ACTIVATOR GUIDE

BOS! SOTA – Activator Quick Guide

Summits on the Air • A concise guide for BOS! Activators

REFERENCE SOURCE

SOTA General Rules, Issue 1.21 · 01-Jun-2022

MINIMUM QSOS

4 (with 4 different stations)

OPERATION

portable only, no vehicle

Choose a valid SOTA summit → Check access → Operate from the Activation Zone → Go portable → Make 4+ valid QSOs → Log correctly.

Quick practical guidance for a valid SOTA summit activation.

1 Choose an Official SOTA Reference

Before your activation, select a valid SOTA summit and check its official reference. All Belgian SOTA references are shown on the BOS! Maps. Use the reference displayed there when planning and logging your activation.

> **BOS! Maps:** use the SOTA layer to locate the summit, verify the reference and plan your operating position.

2 Check Access Before You Go

Use legitimate access routes and comply with local access and land-use rules. Make sure you have any permission required to operate from the chosen summit. Access restrictions can change, so check current information before departure and again on site.

3 Operate from the Activation Zone

Your operating position must be inside the summit's official Activation Zone, as defined by the relevant SOTA Association — typically based on a vertical distance below the summit.

> ⚠️ **Important:** Being near a summit is not enough. Your actual operating position must be within the valid Activation Zone.

4 Portable Operation Only

SOTA is intended for portable operation. The station must not be operated in or close to a motor vehicle, and no part of the station may be connected to the vehicle. All equipment must be carried to the operating position. Use a portable power source such as batteries or solar power — permanently installed power sources and fossil-fuel generators are not permitted.

5 Make a Valid Activation

Operate only within the privileges of your amateur radio licence and comply with the regulations applicable to the country in which the summit is located. To qualify an activation for SOTA points, make at least **4 valid QSOs with 4 different stations**. At least one QSO is required to qualify the activation itself.

A valid QSO requires an exchange of callsigns and signal reports. It is strongly recommended that you give the summit reference during contacts, and repeat it regularly during a pile-up.

6 Contacts That Do Not Count

QSOs with other participants located within the same Activation Zone do not count towards the required QSO total. Contacts made via terrestrial repeaters do not count. Satellite or free-balloon repeater contacts are permitted under the SOTA rules.

7 Work Efficiently and Considerately

A summit activation can attract a pile-up. Work stations systematically and give other chasers a fair opportunity. Avoid unnecessary overs and deliberate interference — good operating practice helps the activator and the whole SOTA community.

8 Log Your Activation Correctly

Keep an accurate log of every valid contact: callsign, date/time, band and mode. Use UTC consistently and record the correct SOTA reference. Activators must submit their expedition log to claim points — logs are also important for substantiating chaser claims.

🏆 Golden SOTA Rules for BOS! Activators

1. OFFICIAL REFERENCE – Use a valid SOTA reference. Belgian references can be found on the BOS! Maps.
2. ACTIVATION ZONE – Operate from a position inside the official Activation Zone.
3. PORTABLE – Carry your equipment and operate independently of your vehicle.
4. FOUR VALID QSOs – Make at least 4 QSOs with 4 different stations for summit points.
5. CORRECT LOG – Record the correct reference, callsigns, UTC time, band and mode.
6. FOLLOW THE RULES – Respect your licence, local access rules, safety requirements and the spirit of SOTA.

This BOS! Quick Guide is a practical summary. The official SOTA General Rules and the applicable Association Reference Manual remain the authoritative rules for SOTA participation.

✅ Quick Activation Checklist

BEFORE DEPARTURE

- ☐ Official SOTA reference checked
- ☐ Reference checked on BOS! Maps
- ☐ Access and permissions checked
- ☐ Route and weather considered
- ☐ Portable equipment and battery ready

ON THE SUMMIT

- ☐ Inside Activation Zone
- ☐ Away from the vehicle
- ☐ Safe operating position
- ☐ Portable power only
- ☐ Correct reference in log