



Your Call Sign and the Rules

A few simple rules keep the airwaves friendly and legal

Saying your call sign



Every 10 minutes

During any conversation that runs long



At the end

When you sign off: 'W4JUM, clear'



In English or Morse

Plain voice is fine; phonetics help



No call sign, no transmit

Even a quick test needs your ID

Allowed and not allowed

Allowed

- Talking with other hams about almost anything
- Emergency messages, even by unlicensed people when life is at risk
- Helping at races, parades and storm spotting

Never allowed

- Codes or encryption to hide meaning
- Business or paid work
- Music, profanity or false distress calls

Letting family use your radio

1

You stay the control operator

You must be right there and responsible

2

They speak, you identify

Give your call sign on schedule

3

Stay within your privileges

Only frequencies your license allows

4

Better yet, get them licensed

Each person who wants to talk alone needs their own license

Unlike GMRS

A GMRS license covers the family. A ham license covers only the person who earned it.

Sources: FCC Part 97 (97.113, 97.115, 97.119)

Remember

Say your call sign every 10 minutes and at the end, and keep it plain, honest and noncommercial.