



# THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC.



## Leadership Official

- ASST. SECTION MANAGER • **SECTION EMERG. COORDINATOR** • SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER • AFFILIATED CLUB COORDINATOR • BULLETIN MANAGER
- EMERGENCY COORDINATOR • DISTRICT EMERG. COORDINATOR • NET MANAGER • OO COORDINATOR • PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR
- STATE GOVERNMENT LIAISON • TECHNICAL COORDINATOR • ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER • NTS OFFICIAL • QSL BUREAU MANAGER

04/15/2016

To: All North Texas ARES Assistant Section Emergency Coordinators, All North Texas ARES District Emergency Coordinators and their assistants, All North Texas ARES Emergency Coordinators and their assistants

From: Matthew Morris, North Texas Section Emergency Coordinator

Re: ARES Nets: Open Net Policy (NTX-2016-1)

Applicability: All North Texas ARES leadership and members

As Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) leadership, we are expected to conduct ourselves with a high degree of professionalism. This expectation particularly extends to on-the-air conduct. The Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) establishes guidelines for ARES organizations to follow. In these guidelines, the ARRL mandates that any licensed amateur must be eligible to apply for membership in a local ARES organization. In order to promote cooperation and continuity between and among the different local ARES organizations and groups and served agencies, as well as to ensure a positive public image of the ARRL and its ARES field organization, ARES radio nets, particularly those operated during times of severe weather, need to be available to any licensed amateur radio operator who wishes to contribute his or her time, energy, and skillset. These nets should also not be closed to itinerant amateurs wishing to provide useful information.

Therefore, the following shall be policy for the North Texas Section, effective immediately:

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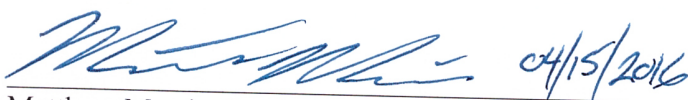
### Article I. ARES Radio Nets

#### Section 1.01 Definitions

- (a) In this article:
- (i) "Act" means a bodily movement, whether voluntary or involuntary, and includes speech.
  - (ii) "ARES" means the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.
  - (iii) "ARRL" means the Amateur Radio Relay League.
  - (iv) "Intentionally" means to act, with respect to the nature of the conduct or a result of the conduct, with conscious objective or desire to engage in the conduct or cause the result.
  - (v) "Knowingly" means, with respect to the nature of the conduct or to circumstances surrounding his conduct, the actor is aware of the nature of the conduct or that the circumstances exist. A person acts knowingly, or with knowledge, with respect to a result of his or her conduct when he or she is aware that the conduct is reasonably certain to cause the result.
  - (vi) "Net" means a gathering of amateur radio operators on a particular frequency or frequencies and organized for a particular purpose.
  - (vii) "Net control station" means a designated amateur radio operator who is responsible for the flow of information during a directed net.
  - (viii) "Official capacity" means an act performed in a manner sanctioned by, recognized by, or derived from authority, regardless of whether the authority is expressed or implied and regardless of whether the authority is legitimate or illegitimate.

#### Section 1.02 Closed Nets Prohibited

- (a) All ARES nets shall be open for participation by any licensed amateur. No net control station or ARES leadership acting in an official capacity shall prohibit the good faith participation of any licensed amateur.
- (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the establishment of minimum reporting criteria by a net control station or ARES leadership as appropriate to the situation at hand, so long as these criteria are not established intentionally or knowingly to prevent the participation of an amateur or group of amateurs.



Matthew Morris, Section Emergency Coordinator