

NWR-SCCA

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FLAGS for FLAGGERS*

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After safety, a flagger's primary responsibility is to communicate with the drivers.

Ideally, flaggers work in pairs facing each other. The Blue Flagger faces oncoming traffic and signals with the blue flag and/or other flags as needed. Yellow Flagger faces down track and observes the traffic departing the corner station and signals with the yellow flag. The Blue Flagger must warn of any approaching danger since the Yellow Flagger cannot see oncoming traffic. A Blue Flagger should be considered the upstream safety observer for the station and be prepared to pull the Yellow Flagger out of danger.

A well staffed corner station may have a Communicator (equipped with a radio to talk to Race Control) and a First Responder.

A YELLOW FLAG INCIDENT

A lot can happen quickly when an incident occurs. Corner workers should agree upon yellow flag incident procedures in advance.

First the Yellow Flagger displays the appropriate yellow flag. At the same time, the car number(s) and colors should be noted (mentally if not on paper), along with a description of what happened. The flaggers will often trade positions to afford the approaching drivers the best view of the yellow flag. The Yellow Flagger is now watching approaching cars and advising the Blue Flagger of possible passing after the yellow flag, and imminent danger.

During the incident, the Blue Flagger observes down track, reports the status and numbers of any stopped cars, passes under yellow and checks the track surface. The blue flag is not used while the yellow flag is displayed however the surface (debris) and white (slow car) flags may be required.

BLUE FLAGGING

Blue flagging can be more mentally demanding. The decision to display the blue flag must be made quickly, sometimes in a fraction of a second. Good Blue Flaggers have the ability to recognize the faster and slower cars at a considerable distance during practice and qualifying. An awareness of the race leaders and stragglers is vital as lapping occurs and a blue flag should be displayed. Learning the numbers, colors and silhouettes of the cars will help you display the blue flag while the drivers can still see it. Remember, you are displaying the flag to a slower car with a faster car approaching.

RESPONSE

On-track response is a topic beyond the scope of this newsletter.

Most important is your personal safety. You are a volunteer and have the right to decline to do anything that jeopardizes your personal safety. Don't venture on track until properly trained and instructed to do so. When you do respond, always do so with a minimum of exposure to traffic. Take a fire bottle and position yourself on the safe side of the stopped car. Ideally you can look at on-coming cars while talking to the driver and inspecting the car. Oil on the track could send additional cars at you. Workers remaining at the station should have a whistle in their mouth for safety.

Let the E-Crew handle emergency procedures such as driver extraction, medical and larger fires. They should rig tow straps too.

CONTACTS and LINKS

- NW REGION - SCCA (Race)
www.nwr-scca.org/race/index.htm
- FLAG CHIEF (Acting)
SilverSableDiner@aol.com
David - (425) 822-6269
- REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION
sherri.masterson@gmail.com
Sherri - (360) 479-6082
- SCCA FLAGGING & COMMUNICATION MANUAL, 2002
<http://www.texascca.org/SCCA%20F&C.PDF>
- This Texas SCCA club has some good information
<http://www.texascca.org/novice.pdf>
- Canada's META club rules vary somewhat
<http://www.meta.bc.ca/index.html>

SCHEDULE - 2010

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| Double Nationals Restricted Regional & Vintage Pacific Raceways | May 29-30-31 (Memorial Day weekend) |
| Double Regional & Vintage with Big Island Hawaii Bremerton Motorsports Park | August 28-29 |
| Regional Races with Oregon SCCA Oregon Raceway Park | October 23-24 |

* *SCCA Flagging & Communication Manual, 2002.*

FLAGS – What They Mean to Flaggers.

The first two flags are displayed by the Starter only.

GREEN FLAG (Solid Green)

A race is under way the instant the green flag is displayed. When displayed, the green flag indicates that the course is clear. Hint: Take down the double yellow flag. If it's a practice or qualifying session, leave the white flag up until the first car approaches a second time.

