

The Fun Machine Repeater System Rules of Conduct

Date: 7/20/2021

The Fun Machine Board of Directors shall be responsible for making these Rules of Conduct for all its repeaters. Further, they empower the trustee and/or control operators to enforce all rules contained herein.

Ownership Statement

The Fun Machine system has been assigned the Amateur radio call sign WE0FUN by the Federal Communications Commission.

This WE0FUN linked repeater system and all of its member repeaters is owned solely by WE0FUN and shall remain the property of WE0FUN. WE0FUN from time to time may be provided technical, financial, equipment, or other support by the repeater users, other persons or organizations. Such support is understood and deemed by WE0FUN and any such party to be a donation to the group and does not create nor transfer any property interest of any kind to any such donor with respect to any aspect of repeater property. Also, the repeater users by virtue of their use of the repeater, shall not be deemed to have been conveyed or transferred in any form any property interest in the repeater system under applicable Colorado or federal laws related to property ownership. All rights to the system at all times shall remain solely with WE0FUN.

Why do we need rules at all for repeater conduct or etiquette?

No one likes a bunch of arbitrary rules, but when you have a shared resource, like a wide area linked repeater network they become necessary.

The rules are pretty basic:

1. Always identify yourself according to the regulations. This means once at least every ten (10) minutes and at the end of your transmission. This is not a WE0FUN rule; it is required by the FCC for all amateur radio operators. Side note: it never hurts to give your station's call sign more often than less. It helps other users know you are there if they are listening.
2. WE0FUN put the repeater system on the air to be used! We are very happy when it is busy. It does, however, mean that we all should remember to leave pauses for those to have their say.
3. Yield existing conversations to recognized events, ARES Nets and any emergency or priority traffic.
4. Do not engage in political soap boxing, or any personal antagonisms. WE0FUN is firm on this rule, you will be warned and if you continue you may be asked to leave the

repeater system. The goal is to have fun and sensitive topics are almost guaranteed to create conflict and arguments.

5. Please try to not use CB lingo/slanguage or “Q” codes and phonetics excessively. This is FM, not like HF so we all can hear you loud and clear, nor is it a general practice to speak in this way. 10-4 good buddy? What’s your 20? QSL then. While this isn’t specifically prohibited we encourage you to avoid these as they’re generally unnecessary.
6. ALWAYS yield the frequency to a breaking station (any station with emergency or priority traffic). If you hear a break, yield the frequency. If you use it, remember the importance of its use. Ham radio has saved many lives and you never know when it may need to save yours.
7. Selling items OTHER than ham related equipment is not allowed, nor is conducting any business. This is not only our rule but is also a prohibition against our license. As Amateur Radio operators, we are prohibited from gaining any pecuniary benefit from our operation of our amateur radio stations. When in doubt take it off the air.
8. Watch your language; the repeater is “G Rated” 24 hours a day. Sometimes slips happen. That being said, there is a complete difference between an inadvertent slip and an intentional act. Most times all transmissions of the WE0FUN repeater are being electronically recorded and these recordings will be turned over to the FCC enforcement office, if necessary. Remember that in this world EVERYTHING is recorded!
9. If you hear stations jamming or interfering do not make any comment, ignore them. Do not antagonize those interfering! This is not going to make them stop; it also puts your license at risk as well.

Net Control Stations (NCS) must adhere to a more strict code of conduct as they are not only ambassadors of the WE0FUN system but of amateur radio as a whole. The following expectations for all NCS are set forth by the WE0FUN board of directors.

1. Any and all NETs are subject to approval to allow for appropriate scheduling with other WE0FUN system activities and NETs. This will also allow for NET information to be published on the WE0FUN website.
2. Participate in and support other system activities. This does not mean that you are expected to check-in to EVERY NET or event. It is, however, expected that you act in good-faith to respond to calling stations, support other nets and provide meaningful assistance as needed and able.
3. Promote other system activities. The board of directors would appreciate that all NCS make an attempt at the beginning (or end) of your net to support and encourage all

participating and listening stations to actively participate in other nets, activities and even rag-chew sessions that they hear on the WE0FUN system.

4. Under no circumstances will NCS attack, demean, minimize or disrespect other nets or activities held on the Fun Machine System.
5. Promote and provide constructive feedback to stations which may be experiencing technical issues. Examples of this include stations whose audio levels are excessively high or low.
 - a. Assist in dispelling misinformation and providing guidance with regard to resolving potential repeater malfunction. Examples include blanket statements concerning “the system being down” or “the system never works” etc.

In such an event an NCS is asked to help explain that imprecise information about a malfunction is not overly useful and that the place to report a system issue is on the WE0FUN website located at <http://www.we0fun.com>.

6. As a net control, you are an amateur radio ambassador, promote amateur radio whenever possible and encourage any demo users of the Fun Machine. Have patience with new and demo users as they are critical to the values of the Fun Machine.

WE0FUN’s policy: The system is open for all to use, provided that you follow the rules when using it.

Part 97, officially called Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 97 (47 CFR Part 97), is the body of rules which governs the Amateur Radio Service.

What gives the owners and trustees the right to tell someone how to operate?

All repeaters have rules. These rules often go beyond Part 97. And, users who refuse to comply with the repeater’s rules may legally be told to stop using the repeaters. This is entirely at the judgment of the repeater owners or trustees. FCC Rule 97.205(e) says, “...limiting the use of a repeater to only certain user stations is permissible.” There are no qualifications, ifs, ands, or buts, to this rule. This isn’t just the right to close a repeater. In fact, the ARRL says, “. . . a repeater does not have to be listed as being “closed” in The ARRL Repeater Directory in order to have a limited access.” (Source: The ARRL’s FCC Rule Book) The terms “open” and “closed” don’t appear in the regulations at all! All repeater users must follow the rules of the repeater.

No policy could be more fair. The ARRL says it the most clear of all: “A repeater is not a public utility – you don’t have a “right” to use it. When you are using someone else’s repeater you are, in effect, a visitor in the owner’s station. So, you should conduct yourself

accordingly. If you use that station in a manner that the owner finds objectionable, that person has every right to revoke your privilege of using it!” (Source: The ARRL’s FCC Rule Book)

Each station owner is responsible for the operation of their equipment. They must always meet the FCC defined rules, and may also implement a more stringent set of rules for the operation of their equipment. To use the WE0FUN repeater you must follow the aforementioned rules. There are repeaters with more lenient rules than those defined by WE0FUN and some which are much more restrictive. Beyond the FCC minimum requirements, it’s up to each repeater owner to set their own operating rules. A repeater user needs to try to fit in and adhere to the code of conduct . If the rules for the WE0FUN system are uncomfortable for you and do not suit your personal needs or style we encourage you to try other repeaters or even try talking on simplex. We wish for everyone willing to abide by these simple rules to freely use the WE0FUN repeaters. They will help us all get along and enjoy this wonderful hobby.

Please report interference and flagrant violations on the system to trustee. The rules of code and conduct set herein are subject to change at any time without notification.