

FLAGS

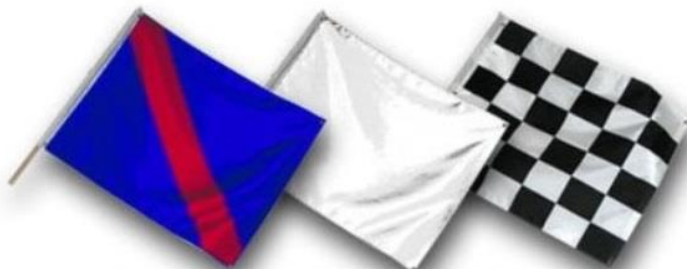


GREEN FLAG
GO!

YELLOW FLAG
CAUTION!

RED FLAG
STOP!

BLACK FLAG
Return to Pit



BLUE FLAG
PASSING!

Emerg. Vehicle
On track

CHECKERED FLAG
FINISH LINE!

PASSING!
BLUE FLAG

Emerg. Vehicle
On track

FINISH LINE!
CHECKERED FLAG

FLAGS



FLAGS



Why do we have flags at the race track?

- Racing flags are traditionally used in auto racing and similar motorsports to indicate track condition(s) and to communicate important messages to drivers.
 - Without them, a driver would essentially be unaware of things that might be happening on the track which could lead to very unsafe situations.



FLAGS



Flags are no good by themselves however, we need corner workers to manage and display them.



CORNER WORKERS

We cannot enjoy this sport without them



- The corner workers are there to inform us about what is happening on track and to allow us to enjoy this sport. **Most importantly, they are there to keep us safe.**
- They can do no good however if you don't know where they are stationed and if you don't give them a quick glance as you are going by to see if they are displaying any flags.



CORNER WORKERS

ESSENTIAL SKILL

- Knowing and adhering to all displayed flags **IS AN ESSENTIAL SKILL** that **ALL DRIVERS MUST KNOW**.
- Not knowing, or not adhering to displayed flags can be one of the most serious dangers on the race track. Improper reaction to displayed flags can absolutely lead to unsafe situations on track.



CORNER WORKERS

ESSENTIAL SKILL

- It is a great idea to use your warm up or any touring laps in the morning to take a look at where the corner workers are located and where you need to be on track to see the next one if you need to stop during a Red Flag etc.
- The more awareness you have, the safer you and everyone else will be.



CORNER WORKERS

TYPICAL ISSUES

Typical Issues associated with flags include:

- Drivers not seeing displayed flags.
 - Sometimes for multiple laps. This is not good !!!!
- Drivers improperly reacting to displayed flags.
 - Stopping on track for a black or yellow flag.
 - Stopping too quickly for a red flag. Not checking mirror first.
 - Stopping on the racing line.
 - Not stopping at all.



CORNER WORKERS

What are they looking at?

- Don't be surprised if you see a corner worker with their back to you as you go by.
 - They are looking beyond where you are at. It does no good to you if they are looking where you just came from. You would already be past the incident if they did that so it would do you no good.
 - If they must show a flag, they will then turn towards you to either hold the flag out, wave it and/or point it at you.



CORNER WORKERS

What are they watching for?

- Corner workers have a lot of responsibility when on station. They are typically watching for:
 - Accidents on track.
 - Debris such as oil etc. that has leaked from a car.
 - Fire or smoke coming from a car.
 - Other possible mechanical issues.
 - Driver issues.
 - Wild animals on track.
 - Severe weather.



CORNER WORKERS

What else do they do?

- Corner workers do a lot more than just manage the flags.
- Other duties include:
 - Using fire extinguishers on car fires.
 - Administer first aid.
 - Assist in extricating trapped drivers.
 - Assist drivers in any way needed on track.
 - Repairing track damage etc. to get us back to green flag as quickly as possible.



CORNER WORKERS

What should we do?

- Pay Attention to their flag signals.
- Adhere to their flag signals at all times.
 - If there is a disagreement, discuss it in the paddock, after adhering to their on track instructions.
- Wave to them during your cool down lap.
- **THANK** them if you get the chance at lunch etc.



CORNER WORKERS

UNIFORMITY

- You may notice some variation from track to track on how the flags are displayed.
 - I.e: Red and Yellow waving at the same time.

The only recourse you have concerning this is to ask at the drivers meeting how the flags are used and if there are alternate meanings.



