Guidelines for Display of Flags

This document was developed to offer Organizing Committees of curling competitions and events guidelines for proper display of flags of our Member Associations.

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General information

Some may believe that the matter of displaying flags is simple and well-known. However, as soon as we are talking about the vertical display of flags, exceptions and special rules appear, while information sources are scarce, making the issue complicated. Furthermore, there are countries who use different layouts of their flag for different occasions and uses.

The process

The present document was developed starting from the horizontal versions of each flag, identifying the appropriate version to be used for sport events (usually, the Civil Flag), then trying to identify rules and exceptions for vertical display. In case no such special rule was present, the generic rule was applied that says:

“A flag should be displayed vertically by maintaining its Honor Point (usually, the top-left corner) in the same position (still at the top-left). This means that most flags rotate 90 degrees and are then turned over. The color at the left will become the color at the top” (Graham Bartram – Flags of the World)

Exceptions are highlighted under each country.

As a general impression, hoisting flags vertically is an area lacking standardization, with history showing many variants for the display for some of the countries.

There are IOC guidelines, edition London 2012, using simple rotation as generic rule (no flipping over). For cases where no standardization was found, IOC guidelines are used.

Sources of information used


Wikipedia: www.wikipedia.org

Flags.net: www.flags.net

Flagspot.net: www.flagspot.net

Specific sources documenting exceptions are mentioned under each country. If none mentioned, it means that the general sources listed above were the only ones found relevant.
Andorra

Remarks:

Coat of arms is not mandatory for civil display (including sport events). However, it helps differentiate from other similar flags, like Chad and Romania. Vertical display –IOC proposes simple rotation, without flipping over.

Sources:
http://flagspot.net/flags/ad.html#pln

Armenia

Remarks:

No coat of arms.

Sources:
Australia

Remarks:
Special rules for vertical display (see sources for details). Different flag version.

Sources:

Austria

(acceptable also without coat of arms)

Remarks:
Special rules for vertical display (see sources for details). Different flag version – coat of arms, if present, should be kept vertical. However, since 1984, the eagle is not commonly used on the vertical version of the flag. Therefore, recommended version for vertical is without the eagle.

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/at_verti.html
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/xf-vert.html
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/at_bdf.html
Belarus

Remarks:

Seems that the flag of Belarus doesn’t respect the rule of rotating and flipping around for vertical display. Sources show vertical display with green to the left both with or without decorative band on top.

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/by!var.html
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/by.html

Belgium

Remarks:

No mention found on vertical display rules.

Sources:
Brazil

Remarks:

On page 47 of Znamierowski's „World Encyclopedia of Flags” there is a short discussion on vertical hoisting of the national flags. Four countries are mentioned forbidding such practice, Brazil among them. However, due to needs of display for sport events, Znamierowski’s information may be outdated. IOC sources point to simple rotation, without flipping over. Note: flag should look exactly the same, both front and reverse.

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/xf-vert.html
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/br.html

Bulgaria

Remarks:

No coat of arms, no special rules found for vertical display.

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/bg.html
Canada

Remarks:
Special rules for vertical display. Maple leaf stalk on the right.

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/ca_prtcl.html
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/xf-vert.html
http://canadianflags.com/canadianflagetiquette.htm
http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/cpsc-ccsp/sc-cs/dfl_e.cfm

China

Remarks:
Vertical display turned without flipping over, no special mentions found. However, it is expected to have a special version with the biggest star pointing straight upwards, but none found so far.

Sources:
http://flagspot.net/flags/cn_law.html
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/cn.html
Chinese Taipei

Remarks:
Vertical display follows IOC guidelines.

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/tw@sport.html
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/tw.html

Croatia

Remarks:
Vertical display following IOC guidelines (simple rotation). Note: both sides should be exactly the same.

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/hr.html#ver
Czech Republic

Remarks:
Special rule apply, white stripe to the left.

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/cz.html#vert
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/xf-vert.html

Denmark

Remarks:
No special rule found.

Sources:
England

Remarks:
No special rule found.

Sources:

Estonia

Remarks:
Vertical display with blue to the left.

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/ee.html#vert
Finland

Remarks:
No special rule found.

Sources:

France

Remarks:
No special rule found.

Sources:
Georgia

Remarks:
It follows the generic rule.

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/ge.html

Germany

Remarks:
The way of displaying the flag vertically is documented, but it follows the generic rule.

