

Tennessee Amateur Communications System (TACS)

User Agreement and Acceptable Use Policy

Hosted and Provided by:

W3FDE & The Tennessee Amateur Radio Association (TARA)

1. Purpose and Scope

The Tennessee Amateur Communications System (TACS) is a multi-mode, linked amateur radio communications system designed to support education, experimentation, public service, emergency communications, and interoperability among licensed amateur radio operators. TACS incorporates, but is not limited to, the following modes and platforms:

- Digital: DMR (via approved networks), Yaesu System Fusion (YSF/Wires-X), P25, NXDN
- Analog: AllStarLink, EchoLink
- Linked repeaters, reflectors, and approved inter-system bridges

TACS is hosted and administered by W3FDE in partnership with the Tennessee Amateur Radio Association. Access to and use of TACS is a privilege, not a right.

2. Eligibility for Use

Use of TACS is limited to:

- Individuals holding a valid amateur radio license issued by the FCC or an equivalent authority recognized under international reciprocal agreements
- Operators using valid, properly assigned call signs and digital identifiers
- Users who have read, understood, and agreed to this User Agreement in full

By accessing, transmitting on, or otherwise using TACS, you acknowledge and accept all terms, conditions, and rules contained in this agreement.

3. Acceptance of Agreement

Use of TACS constitutes **explicit acknowledgment and acceptance** of this User Agreement. No additional notice or consent is required. If you do not agree with any portion of this agreement, you must immediately cease use of TACS.

4. General Rules of Operation

All users must:

- Comply fully with FCC Part 97 rules and all applicable laws and regulations
- Operate in a manner consistent with good amateur practice and sound engineering principles
- Use only their own legally assigned call sign and digital identifiers (DMRID, Radio ID, Node ID, etc.)
- Identify properly and at required intervals
- Conduct themselves in a courteous, professional, and respectful manner at all times

The following are strictly prohibited:

- Profane, obscene, threatening, harassing, or abusive language
- Disruptive behavior, intentional interference, or jamming
- Broadcasting music, commercial content, or encrypted transmissions
- Political campaigning, business communications, or any use prohibited under Part 97

5. Digital Modes and Network Use

TACS supports multiple digital modes and networks. Users must:

- Use only approved and authorized networks and reflectors
- Comply with the rules, terms of service, and policies of any interconnected network
- Use correct mode, color code, talkgroup, reflector, or room as designated
- Ensure equipment is properly configured and does not cause network instability

Digital Identity Requirements

- Use of spoofed, shared, falsified, or unauthorized digital IDs is strictly prohibited
- DMR operation must use a valid, registered DMRID assigned to the operator
- Cross-mode or cross-network operation must comply with all participating system rules

Violations may result in immediate suspension or permanent revocation of access.

6. Linking, Bridging, and Repeater Interconnection

TACS allows repeater linking and system bridging **only when explicitly approved** by system administrators.

The following are prohibited without written or documented authorization:

- Unauthorized linking or bridging to external systems, reflectors, or networks
- Temporary or experimental bridges that violate external network rules
- Actions that place TACS in violation of partner network policies

Due to prior misuse, certain linking and bridging privileges have been revoked. These privileges may be restored at the sole discretion of system administration and only after demonstrated compliance and trust.

7. System Administration and Authority

TACS is privately hosted and administered. The system owner and administrators:

- Retain full authority over system configuration, access, and operation
- May monitor system traffic for technical, operational, and compliance purposes
- May restrict, suspend, or revoke access without prior notice
- Are not obligated to provide justification, warning, or appeal

Administrative decisions are final.

8. Enforcement and Violations

Violations of this agreement may result in one or more of the following actions:

- Verbal or written warning
- Temporary suspension of access
- Permanent removal from TACS
- Blocking of call signs, digital IDs, nodes, or IP addresses
- Notification to repeater owners, network administrators, or relevant authorities

Severe or repeated violations may result in immediate permanent removal without warning.

9. No Expectation of Privacy

TACS transmissions are amateur radio communications and are inherently public. Users acknowledge:

- There is no expectation of privacy
- Communications may be monitored, logged, or recorded
- Logs may be used for troubleshooting, compliance, or enforcement

10. Liability Disclaimer

TACS is provided **"as is"** with no guarantee of availability, performance, or suitability for any purpose.

The system owner, administrators, and the Tennessee Amateur Radio Association:

- Assume no liability for equipment damage, data loss, or operational impact
- Are not responsible for misuse by users or third parties
- Make no warranties, express or implied

11. Modification of Agreement

This User Agreement may be updated or modified at any time without prior notice. Continued use of TACS following any change constitutes acceptance of the revised agreement.

12. Severability

If any provision of this agreement is found unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

13. Final Acknowledgment

By using the Tennessee Amateur Communications System (TACS), you affirm that:

- You are a properly licensed amateur radio operator
- You have read and understand this User Agreement
- You agree to comply with all rules and decisions of system administration
- You understand that access is a privilege that may be revoked at any time

Failure to comply will result in enforcement action.

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