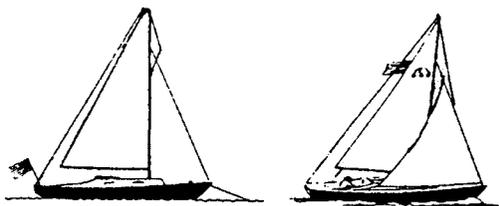


SBCC YACHT ROUTINE AND FLAG ETIQUETTE

SBCC BY-LAWS, Chapter XIII, Section I, states:

“Nautical customs and traditions shall be observed at all times, particularly while cruising.”

- A. Flag officers shall fly the appropriate signal on their own yachts unless cruising with another club.
- B. All members may fly the Club burgee unless participating in a cruise or regatta sponsored by another organization to which they belong.
- C. Other authorized flags and pennants may be flown when appropriate.
- D. The Club burgee may be flown continuously while a vessel is in commission.

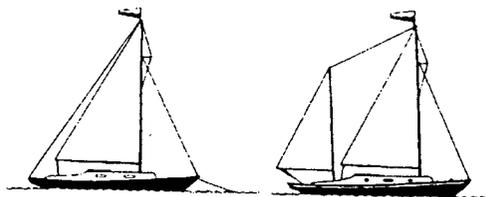


THE ENSIGN

Sailors may display one of two national flags. One is the yacht ensign, with its fouled anchor over a circle of 13 stars, and the other is the national ensign which is the familiar 50-star flag. The yacht ensign may be flown only in territorial waters.

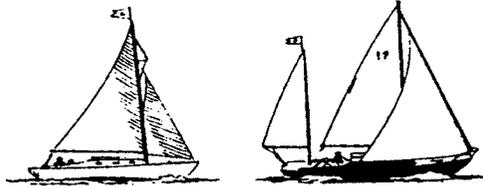
When not under way, the ensign is flown from the stern staff. When under way, power boats fly the ensign from the stern staff. Sailboats have several choices: all sailboats may fly the ensign from the stern staff; gaff-rigged yachts may fly the ensign from the peak; marconi-rigged yachts may fly the ensign from the leech about two-thirds of the way up.

The ensign may be flown from morning (8:00 a.m.) to evening colors (sunset) whether the boat is at rest, under sail, or under power. The ensign shall not be flown by a sailboat that is in a race. At morning colors, the ensign is hoisted smartly before other flags. At evening colors, the ensign is lowered slowly and with ceremony after other flags come down.



BURGEE

The burgee is displayed whenever the ensign is hoisted but may also be displayed separately between morning and evening colors or by day and night, at anchor or underway. On sailboats, the burgee is flown only at the “truck” (or top) of the (forward-most) mast. Many sailboat owners install (or adjust) their electronics and the placement of their antenna so that the burgee flies freely. The burgee is not to be flown from a spreader halyard. On power boats, the burgee is displayed at the bow staff.



PRIVATE SIGNAL

A private signal is a custom-designed flag that carries symbols standing for the owner. The private signal may be flown day or night, but is not displayed when the owner is not in command. (The rule is that the private signal and burgee follow the sailor, not the boat.) On split-rig (multi-masted) sailboats, the burgee is flown at the head of the forward mast and the private signal is flown at the head of the aftermost mast. On power boats with a mast, the burgee is flown from the bow pulpit and the private signal from the truck, or mast head.

FLAG OFFICER'S FLAGS

A flag officer may display his/her flag day and night in the place of and instead of his/her private signal, or in the case of a single-masted yacht instead of the burgee.

Size of Flags

Ensign: On the fly, the ensign should be a minimum of one inch for every one foot of the boat's overall length.

Burgee: The burgee's dimensions for sailboats are, on the fly, approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ inch for each foot of distance between the water and the top of the tallest mast; and for power boats $\frac{1}{2}$ inch for each foot of overall length.

Private signal: The private signal is sized according to the rule for burgees.

PROCEDURE FOR OBSERVING COLORS

It shall be the responsibility of each skipper attached to a fleet or attending a rendezvous to perform the ceremony of colors aboard his or her yacht. However, only the rendezvous host or fleet captain shall issue sound signals during evening colors.

At 0800 hours the ensign shall be hoisted first, followed as soon as possible by the club burgee and private signal. During the day the rendezvous host or fleet captain shall communicate to the fleet what time the sun sets for that day so they can be prepared for evening colors.

At sunset the rendezvous host shall ring a ship's bell rapidly for 5 seconds to signal the fleet, crew members, and guests to stand quietly and face their respective ensigns. The ensigns shall then be lowered or removed ceremoniously by the skipper or crewmember. At the same time or, if shorthanded as soon as possible, the club burgee and private signals shall be lowered. When finished, the host boat or fleet captain shall sound eight bells to alert the fleet to stand at ease and resume their activities.

INTERNATIONAL CODE FLAGS AND PENNANTS

