

SCHOOL DIVISION ORGANIZATION, PHILOSOPHY, AND GOALS

Local School Organization and Administration

Flag Rules and Regulations

This regulation supersedes Regulation 1354.1

I. PURPOSE

To outline, for school use, traditional customs and practices of displaying the U.S. flag.

II. SUMMARY OF CHANGES SINCE LAST PUBLICATION

This regulation has been changed in its entirety.

III. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The American flag is a symbol of our country. Traditionally we honor the flag by standing and pledging allegiance to it. The most appropriate place to learn the pledge, as well as flag etiquette, is in elementary school. Schools may use various methods to help students learn and recite the pledge in individual classrooms, in school assemblies, and through use of the public address system. Each school library shall include books and other materials to support instruction about the history and meaning of the American flag. Regular opportunities should be provided for students to express their allegiance to the flag and, through it, to the nation. See Policy 1352, Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, for guidance on recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

IV. DISPLAYING THE FLAG

A. Flat

When the flag is displayed flat, either horizontally or vertically, on a wall or window, the union (or blue field) should be uppermost and to the flag's right (to the observer's left when facing flag).

B. Platform

When used on a speaker's platform, the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. When displayed from a staff in public auditorium, the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in front of the audience, and in the position of honor to the speaker's right as he or she faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the speaker or to the right of the audience.

C. Staff

When the flag of the United States is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff. When the flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a rope extending from a building to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

D. Crossed Staff

The flag of the United States of America, when displayed in a cross-staffed arrangement with another flag, should be positioned on the right of the arrangement and its staff should cross in front of the other flag staff.

E. With Other Flags

The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states or localities, or pennants of societies, are grouped and displayed from staffs.

F. With Pennants or Other Flags on a Halyard

When flags of states, cities, or localities, or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the United States flag's right.

G. In a Procession

When carried in a procession with another flag or flags, the United States flag should be on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right. If there is a line of other flags, the U.S. flag should be in front of the center of that line.

H. Floats and Parades

The flag should not be displayed on a float in a parade except from a staff. The flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle. When the flag is displayed on a motorcar, the staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right fender.

I. In the Lobby

When the flag is suspended across a corridor or lobby in a building with only one main entrance, it should be suspended vertically with the union of the flag to the observer's left upon entering. If the building has more than one main entrance, the flag should be

suspended vertically near the center of the corridor or lobby with the union to the north when entrances are to the east and west and to the east when entrances are to the north and south. If there are entrances in more than two directions, the union should be to the east.

V. FLYING THE FLAG AT HALF-STAFF

A. Procedures

The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first raised to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should again be raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. Flags (other than the U.S.) or pennants flown on nearby separate staffs must be at the same or lower height than the U.S. flag. Those usually flown from the same halyard with the U.S. flag may have to be left off when the U.S. flag is flown at half-staff, depending on the staff height and the size of the flags.

B. Authority of Half-Staff

1. By order of the president, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of a principal figure of the United States government, or the governor of a state, territory, or possession, as a mark of respect to the decedent's memory. In the event of the death of another official or foreign dignitary, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to presidential instructions or orders or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law.
2. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any state, territory, or possession of the United States, or the death of a member of the armed forces from any state, territory, or possession who dies while serving on active duty, the governor of that state, territory, or possession may proclaim that the U.S. flag shall be flown at half-staff.
3. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the commonwealth of Virginia or Fairfax County, Fairfax County Memorandum No. 13-01 should be consulted.

C. Length of Time to Be Flown at Half-Staff

1. Thirty days from the death of the president or a former president of the United States.
2. Ten days from the day of death of the vice president, the chief justice or a retired chief justice of the United States, or the speaker of the House of Representatives.
3. From the day of death until burial of an associate justice of the Supreme Court; a secretary of an executive or military department; a former vice president; or the governor of a state, territory, or possession.

VI. DISPOSAL OF WORN FLAGS

When a U.S. flag is no longer a fitting emblem for display because of wear or damage, it shall be forwarded to the Office of Procurement Services' warehouse to ensure proper disposal and destruction.

See also the current version of: Policy 1352.2, Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Legal reference: United States Code: Title 4, Section 7
Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-202
Virginia Board of Education: Guidelines on Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
Fairfax County, Virginia, Procedural Memorandum No. 13-01