

Rationale for required numbers for ASRC Groups, from Ken Chiacchia, 5/6/17

The purpose of this proposal is to set required numbers of FTM or higher and FTL or higher.

Any set number of required FTM+ or FTL+ members, as required in the Before Time, presents problems. For a small team, even a modest requirement can be a burden, and we don't want to force a team to lose its representation/active status while they ought to be putting their efforts into recruitment to build their total membership (herein after "N").

A percentage of membership poses other problems. For a small team, a given percentage can be asking too little; for a large team such as SMRG, a small percentage of FTMs or FTLs can (and does) mean the group fields roughly as many FTMs as most groups have members -- and it's silly to suggest that team isn't functional or in fact isn't extremely powerful.

The tiered system sometimes suggested (X/Y FTM/L below 50 members, Q/Z above 50, etc.) has the issue that it presents sharp transitions under which a group may seriously decrease its responsibilities by dumping small numbers of members. We certainly don't want to create the incentive to play with rosters. You can't make that issue go away entirely, but at least you can avoid sharp transitions that make it acute.

As a higher-level critique of these methods, they're all fairly arbitrary.

The answer is NIMS span of control. NIMS strongly discourages us from having one leader be directly responsible for more than 7 subordinates; since our CQs aren't allowed to field without supervision from at least an FTM, and since our FTLs (whether they're fielding or serving as brevet search managers) are in turn responsible for the FTMs, that ratio offers a framework that is workable, fair, and keeps everybody flying while still offering a floor below which we shouldn't let our groups sink.

As an added refinement, we never want the number of FTLs in a group to be below 1, or they can't have a GTO. So here's the fix:

required FTMs or above: $1 + N/7$, where N is the number of total active members, rounded to the nearest whole number.

required FTLs or above: $1 + N/49$, again rounded.

Comparing current numbers to what this rule would require:

Group	AMRG	BRMRG	MARG	MSAR	NWPAK9 SAR	SAROH	SMRG
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Members	32	33	35	34	16	3	153
# FTM+	13	16	12	12	11	3	28
# FTL+	8	8	8	7	5	1	5
Required FTM+	6	6	6	6	3	1	23
Required FTL+	2	2	2	2	1	1	4

Note that this represents a *minimum* with the NIMS guidance as the framework, not an ideal

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