

Flag Regulations for FIM and AMA Sessions - 2013

One of the big differences that our team sees between an FIM session and an AMA session is the differences in the flagging from one session to the next. The two organizations have different flagging rules. This gives a very different look to the racetrack and how we as a flagging team do our part to help put on a practice session or race. I'll take you to the rules and then explain the differences between the rule sets, flag by flag, as those differences apply to us.

FIM MotoGP flag regulations may be found in the PDF document at: [http://www.fim-live.com/fileadmin/alfresco/2013_GP_Regulations_updated_during_the_2013_season\(23_July\).pdf](http://www.fim-live.com/fileadmin/alfresco/2013_GP_Regulations_updated_during_the_2013_season(23_July).pdf) . Scroll down to Section 1.22 on page 43 of the document.

FIM World Superbike flag regulations are identical to those for MotoGP. For completeness you may find them at: http://www.fim-live.com/fileadmin/alfresco/6510004_eng.pdf . Scroll down to Section 1.24 on page 40 of this document.

AMA flag regulations may be found in their rule book at: <http://amaproracing.cdn.racersites.com/assets/AMAPro-RR-2013-Rulebook.pdf> . Scroll down to Section 2.16 on page 11 of this document.

Also the number of flag stations is different. For FIM (MotoGP and WSB) and AMA events at Mazda Raceway at Laguna Seca we staff 46 flag stations for an FIM session and up to 22 for an AMA session. All of the AMA stations are stations used during FIM sessions, so nothing needs to move. All locations will be described in the Turn Booklets which the land line communicators will have on each turn. It's possible for these to change from event to event such as MotoGP in July to World Superbikes in September, but not during an event weekend.

What the flags mean and how they are used is different between AMA and FIM sessions. This list will go over the differences in the flags as they apply to USARM flag teams. All information not enclosed in <<brackets like this>> is directly copied from the appropriate 2013 rule book. Any additional or USARM specific information will be shown in <<brackets like this>>.

First – Flags with no differences in meanings:

Checkered Flag: <<From Start/Finish only>> Indicates the end of a session or race.

Red Flag – Shown waving at all flag stations. Indicates that a race or session is being stopped. << Do not show this flag unless you are completely sure that you have clear direction from Race Control to do so.>>

That's it, just two. Now, for every other flag that we work with during the weekend:

Green Flag:

FIM:

- The track is clear. <<Lights are used for the start.>>
- This flag must be shown motionless at each flag marshal post for the first lap of each practice session and of the warm up, for the sighting lap(s) and for the warm up lap.
- This flag must be shown motionless at the flag marshal post immediately after the incident that necessitated the use of one or more yellow flags.
- This flag must be waved by the starter to signal the start of the warm up lap.
- When the pit-lane exit is open, this flag must be waved at the pit-lane exit. <<This is for the exit from the track to the pits. Not one of our flag stations.>>

AMA:

- Indicates the start of a race or clear track conditions. <<This is only from the starter. The green flag is not used at our flag stations unless directed from flagging control.>>

Yellow Flag: <<probably the most used flag>>

FIM:

- Shown waved at each row of the starting grid, this flag indicates that the start of the race is delayed.
- Shown waved at the flag marshal post, this flag indicates that there is a danger ahead. The riders must slow down and be prepared to stop. Overtaking is forbidden up until the point where the green flag is shown. <<Typically three waved yellows will be shown before an incident. On very fast parts of the track there may be four. Work with flagging control.>>
- During the final inspection lap, this flag must be waved at the exact place where the flag marshal will be positioned during the practices, the warm ups and races. <<This is for morning track inspection. Yes, it is in the rule book.>>
- <<There is no mention of a motionless, standing or stationary yellow flag in the FIM rule book. It is not used. >>

AMA:

- Stationary Yellow Flag: Indicates a potentially hazardous situation on or near the track.
- Waving Yellow Flag: Indicates serious hazards on or near the track.
- << Although there is no mention in the rule book we typically show a standing yellow flag ahead of every waving yellow. Direction will come from flagging control at the start of the weekend.>>

Yellow with Red Stripes:

FIM:

- The adhesion on this section of the track could be affected by any reason other than rain. This flag must be shown motionless at the flag marshal post.

AMA:

- Indicates debris, fluid or a potentially hazardous situation on or near the track. Exercise caution. In the case of localized rain, marshals may also point to the sky to indicate this specific condition. <<The yellow and red striped flag is the only surface condition flag for AMA. FIM uses the rain flag for that bit of information – read on. >>

White Flag with Diagonal Red Cross: <<FIM Only>>

- Drops of rain on this section of the track. This flag must be shown motionless at the flag marshal post.
- <<Also shown with yellow and red striped flag to indicate rain – not just drops – on this part of the circuit.>>

White Flag with Medical Red Cross: <<AMA Only>>

- Indicates that ambulances, safety vehicles or emergency personnel are on the course.
- <<For FIM sessions: When the red flag is shown the riders are instructed to slow as emergency vehicles may be on course.>>

Blue Flag:

FIM:

- Shown waved at the flag marshal post, this flag indicates to a rider that he is about to be overtaken.
- During the practice sessions, the rider concerned must keep his line and slow down gradually to allow the faster rider to pass him.
- During the race, the rider concerned is about to be lapped. He must allow the following rider(s) to pass him at the earliest opportunity.
- At all times, this flag will be shown waved to a rider leaving the pit lane if traffic is approaching on the track. <<For us at the exit of Turn 2.>>
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- <<From Start/Finish only>> The checkered black/white flag will be waved together with the blue flag presented motionless at the finish line on track level when a rider(s) precedes closely the leader during the final lap before the finish line.

AMA:

- <<Race only >> This flag is displayed by individual corner stations as well as the starter to indicate to a rider that they are about to be overtaken or lapped.

White Flag:

FIM:

- Waved at the flag marshal post during the race, this flag indicates that the riders are allowed to change machine. <<Usually involves rain tires>>

- <<The white flag is not used at Start/Finish to indicate the final lap of the race, as it has the different meaning above. FIM uses a “Laps Remaining” counter at Start/Finish for this function.>>

AMA:

- Indicates the final lap of the race. << when waved at Start/Finish>>
- <<Not used from USARM flag stations. >>

Black Flag:

FIM:

- This flag is used to convey instructions to one rider only and is displayed motionless at each flag marshal post together with the rider's number. The rider must stop at the pits at the end of the current lap and cannot restart. <<Shown with number board>>

AMA:

- <<From Start/Finish only>> Indicates a problem with a motorcycle or a rider disqualification. A number board displayed with the flag indicates the rider being signaled. Riders must carefully reduce speed and stop at the first suitable location off the course.

Black with Orange Disk <<Meatball>> :

FIM:

- This flag is used to convey instructions to one rider only and is displayed motionless at each flag marshal post together with the rider's number. This flag informs the rider that his motorcycle has mechanical problems likely to endanger himself or others, and that he must immediately leave the track.
- <<Shown with number board>>

AMA:

- <<From Start/Finish only>> Indicates a problem with a motorcycle or a rider disqualification. A number board displayed with the flag indicates the rider being signaled. Riders must carefully reduce speed and stop at the first suitable location off the course.

Number Boards: <<FIM Only>>

- << Shown with either the Black or Meatball Flag to convey instructions to one rider only. See flag instructions above.>>