your complete station within the ONFF boundaries.
- › Call CQ WWFF / CQ 44.
- › Make at least 44 valid QSOs for a complete WWFF activator activity.
- › Check and export your log as ADIF/CSV.
- › Submit the log to the ONFF log manager.

 The Golden WWFF Rule

- 1 OFFICIAL REFERENCE
- 2 RIGHT LOCATION
- 3 ALL EQUIPMENT INSIDE
- 4 VALID QSOs
- 5 CORRECT LOG

Then you have the basics of a valid WWFF/ONFF activation covered.

Important for Belgian activators: before every activation, also check the current ONFF rules, because WWFF explicitly allows national programs to impose stricter conditions than the global WWFF rules.

WWFF – Rules & FAQ · WWFF – Directory · WWFF – LogSearch · ONFF – www.onff.be