

Auto racing has come a long way over the years with the inception of spotters, computers and radio communication, but one thing that has remained consistent is the use of flags. Flags were first used in motor sports around 1899. They are an historic and essential part of racing to keep the fans and drivers informed of what is happening on the track at any given time. Flags tell the drivers what is going on during practice, qualifying and racing, and they also warn of driving conditions and let the drivers know what the officials want them to do. The colors and meanings of auto racing flags originate from old shipping ports, which used flags to signal to incoming and outgoing ships. You must understand the meaning of the flags though to be fully aware of what is happening on the track. Flags have different meanings in various racing series and sometimes even from track to track. Stationary and waving flags can have different meanings as can a flag pointed at a specific driver, so it's important the officials display the flags in their correct manner ~ Source Unknown



**Checkered Flag:** The black & white checkered flag is most often used to indicate the conclusion of a race or a set number of specified laps: i.e. distance.



**The green flag** is most commonly used to indicate the start or restart of a race or time trials. It also indicates to drivers and track officials that the track is clear for full speed competition. It can also be waved to signify two laps remaining (i.e. Farmer City & Fairbury). It is also sometimes used by the starter / flagman when gathered and held high in the air, to indicate to drivers that the next time by full speed racing will commence.



**Yellow Flag:** The yellow flag is unfurled whenever a hazardous condition is present on the track. It calls for competitors to stop racing at full speed and heed caution to emergency vehicles and/or officials.. Drivers are to hold their positions during a yellow flag unless directed to do otherwise by a track official. It may also be used to nullify the start of a race, signifying a false start or cars poorly aligned prior to the start.



**White Flag:** The white flag is waved on the final lap, indicating one lap to go. It is also used, when crossed with a green flag, to indicate the half way point of a race.



**Red Flag:** The red flag is waved when track conditions become too severe to continue circling the track. Often times it is waved to stop drivers on the track so that emergency vehicles may address a dire situation, or to assist emergency vehicles to be more efficient in handling a situation.



**Black Flag:** The black flag is most commonly waved or pointed to a specific driver who has either violated track rules or has an equipment problem that needs to be addressed in the pit area by crew members or track officials, so that the condition does not bring out a potential yellow or red flag.



**Blue Flag with Orange Stripe:** A blue flag with an orange diagonal stripe is most commonly used and waved at slower competitors, as a way of informing them that faster cars are approaching and that they should use caution by holding their line, thus allowing faster competitors a safer opportunity to make a clean pass. It does not mean that a driver should move over, as this sometimes creates an unsafe condition.