



ÉIRE

IRISH REPUBLICAN BROTHERHOOD



“The Flags of the Sovereign Republic of Éire”

Addenda to the Foregoing Constitution of the I.R.B.

8-8-22

Article 28

Flag Charter

“Ar son na hÉireann agus a Clainne”

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1. History of the Flag(s)

The Tricolour of green, white and orange is the most easily recognised National Flag of Ireland in modern times having been adopted by the Irish Free State in 1922 and whereby “the national flag is the tricolour of green, white and orange” is stated under Article 7 of the Free State Constitution (by plebiscite) of 1937 (“the tricolour”).

Notwithstanding that the Tricolour has been borrowed and corrupted by the Crown Corporation to represent the 26 County Irish Free State, the Tricolour of green, white and orange (the Tricolour”) remains resolutely claimed by the IRB to be the Flag of the Republic of Ireland, proclaimed in arms on Easter Monday, April 24th, 1916, and established by the Will of the People of Ireland, on January 21st, 1919.

The Tricolour Flag of the 1916 rising was commissioned by Seán Mac Diarmuida with guided dimensions of 63”x 29”. These are the true dimensions of the Tricolour in contrast to the specified 2 x 1 dead entity dimensions of the tricolour of the Crown Corporation’s Irish Free State.

Thomas Francis Meagher is credited with bringing the Tricolour to Ireland from France in 1848. The Tricolour at this time was flown with orange next to the mast. In 1901, at the funeral of James Stephens, the founder of the IRB, the Tricolour was reversed with green flying closest to the mast. This presentation of the Tricolour has endured since then to date.

The Green Flag with a Golden Harp is the recognised Flag of the Rebellion of 1798 and is also a recognised Flag of the 1916 Easter Rising. The Blue Flag with a Golden Harp has older origins still for the Nation and Sovereignty of Éire. Both of these Flags remain Flags of the Sovereign Republic of Éire and are claimed by the Irish Republican Brotherhood on behalf of the Sovereign People of Ireland.

This Flag Charter deals with information and protocol for the Tricolour.

2. Design

I The Tricolour is rectangle in shape with dimensions of 63" x 29" or proportions thereof. The three colours -green, white and orange- are of equal size and vertically disposed.

II The Tricolour should normally be displayed on a staff, with green being next to the staff. Provided that the correct proportions are observed, the Flag can be made to any size.

III The Tricolour is not to be contaminated by any gold fringe or tassels.

3. Flying Displaying and Placing

- I No Flag of any other Nation or State should be flown above the Tricolour**
- II Only one Tricolour should be displayed in each group of Flags and in all cases should be in a place of honour.**
- III The Tricolour should always be first on the right (on the observers left)**
- IV When carried with other Flags the Tricolour should be carried on the marching right.**
- V While being carried the Tricolour should not be dipped by way of salute or compliment except to the dead during ceremonial occasions**
- VI When the Tricolour is used to drape a coffin, the green should always be at the head of the coffin**
- VII When displayed on a platform the Tricolour should be above and behind the speaker's desk**
- VIII When the Tricolour is displayed against a wall or background the green should be on the right (observers left)**
- IX In the event of a display of crossed staffs the Tricolour should be to the right (observers left) and to the fore**

4. Occasions and Times when Flying

I The Tricolour can be flown all year round at location with respect

II The Tricolour is flown with purpose on January 21st (our Independence Day) St Patrick's Day (the day the IRB was founded), and on Easter Monday (in commemoration of the Rising of 1916)

III The Tricolour is also flown at other significant national and local events such as festivals and commemorations

IV The Tricolour can be flown at night as well as by day

5. Carrying the Flag of the Sovereign Republic

- I. When the Tricolour is carried with another Flag, or Flags, it should be carried in a place of honour: the marching right – the observers left**

- II. The other Flags when carried with the Tricolour will be placed in alphabetical order from the marching right – the observers left**

- III. In the event of a display of crossed staffs, the Tricolour should be to the right and to the fore, that is to the left of the observer that is facing the Flag**

6. Half-masting the Flag

- I. The half-masting of a Nation's Flag is a well-recognised practice to bestow an honour and express a collective awareness and sense of sorrow**
- II. At half-mast means the Flag is flown approximately two-thirds of the way up the flagpole.**
- III. When being positioned at half-mast the Flag should first of all be brought to the peak of the staff and then lowered to the chosen half-mast position. It should thereafter be brought again to the peak before being lowered.**
- IV. When the Tricolour is brought to half-mast at the General Head Quarters of the Irish Republican Brotherhood annually on August 22nd Banbha (The Flag of the IRB that symbolises strength and endurance) will also be brought to half-mast position in solidarity with the expression**
- V. The Flag shall be flown at half-mast day and night for the duration of any funeral**
- VI. While being carried the Flag should not be dipped by way of salute or compliment except to the dead during memorial ceremonies**
- VII. When used to drape a coffin the green should be placed at the head of the coffin**

7. Folding

- I. On removal from the coffin, 6 Coffin Bearers shall fold the Flag in the following manner**
 - a. Orange passed under to white**
 - b. White and orange passed under to green resulting with green on top orange in the middle and white underneath**
 - c. Green orange and white folded once with green remaining outward**
 - d. The complete Flag draped over the extended left arm of the Coffin Bearer**
- II. In the case of Éire (the Pall Bearers Flag of the Irish Republican Brotherhood) the Flag will be replaced in the Irish Oakwood Pall Bearers Flag Box**
- III. In other cases the Flag may be presented to the next of kin of the deceased**

8. Hoisting and Lowering

- I. In raising and lowering the Tricolour should not be allowed to touch the ground**
- II. When hoisting to half-mast the Tricolour should first be brought to the peak of the staff and then lowered to the chosen position. Thereafter it should be again brought to the peak before being finally lowered**
- III. The Tricolour is considered at half-mast at any position at least the height of the Flag below the peak and above the middle of the staff**

9. Saluting and Respecting the Flag

- I. On ceremonial occasions when the Tricolour is being hoisted or lowered, or when it is passing in a parade all present should face it, stand to attention and salute. Those in uniform present should give the hand salute and those in civilian attire should salute by standing to attention**

- II. When the Tricolour is being carried past in a parade the salute is rendered when the Flag is six paces away and is held until the Flag has passed by. Where more than one Tricolour is being carried the salute should only be given to the leading Flag**

10. Correct Disposal of the Flag

- I. When the Flag has become worn or frayed it is considered to be no longer fit for display and should be destroyed or disposed of in a dignified way once the replacement Flag has been obtained and reinstated in place of the worn or frayed Flag**