

What the racing flags mean

Green: It means go, of course.

Yellow: The caution flag, usually thrown by corner marshals after a crash. Just like a yellow light on the street, it means slow down, there is something dangerous ahead. When shown in one corner, it applies to that area of the track. When shown by the Starter, it means the entire track is under a yellow. A held yellow is a warning to watch ahead. A waved yellow means immediate obstacles ahead.

Red: Same as on the street — it means stop until you get directions from race director.

Blue with orange stripe: This is a flag a driver does not want to see. It means move over, you are being lapped. Drivers must hold their line and allow overtaking traffic to pass.

Black flags. There are several potential applications. A **rolled black flag** pointed at a driver may be used to warn a driver that poor sportsmanship has been noted and they are being warned to stop. A **waved black flag** means you are being removed from the course for a number of potential reasons. **Black Flag w/ Orange Dot** is specifically meant to warn a driver of a serious mechanical issue with their vehicle. They are to exit the track with caution immediately.

Checkered & Black Flags: Signifies the end of the race. The addition of the black flag signifies the top 5 in the race is under protest or official review.

Crossed flags: Usually white and green at the flag stand; means you have reached the halfway point of the race.

Two rolled flags held vertically: Tells the drivers there are two laps remaining in the race.

White: Drivers leading races love to see this one. It means there's one lap to go.

Checkered: If you "take" the checkered, it means you're the winner. The checkered flag is waved to signal the end of the race. It may also be shown with a yellow or a black if there's a possible infraction affecting the outcome of the race.

What the hand signals mean

Raised fist or hands: The driver that does this is telling others behind him that he's slowing down. Usually on back stretches, this is a way to let others know there's a problem up ahead. Near the flag stand or exit to the tech area, this usually means a driver is having equipment problems and is going to the pits and dropping out of the race.

Thumbs down: Flashed in front of the flag stand, this means the same thing as a raised fist or hand — a driver is dropping out because of mechanical problems.

Thumbs up: A driver is saying things are OK.

Pumping fists: The driver that does this is the winner.