



Washington Ladies Riding Club Association HANDBOOK

FLAG PROTOCOL

The United States Flag is always to the right or ahead when in columns or rows or in single file. Colors may be posted during maneuvers, but shall be honored when the team is in formation by being kept to the right or ahead of the other flags.

<p style="text-align: center;">Club Assn State US</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> </p> <p>Flags in descending order –US Flag on right of column.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State US</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Club Assn</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Assn Club US State</p> <p>Column of 4's divide to 2's - US Flag on right.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"> </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Club → Assn → State → US →</p> <p>Oblique 3's flags ahead and on the right</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Club → Assn → State → US →</p> <p>Oblique 4's - flags on left, but ahead of the rest of their fours</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Assn US</p> <p style="text-align: center;">State Club</p> <p>Pinwheel turning clockwise - flags on inside (right) of lines</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">US Assn</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Club State</p> <p>Pinwheel turning counter-clockwise - flags on outside of lines</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State US</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Club Assn</p> <p>US Flag on right and ahead of association flag in chevron</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">US State</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Assn Club</p> <p>U S flag crosses first in thread</p>



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WLRCA FLAG PROTOCOL GUIDELINES

Workshop 09/22/01

Mission Statement:

The **Washington Ladies Riding Club Association** promotes education and respect for Flag Protocol, and offers the following *guidelines* as they may apply to equestrian mounted drill teams, and the equine community.

Values:

The following *guidelines* are to be applied as choices for creativity and respect, rather than unconditional rulings. We take pride in offering them as a learning tool for partnership, serving both the equestrian drill team community, and the viewing public.

The WLRCA strives to recognize the sensitivity, diversity, and emotional aspects surrounding flag protocol, and furthermore acknowledges that equestrian (mounted) flag protocol MAY be debatable, however, our underlying premise is to honor and respect the flag.

Honor Point:

The United States Flag:

The United States flag is considered a living thing, the union being the honor point.

The right arm is the sword arm and therefore the point of danger; hence, the right is the place of honor. The edge of the flag which is toward the staff is the heraldic dexter or right edge. The union of the flag, and the flag itself when in company with other flags, is always given the honor point, i.e. the marching right, the flag's own right, or an observer's left.

Flag Type/Style:

- **Standard Flag(s)** – plain with no additional fringe and/or a cord application.
- **Ceremonial Flag(s)** – additional GOLD fringe, AND multiple cords applied.
- **Historical Flag(s)** – respective of a time and/or period application.

Flag & Pole Size:

An easy way to remember relative flag pole/shaft size, is to apply simple addition:

- 3 x 5 flag translated $3 + 5 = 8$ meaning an 8' pole
- 4 x 6 flag translated $4 + 6 = 10$ meaning a 10' pole

It is strongly suggested that the flag be ABOVE the rider's head in order for the rider to see at all times and for the flag to be clear of the rider's hat.



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Flag Carriage:

- The shafts must be perpendicular,
- Forearm parallel to the ground,
- Elbows should be flexed at a right angle,
- The emblem should be pointed forward,
- Flag(s) should be kept free (flowing), and not allowed to wind around a pole/shaft.

Flag Presentation:

One (1) or more United States Flag(s) presented should be of “equal” style, size, and height (uniform with each other).

When presented, the American flag(s) shall lead and/or always be kept to the right of other flags when in rows, columns, or single file. Colors may be posted during maneuvers, however, when a team is in formation, the American flag(s) should be duly honored by being kept to the right or in the lead of other flags.

Arena Designation:

It is suggested that the Event Host designate the “**front**” of the arena for proper Flag Protocol applications/positioning.

Protocol Applications:

- **Drill Team Competition**
State Drill Competitions and/or Series Drill Events in which the Event Host elects to include flag protocol.
- **Grand Entry/Color Guard Presentation**
Fairs and/or Rodeos that choose to implement or include flag protocol, as it relates to an Introduction, Serpentine, and/or a Company Front.
- **Parade Application**
Parade Events vary. See requirements for each specific parade event, and apply any flag protocol as it pertains to that particular event.