CHECKERED FLAG (Black and White Checks)

The practice session, qualifying or race has ended. Cars shall continue cautiously to the pits or paddock area. Hint: Remember other cars are still at speed until they see the checkered flag.

This flag is displayed by the Starter and Turn 4 only.

MECHANICAL BLACK FLAG (Black with Orange Ball, sometimes called a "Meatball" flag)

It means there is something mechanically wrong with your car. Proceed to your pit or designated black flag area at reduced speed. The Mechanical Black Flag is only displayed by the Starter and Turn 4 at Pacific Raceways (other tracks will vary).

The following flags can be displayed by any flag station.

YELLOW FLAG (Solid Yellow) Three variations:

Drivers need to slow down. No passing from the flag until after the incident.

1. STANDING YELLOW – This is displayed for people and cars stopped off track
2. WAVED – This is displayed for people, stopped cars and major car parts on track.
3. DOUBLE YELLOW, DISPLAYED AT ALL STATIONS — Indicates the entire course is under a yellow flag condition. This flag may be used with or without a Pace (Safety) Car, including pace lap(s). Cars may carefully pass emergency vehicles. Cars may also pass other cars that are disabled or otherwise cannot keep up with the pace car.

Hint: Immediately begin watching for cars "passing under yellow".

BLUE FLAG (Blue with Diagonal Yellow Stripe)

This is an advisory flag. Driver should check their mirrors. This flag may be displayed standing or waving, depending on overtaking speed.

Hint: Remember you are displaying the flag to the slower car.

SURFACE CONDITION FLAG (Yellow with Vertical Red Stripes)

This is an advisory flag. Debris is present on the racing surface. A slippery condition exists due to spilled fluids or small objects on track. Use a Surface flag if it's small enough to drive over (but drivers should avoid it). A squirrel on track is a surface flag: Deer would be a yellow flag.

This flag is displayed standing. Generally displayed until the object is off track, or for one or two laps at which time it can be considered part of the racing surface. Redisplay if the object moves. Hint: Make note of the first car to see the flag so you can keep track of the laps.

WHITE FLAG (Solid White) Two variations:

1. Caution – you are approaching a slow moving race car (e.g., with mechanical trouble), ambulance, or other emergency vehicle on the racing surface. This flag shall be shown standing for two (2) flag stations prior to the vehicle. Radio reports are required to identify the location of the vehicle as it moves around the track. Hint: A slow moving car means 50% race speed or less.
2. A standing white flag shall also be displayed during the first lap of a practice or qualifying session to indicate the location of the flagging stations. Hint: Note which cars saw the flag first so you can lower it when you see them again.

Note: The Black And Red Flags Can Only Be Displayed By Order Of The Chief Steward, Relayed Through Race Control

BLACK FLAG (Solid Black) Three variations:

1. CLOSED BLACK FLAG (Furled) Pointed or shaken at an individual car from the Starter's stand (optionally, accompanied by a number board indicating the car number). Drivers have been observed driving in an unsafe and/or improper manner. The driver should acknowledge with a wave. If the action continues, they are given an OPEN BLACK FLAG at the Starter's stand.
2. BLACK FLAG, OPEN – When displayed from the Starter's stand only and accompanied by a number board indicating the car number, the car shall proceed directly to the pits or a location designated by the Chief Steward for consultation with Officials.
3. BLACK FLAG, OPEN - When displayed at all stations the session has been halted. Practice/qualifying/racing has stopped and all cars shall slow and proceed directly to the pits. Race Control will tell you when to display this flag. It may be displayed standing or waving. Hint: Black is difficult to see so display it with vigor and move it across a white background. The radio call is "Black Flag All."

RED FLAG (Solid Red)

This means EXTREME DANGER - THE SESSION HAS BEEN STOPPED. Cars must come to an immediate, controlled stop at the side of the race track or as indicated by a Race Official. The radio call is "Red Flag All." Cars shall proceed cautiously to the pits once they are released by Officials. Race Control will tell you when to display this flag and when you can release cars. Hint: Just to be clear – You are the Race Official.