FLAGS

SOME ESSENTIAL TERMINOLOGY ASSOCIATED WITH FLAGS

FLAGS



*It's not just the flag,
but how it is displayed
as well that you should
be aware of.*

FLAGS

SOME ESSENTIAL TERMINOLOGY ASSOCIATED WITH FLAGS



STANDING FLAG

- The flag is simply held out and allowed to hang down.

This is not as serious as a waving flag.



FLAGS

SOME ESSENTIAL TERMINOLOGY ASSOCIATED WITH FLAGS



WAVING FLAG

- The flag is waved back and forth to better get your attention. It will usually be a Yellow Flag which means something serious is ahead.



FLAGS

SOME ESSENTIAL TERMINOLOGY ASSOCIATED WITH FLAGS



FURLED FLAG

- The flag is furled and pointed at you. Typically this will be the Black flag and it means you are being asked to go into the hot pit to speak to the starter etc.
 - It could be for a mechanical reason and/or something you have done on track that needs to be discussed.
 - If you are in a group of cars and not sure if it is for you, come and you will be thanked and sent right back out.

FLAGS

AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THIS SPORT

FLAGS



KNOW their meaning.

Pay attention to them.

ADHERE to them.

FLAGS

GREEN FLAG



- The solid **green flag** is usually displayed by the starter to indicate the track is clear and ready for full speed driving. It may also be shown at a corner worker station on the opposite side of the track.
- It is not usually displayed at all corner worker stations.

FLAGS

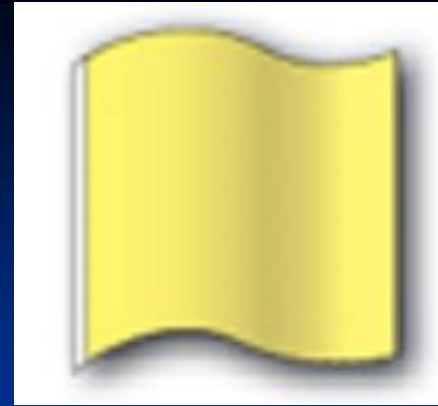
YELLOW FLAG



- The solid **yellow flag**, or **caution flag**, universally requires drivers to slow down a bit due to a hazard on the track, typically an accident, a stopped car off track, debris etc.
- **IT DOES NOT MEAN STOP YOUR CAR.**
- A **STANDING** Yellow Flag means there is something ahead that you should be paying attention to and that you should slow your speed just a bit until you are passed the incident etc.
- A **WAVING** Yellow Flag means there is something serious ahead. You should not stop but you should proceed with a great deal of caution and awareness of what is ahead until you are passed the incident.

FLAGS

YELLOW FLAG



- There should be **NO PASSING** under a Yellow Flag.
- Yellow flags may be shown only at various stations and not usually the entire track. An exception may be a yellow flag lap at the start of a session etc. to allow drivers to warm their cars up.
- When you reach a station that is NOT flying a yellow flag after passing an incident etc, it is implied that the track is Green and you can proceed at full speed. You will not typically see a green flag shown at this point.

FLAGS

RED FLAG



- The solid **red flag** is displayed when conditions are too dangerous to continue the session. There is a serious incident on track and it would be unsafe to have cars continue on course.
- **ALWAYS** check your rear view mirror **first**. Other cars may not have seen the flag and coming to a sudden stop could mean disaster.
- Come to a complete stop as soon as it is safe to do so and within sight of the next corner worker station if possible.
- Keep all your safety gear on. Do not get out of the car.
- This will be shown at all stations.

FLAGS

RED FLAG



- You may need to take immediate evasive action if the incident is directly ahead of you such as driving off track etc.
- A Red flag situation will almost always be followed by a full course Black Flag which indicates that ALL cars should proceed with caution to the pit area. Once past the incident, proceed at a moderate pace but not too slow as to prolong the clearing of the track.

FLAGS

RED FLAG



- Once you come to a stop on track, these are some things to pay attention to:
 - Keep all your safety gear and restraint systems on!
 - Try to stop in a location where you do not need to apply your brakes and do not set the parking brake.
 - Doing so could immediately crack your rotors.
 - Pay attention to your car's water and oil temperatures. They could rise quickly upon stopping.
 - Pay attention to the corner worker for additional flag information.

FLAGS

RED FLAG



- ***SOME KEY NOTES ABOUT A RED FLAG***

- Unless the causative incident is directly ahead, **YOU DO NOT NEED TO IMMEDIATELY STOP YOUR CAR.**
 - Make certain no one is directly behind you before starting to slow down.
 - Stop your car only after you are certain those behind you have seen the red flag and you.
 - The key here is to avoid being struck from behind.

