

IREDELL COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY INFORMATION FOR NET CONTROL STATIONS

1. The job of the net control station is to maintain net discipline. The NCS does this by relaxing, having writing materials, recording all stations checking in, listing formal or informal traffic and routing such traffic quickly and efficiently.
2. The NCS should make every effort to open each regularly scheduled net within 30 seconds of the appointed time. While this is not always possible, we should strive for this and if the scheduled NCS is not on frequency, ANY alternate NCS should begin the net.
3. The NCS should call for check-ins, route traffic, call stations in turn for comments, etc., but should not act as a master of ceremonies. It is not necessary for the NCS to offer a lengthy response to each station's comments. The NCS should keep his or her comments to a minimum. Simply acknowledge check-ins and call for comments from stations, traffic, etc.
4. After initial check-ins, the NCS should call for additional stations periodically during the net in case someone is late.
5. The NCS should not draw the net out longer than necessary, by continuing to call for late stations, additional traffic, etc. Saying, "final call for check-ins or traffic," should do it. The reason for this is that a number of stations may want to check in and participate in the whole net, but may not want to hang around longer than necessary due to other responsibilities.
6. Since we don't have large numbers checking into our nets, it is not necessary to divide the alphabet into more than two parts, if at all. The NCS may take check-ins in any order or may call for stations A through M, and then N through Z at his/her option.
7. The NCS normally should not need to recap the announcements and information passed on by net stations, but occasionally if there are several late check-ins, it might be wise to do so. Try not to be excessively repetitive.
8. Since one purpose of ICARS nets is training and the gaining of experience, try not to correct stations who "violate" net procedure. If a helpful suggestion is needed irridiately, be gentle.
9. A scheduled NCS that cannot make his/her assigned net should seek his/her own replacement. Failing that, contact the Net Manager.
10. The NCS should never take personal offense at a shortage of check-ins, or a lot of "in and out" stations. Sometimes we're just always busy at the same time, or forget its net time.
11. Each NCS should stick pretty close to the format established, but common sense is more important than format. Occasionally, there will be a good reason for changing things.
12. Each NCS and net participant should always be ready to offer constructive suggestions for to improve net operations.