



District 8 - Florida

International Order of the Blue Gavel

Yachting Customs and Courtesies

Flag Display/Flag Etiquette

Display of Yacht Club Burgees - Pelican Isle Yacht Club:

A display found in almost every yacht club is a collection of burgees from both near and far. It is important to properly display the burgees. They can be displayed either horizontally or vertical. It is also important to know which side the home club considers “up” before displaying it.

Flag Etiquette - Pelican Isle Yacht Club:

The Burgee of the Yacht Club shall usually be triangular, with the fly one and one-half times the hoist.

The Burgee contains the individual design of the Yacht Club and may be listed in the Stars Register of Clubs and Flags from Yachting Customs and Courtesies. The Burgee is properly flown only by Yacht Club members. It is flown from the bow staff of a power boat or from the mast head of a sailing vessel.

Flag Etiquette Ashore - Pelican Isle Yacht Club:

The Flagpole of a yacht club is technically called a mast and represents the dry-land version of the mast of a sailing ship standing out to sea. Most masts are complete with a gaff, the spar running upward a forty-five degree angle from the back or landward side of the mast. Since the gaff represents the gaff of a fully rigged ship, it is the place of honor even though its height is lower than the masthead. Accordingly, the rule is that on a mast with gaff, the National colors are flown from the gaff and the Club’s Burgee is flown at the masthead; once again in keeping with the manner in which those flags would be flown on a ship. International Code or Signaling flags are never to be used as decorations; except when “dressing ship” (see Dressing Ship).

Accepted flag flown from the left spreader is: Commodore’s Flag (when present). Accepted flags flown from the right spreader are: State flag, Clean Marina flag.

Dressing Ship - Pelican Isle Yacht Club:

On special occasions such as national holidays, regattas, fleet review, etc. ships are “dressed” using the International Code flags. The ship is dressed to the waterline at both the bow and the stern, a task that is accomplished by hanging a weighted line over the bow and stern and beginning and ending the flag sequence just above the water. By custom, the sequence of letters and numbers is: AB2, UJ1, KE3, GH6, IV5, FL4, DM7, PO Third Repeater, RN First Repeater, ST0 (zero), CX9, WQ8, and ZY Second Repeater.