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/de.html#ver
Greece

Remarks:
Special mention, but following the generic rule (Point of Honour at the top left corner).

Sources:

Hungary

Remarks:
The official civil flag is without coat of arms. If coat of arms are to be used, the vertical version has the coat of arms rotated (see above). We recommend the use of the official civil flag, without coat of arms.

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/xf-vert.html
Iceland

Remarks:
No special rule found.

Sources:

Ireland

Remarks:
Version of flag for curling events is the „Four Provinces Flag”.
Follows the generic rule.

Sources:
**Israel**

Remarks:

Apparently there are two versions of the vertical flag, the second one having the start rotated (pointing upwards). However, IOC guidelines show the regular horizontal flag, rotated.

Sources:

http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/il.html

**Italy**

Remarks:

Follows the generic rule.

Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy_flag
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/it.html
Japan

Remarks:
No special rule found.

Sources:

Kazakhstan

Remarks:
Vertical display following IOC guidelines (simple rotation).

Sources:
Korea

Remarks:

No special rule found. However, it is still unclear if the vertical version should be flipped around or not (see sources). Different opinions found on this, seems like there is no standardization. Most of the displays found show 90 degree rotation to the right with no flipping around (blue to the left).

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/kr.html#vert

Kosovo

Remarks:

No special rule found, generic rule applied.

Sources:
Latvia

[Image of Latvia's flag]

Remarks:
No special rule found.

Sources:

Liechtenstein

[Image of Liechtenstein's flag]

Remarks:
Special version of the flag for vertical hoisting. Blue to the left, crown rotated.

Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liechtenstein_flag
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/li.html#bann
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/xf-vert.html
Lithuania

Remarks:
Follows the generic rule for vertical display.

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/lt.html#vert

Luxembourg

Remarks:
No special rule found.

Sources:
Mongolia

Remarks:
Simple rotation, no flip over.

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/mn.html

Netherlands

Remarks:
No flip-over, just rotation.

Sources:
New Zealand

Remarks:
Special rules for vertical display. In case of hanging over a street, N/S and E/W orientation are factors to be considered (see sources, below). For displaying it flat against a surface, correct way is the one presented above.

Sources:

Norway

Remarks:
No special rule found.

Sources:
Poland

Remarks:
Generic rule applies (rotate and flip around). There is another version of the flag, including coat of arms, but its use is legally restricted (see sources).

Sources:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poland_flag

Romania

Remarks:
No special rule found.

Sources:
Russia

Remarks:
No special rule found.
Sources:

Scotland

Remarks:
No special rule found.
Sources:
Serbia

There are two official flags for civil display. If the one without coat of arms shall be used, that it will follow the generic rule, red to the left. For the one with coat of arms, there seem to be two versions of it – one obtained by applying the generic rule (rotate and flip over) and the other one having the coat of arms standing vertically.

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/rs.html
http://flagspot.net/flags/rs.html

Slovakia

Special version for vertical display, coat of arms rotates.

Sources:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Slovakia
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/sk.html#vert
Slovenia

Remarks:
Generic rule applies, no rotation of the coat of arms.

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/si.html#ver

Spain

Remarks:
Civil flag has two variants – with and without coat of arms. Seems that both are ok to use.

Unclear if generic rule for vertical display applies or if the coat of arms should rotate. No official mention of the second version, except what described in „sources”. For the version rotated from the horizontal flag we have applied IOC guidelines (simple rotation, no flipping over).

Sources:  http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/es_var.html#vrt
Sweden

Remarks:
Generic rule applies, no rotation of the coat of arms.

Sources:

Switzerland

Remarks:
This flag has special proportions. However, it is to be expected that the form for civil ensign to be used at events, due to one standard size imposed.

Sources:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Switzerland
Turkey

Remarks:

Generic rule applies. However, in Barcelona 2010 an unusual (possibly incorrect, too) display was seen (see sources).

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/tr.html#ver

Ukraine

Remarks:

No special rule found.

Sources:
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/ua.html
United States of America

Remarks:

If the flag is displayed hanging over a street, specific rules apply (see sources). If it is hanging on the wall, the vertical display is shown above.

Sources:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USA_flag
http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/xf-vert.html

Virgin Island

Remarks:

For vertical display we’ve used the IOC guidelines (simple rotation).

Sources:
Wales

Remarks:
No special rule found.

Sources: