Super Tips



American flag should always be to viewer's left when placed with other flags. The flags of other nations should be the same size and be placed in alphabetical order at the same height as the American flag. Shown at Olde Florida Club are the American flag and the flags of Honduras and Mexico. Photo by Darren Davis.

At the risk of sounding melodramatic, September 11, 2001 was truly a day that changed my life.

Being from a generation that was not directly impacted by a national tragedy such as a World War or Vietnam, I am ashamed to admit that my sense of national pride and knowledge of national history was probably less than it should have been. However, this definitely changed for me shortly after the September 11th catastrophe in New York.

Through my travels I often visit my peers' golf course operations facilities. On many of these tours I have witnessed the display of the Stars and Stripes, often accompanied by additional flags from Mexico, Guatemala, Haiti, or other countries represented by the workforce at that particular golf course. I admit I never gave much thought to the manner in which the flags were displayed... that is until I decided to fly the Stars and Stripes at my facility. It was then that I decided to learn the basics of "flag etiquette," and I must admit some surprised me. Below are some of the facts that I learned.

- 1. The fundamental rule of flag etiquette is: treat *all* flags with respect and common sense.
- 2. The Stars and Stripes takes precedence over all other flags when flown within the United States. It should not be flown lower than another flag nor should it be smaller than another flag flown with it.

 3. Other flags may, however, be flown at the same height and in the same size. Other national flags should *not* be smaller or flown lower than the Stars and Stripes when displayed together. If it is not possible to display two or more national flags at the same

height, it is not proper to display them together at all.

4. The point of honor is on the extreme LEFT from
the standpoint of the observer (the flag's right). The
order from left to right of flags flown together is: the
Stars and Stripes, other national flags, in alpabetical
order, state flags, county and city flags, organizational
flags, personal flag.

5. If one flag is at half-staff in mourning, other flags flown with it should be flown at half-staff. When flying a flag at half-staff, first raise the flags to their peak, and then lower them to half-staff. The Stars and Stripes is raised first and lowered last.

A salute (hand over heart for those not in uniforms) should be rendered when the flag is raised or lowered.

- 7. It is proper to fly the Stars and Stripes at night but only if it is in a spotlight.
- No flag should be flown during weather which might damage it.
- 9. When a flag is no longer of dignified appearance and cannot be repaired, it should be destroyed in a dignified way (burned or sealed in a bag or box before being sent out for trash collection).

 10. It is not illegal or improper to fly any flag (state, ethnic group, organization, etc.) alone but it is always preferable to display the Stars and Stripes at the same time.

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