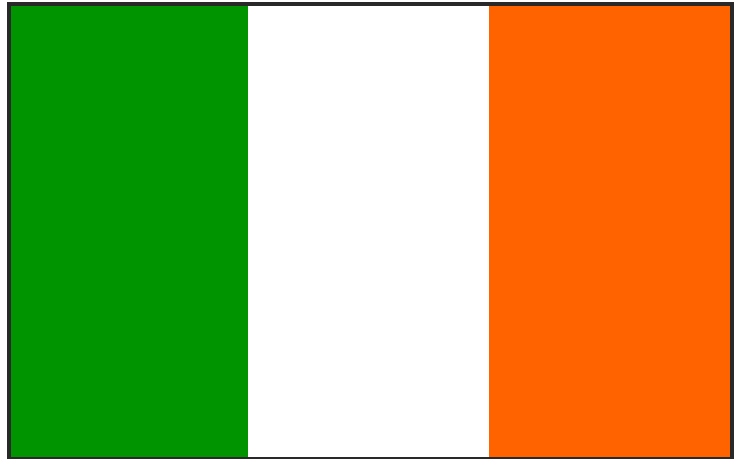


The Irish Flag

Three vertical stripes, one green, one white, and one orange - the flag of the Republic of Ireland. The green stands for the Nationalist of the Emerald Isle. The orange is for Ireland's Protestants and the North. The white is a symbol of the wish for peace between the two.

The first Irish Tricolor was presented to Thomas F. Meagher in 1848, and flown briefly from a second story window at a meeting in his native city of Waterford on 7 March 1848, However, Meagher was captured during the rebellion and the flag was not officially recognized as the national flag until it was resurrected during the 1916 rising over the General Post Office on O'Connell St, Dublin. The 1916 rising , although an immediate failure, was the beginning of the end to English occupation of the republic portion of Ireland. The flag was adopted by the Irish Republic during the War of Independence in 1919, and later by the Irish Free State (1922-37). In 1937 it was granted constitutional status under the 1937 Constitution of Ireland.

The Presidential Flag of Ireland is blue bearing a gold harp, officially registered on February 3rd., 1945. One of the oldest Irish Flags was green bearing a gold harp and was used in the period of Owen Roe O'Neill, 1642. Later the same flag was adopted by the Irish Volunteers and the United Irishmen.



How an Irish Flag may be used:

The National Flag should be displayed in the open between sunrise and sunset except for the occasion of public meetings, processions, or funerals when it may be displayed for the duration of the event. It should not be used to cover a speakers desk or draped over a platform.

It should never be defaced by placing slogans, lettering or pictures of any kind. It should not be carried flat, but rather carried aloft and free. When used to drape a coffin the green should be at the head of the coffin. The flag is draped on coffins of Presidents, Soldiers and Gards Siochana personnel killed in the line of duty, or other notables accorded a state funeral.

Care should be taken it does not touch the ground, trail in water, or entangled in any obstacles.