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Protocol Positioning:

When carried in a procession with another flag or flags,

- The American flag must be to the right, OR
- In front of other **flags** (not people or groups of people) be they state flags, or flags of other countries, or organizations.
- Remember, ***UNCLE SAM IS ALWAYS RIGHT!***

- **Posted**

A Flag or Flags posted in an assigned position or station, or in a “stationary” position for the entirety of a drill program and/or flag presentation.

- **Moving**

A Flag or Flags that changes from one position to another, or “continually” moves throughout a drill program and/or flag presentation.

- **Combination of Posted/Moving**

A Flag or Flags that posts to an assigned position then may alternately move to accommodate maneuvers in a drill program and/or flag presentation.

Positioning Relationships:

In most *posted* applications, the United States Flag should be the first (1st) Flag into the arena, AND (depending upon the event) the last Flag exiting the arena.

In many instances, the United States Flag may enter the arena (alone) and with distinction of all other flags, preceding the National Anthem. These suggestions are open for workability and at the discretion of the event coordinator(s).

- **United States Flag(s)** – application for multiple United States Flag(s):
A stationary United States Flag positioned in the center of an arena, with additional United States Flags around the center flag, may face either toward or away from the center United States Flag.
- **Other Flag(s)** – other than United States flags - State/Association/Team Flag(s):
Stationary United States Flag in the center of the arena, with other non-United States Flags either around the center flag (facing in), or in a Company Front (line to the left) of the United States Flag.
- **Non-Flag(s)** - other riders/drivers:
See Public Law 94-344 known as the *Federal Flag Code* which states that the United States Flag must be to the right OR front of other **flags** (not people or groups of people) be they state flags, or flags of other countries or organizations.



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Acknowledgement & Respect:

- **Non-United States Flags** show respect by lowering/dipping their flagstaff during the American National Anthem or other times of presentation.
The American flag is **NEVER** dipped in a salute, as this is a breach of flag protocol.
- **Riders/persons may show respect:**
By placement of the right Hand over the Heart (per any religious beliefs).
- **Persons wearing hats:**
 - A lady **NEVER** removes her hat.
 - Gentlemen (on horseback) do **NOT** remove their hat, however, may salute, or place their hand over the Heart.
 - Gentlemen (standing and/or non-horseback) respectfully remove their hat.
- **Riders carrying flags:**
Riders should **NEVER** remove their hand from a flagpole, drop their rein(s), or cradle the flag in their elbow.

Clothing, Costuming & Equipment:

Do not use an “actual” United States flag as any portion of a drill costume/uniform, drapery or advertisement. Costumes/uniforms may, however, contain red/white/blue colors, and resemble the stars & stripes.

Domestic/International Applications:

- **Flag of Nations:**
A flag of a foreign nation displayed with the United States Flag (in honor of a visiting dignitary) becomes the second flag in line, or position of honor, and would precede the State or City flag, except when the State or city is host to the foreign visitor. If a number of foreign visitors are being honored, their respective flags are placed, according to rank of the visitor(s).

Use of any Nation’s Flag in a performance: Is acceptable, PROVIDED, it does not drop to, or brush the ground.

Preparation & Safety Tips:

- **Flag Boots:**
Stirrup Boot - safer when wrapped **INSIDE** the fender and then buckled.
Pommel Boot -
- **Proper Disposal:**
When it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. (*Disposal of Unserviceable Flags Ceremony*).



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When Accidents Do Happen:

Remember to use common sense handling application(s), and to be

- Sensitive/Emotional/Respectful (appropriate to each individual situation)
- SAFELY Rescue and Inspect
- Appropriately check Rider(s) and/or Horse(s)
- Appropriately check Flag(s)
- Re-post (if acceptable, appropriate, and in good condition).

If a Rider/Horse/Flag is unable to continue,

- Roll the Flag onto the pole and respectfully exit the arena with discretion.

Resource Materials for these *guidelines*:

- Flag & Seal, Seat of Government, & the States
- The American Legion – Flag Education & Etiquette
- Canadian Flag Protocol
- Federal Flag Code
- Star Spangled Manners
- NC Dept. of Secretary of State, International Services
- Display of Flags
- Library of Congress
- Association/Event Score Sheets