

TSARC Repeater Rules of Conduct

Repeater ownership statement

The Tri-States Amateur Radio Club of NW Georgia has been assigned the FCC callsign W4GTA. The club's repeater(s) can be found on the coordinated (SERA) frequency of 145.350 MHz and is owned solely by the Tri-States ARC who is considered the "owner". None of the club members by virtue of their membership status, has any ownership rights to or in the repeater(s). The repeater(s) owners or trustees can alter or make exceptions to these Rules of Conduct at any time, for any reason, with or without prior notice. When this happens, we will make every attempt to post the revised Rules of Conduct in a timely manner online at the club website, tristatesarc.com.

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 coverage area repeater(s) they become necessary. We tend to assume that everyone knows the generally accepted rules. But, that could be careless of us and unfair to those who want or need to have a clearer definition of our expectations and requirements. It can also create discord when repeater users offend others by unknowingly breaking some unwritten rule. Activities that may be an irritation or even a flagrant violation to one person might not be an issue at all to another. It's probably best for us to be clear about the rules we really think are important. It is not our intent to define every action allowed or disallowed but to provide the guidelines for proper etiquette and give some "breathing room" to previously established as well as new and exciting uses of the repeaters.

We understand that everyone slips once in awhile, no matter how hard they try. But, we expect all users of the TSARC repeater(s) to do their very best to follow these few simple and obvious rules of repeater conduct. Conduct on the repeater(s) should be governed by common sense and courtesy.

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The TSARC repeater(s) are open for all to use, provided you follow the rules in using them.

Nothing could be fairer. The ARRL says it clearest 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)

The rules are pretty basic:

- Always identify yourself according with regulations.
- Avoid lengthy conversations, pause several seconds between transmissions.
- Do not interrupt existing conversations unless you have something meaningful to add.
- Yield existing conversations to recognized activities: ARES, Monday Night TSARC net, etc.
- Do not engage in political soap boxing. Do not engage in any personal antagonisms.
- Do not use CB lingo / language.
- Always yield the frequency to any station with emergency traffic.
- If you hear stations jamming or interfering do not make any comment, ignore them. Do **not** antagonize those interfering!
- When using EchoLink, identify yourself as you would on RF.
- Watch your language; **our repeaters are "G-Rated" 24 hours a day.**

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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. Users who refuse to comply with the repeater's rules can be told to stop using the repeaters. This is entirely at the judgment of the repeater owners and / 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, and by use of the repeater, you are agreeing to this. This applies to ALL TSARC repeaters, current and future.

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 our repeater(s) you must follow our rules. There are few repeaters with more lenient rules than ours, 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. If the rules for the TSARC repeater(s) 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 using our repeater(s) to abide by these simple rules and enjoy freely using our repeaters.

Please report interference and flagrant violations on the repeater(s) to repeater@tristatesarc.com.

We welcome you and hope you have many enjoyable conversations on the TSARC repeater(s). 73!

Portions of this document were extracted from other repeater owners versions, copyrights apply where applicable. Thanks to those folks!