FLAGS

RED FLAG



- ***WHAT ABOUT EMERGENCY VEHICLES***
 - By stopping OFF the racing line, you are protecting yourself against a driver(s) who may not have seen the Red Flag.
 - Emergency vehicle drivers will be going much slower than the on track cars and they will be expecting you to be sitting where you have stopped.
 - A left side or ride side rule to stopping is not the best idea for this reason as either could be on the racing line depending on where you are on track.

FLAGS

BLACK FLAG



- The solid **black flag** is used to summon a driver or drivers to the pits.
- A Black Flag will be used in one of two ways:
 - ***ALL COURSE BLACK FLAG***
 - Shown at all corner worker stations.
 - Will be shown as a Standing Flag meaning it is just held out or it may even be waved.
 - All drivers should proceed with caution to the pits.
 - Maintain a decent pace so you can get to the pits as soon as possible
 - No passing.
 - Keep your safety gear on.

FLAGS

BLACK FLAG



- A Black Flag will be used in one of two ways:
 - ***FURLED FLAG POINTED AT YOU***
 - This could be shown at any flag station and the corner worker wants you to come into the hot pit to discuss something with the starter etc.
 - It could be due to a mechanical issue that was seen on your car.
 - It could be something that you did on track to warrant a discussion with the starter or track official.

FLAGS

BLACK FLAG



- A Black Flag DOES **NOT** MEAN TO STOP YOUR CAR.
 - Doing so could result in your car being rear-end by another.

FLAGS

PASSING FLAG



- The passing flag is usually held out as you pass a station indicating that a faster car is approaching you and that you should allow that driver to pass.
- It is best to stay on line and indicate via point bye to let the car behind you pass.
 - Staying on line adds to predictability and increases the safety for both drivers.

FLAGS

DEBRIS FLAG



- This flag will be shown at a corner worker station before the area of track that has debris.
 - Typical debris include:
 - Dirt etc. from a car that has gone off track and came back onto the racing surface.
 - Car parts
 - Animals or animal parts
- The flag will typically be taken down after a lap or two but the debris may still be on track.

FLAGS

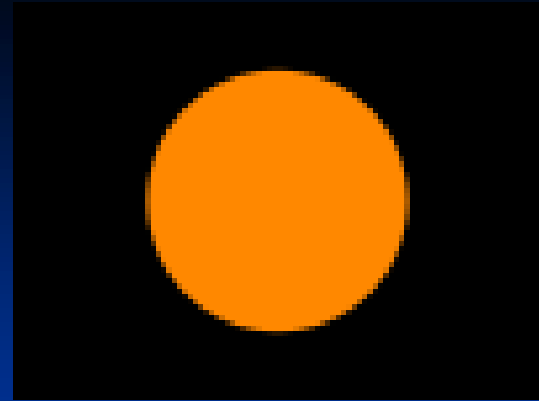
DEBRIS FLAG

- There is no need to immediately slow your car but you should maintain speed with a heightened awareness of what might be ahead.



FLAGS

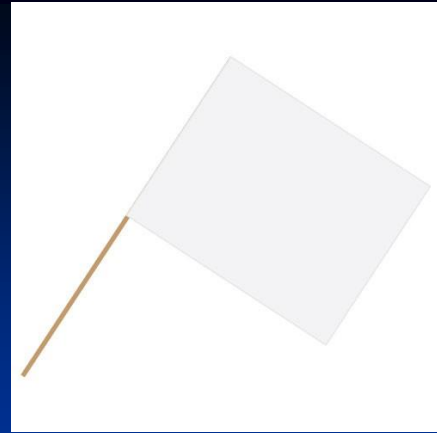
“MEATBALL” FLAG



- You may also see this flag at some events. It is called the Meatball Flag and it indicates that something is wrong mechanically with your car.
- When shown this flag, you should report to the hot pit to have the staff review any potential mechanical issues.

FLAGS

WHITE FLAG



- This flag is typically **NOT** used in an HPDE to signify the last lap.
- It is usually used to indicate that emergency vehicles are on track and that you should pay extra attention to your surroundings. It may be utilized in addition to other flags.

FLAGS

CHECKERED FLAG



- The Checkered flag is flown to indicate the end of the session and/or race. It is usually waved at the start finish line but may be used also at one other station on larger tracks.
 - Do not immediately slow down as others may have missed the flag.
 - No passing after the checkered flag unless you are currently in the process of passing a slower car.
 - Use this lap as a cool down lap and to wave at the corner workers.