Flag of Portugal

The Flag of Portugal (Portuguese : Bandeira de Portugal) is the national flag of the Portuguese Republic . It is a rectangular bicolour with a field unevenly divided into green on the hoist , and red on the fly . The lesser version of the national coat of arms (i.e. armillary sphere and Portuguese shield) is centred over the colour boundary at equal distance from the upper and lower edges . On June 30 , 1911 , less than a year after the downfall of the constitutional monarchy , this design was officially adopted for the new national flag , after selection by a special commission whose members included Columbano Bordalo Pinheiro , João Chagas and Abel Botelho .

The conjugation of the new field colours , especially the use of green , was not traditional in the Portuguese national flag 's composition and represented a radical republican @-@ inspired change that broke the bond with the former monarchical flag . Since a failed republican insurrection on January 31 , 1891 , red and green had been established as the colours of the Portuguese Republican Party and its associated movements , whose political prominence kept growing until it reached a culmination period following the Republican revolution of October 5 , 1910 . In the ensuing decades , these colours were popularly propagandized as representing the hope of the nation (green) and the blood (red) of those who died defending it , as a means to endow them with a more patriotic and dignified , therefore less political , sentiment . Although the flag flown from the Oporto city hall in the morning of January 31 , 1891 , symbol of the republican uprising was red and green . Totally red with a green circle in the center , to which were added the inscriptions referring to the republican center to whom it belonged - the Centro Democrático Federal 15 de Novembro.'

The current flag design represents a dramatic change in the evolution of the Portuguese standard , which had always been closely associated with the royal arms , blue and white . Since the country 's foundation , the national flag developed from the blue cross @-@ on @-@ white armorial square banner of King Afonso I to the liberal monarchy 's arms over a blue @-@ and @-@ white rectangle . In between , major changes associated with determinant political events contributed to its evolution into the current design .

Design

The decree that legally replaced the flag used under the constitutional monarchy with the new design was approved by the Constituent Assembly and published in government journal no . 141 (Portuguese : diário do Governo) , on June 19 , 1911 . On June 30 , this decree had its regulations officially published in government diary no . 150 .

Construction

The flag 's length is equal to 1 1 ? 2 times its width , which translates into an aspect ratio of 2 : 3 . The background is vertically divided into two colours : dark green on the hoist side , and scarlet red on the fly . The colour division is made in a way that green spans 2 ? 5 of the length and the remaining 3 ? 5 are filled by red (ratio 2 @-@ 3) . The lesser version of the national coat of arms (without the laurel wreaths) ? a white @-@ rimmed national shield on top of a black @-@ highlighted yellow armillary sphere ? is positioned over the border between both colours .

The armillary sphere has a diameter equal to 1 ? 2 width and is equidistant from the upper and lower edges of the flag . The sphere , drawn in perspective , possesses six edge @-@ embossed arcs , four of which are great circles and two are small circles . The great circles represent the ecliptic (wider oblique arc) , the equator , and two meridians . These last three are positioned so that the intersections between each two arcs make a right angle ; one meridian lies on the flag 's plane while the other is perpendicular to it . The small circles consist of two parallels (the tropics) , each tangent to one of the ecliptic @-@ meridian intersections .

Vertically centred over the sphere is the national shield , a white @-@ rimmed curved bottom red shield charged with a white inescutcheon . Its height and width are equal to 7 ? 10 and 6 ? 10 of the

sphere 's diameter , respectively . The shield is positioned in a way that its limits intersect the sphere :

at the inflection points of the distal edges of the Tropic of Cancer 's anterior half (top) and Tropic of Capricorn 's posterior half (bottom) ;

at the intersection of the lower edges of the ecliptic 's posterior half and of the equator 's anterior half (dexter or viewer 's left side) ; and

at the intersection of the upper edge of the ecliptic 's anterior half with the lower edge of the equator 's posterior half (sinister or viewer 's right side) .

A curious aspect of the official design is the absence of a segment of the Tropic of Capricorn , between the national shield and the ecliptic arc .

The white inescutcheon is itself charged with five smaller blue shields (escudetes) arranged like a Greek cross (1 + 3 + 1) . Each smaller shield holds five white bezants displayed in the form of a saltire (2 + 1 + 2) . The red bordure is charged with seven yellow castles : three on the chief portion (one in each corner and one in the middle) , two in the middle points of each quadrant of the curved base (rotated 45 degrees) , and two more on each side of the bordure , over the flag 's horizontal middle line . Each castle is composed by a base building , showing a closed (yellow) gate , on top of which stand three battlemented towers . In heraldic terminology , the shield 's blazon is described as Argent , five escutcheons in cross azure each charged with five plates in saltire , on a bordure gules seven towers triple @-@ turreted Or , three in chief.a

The colour tones of the flag are not accurately specified in any legal document . Approximate tones are listed below :

= = = Background = = =

The Republican revolution of October 5 , 1910 , brought a need to replace the symbols of the overthrown monarchy , represented in the first instance by the old national flag and anthem . The choice of the new flag was not one without conflict , especially over the colours , as partisans of the republican red @-@ and @-@ green faced opposition from supporters of the traditional royal blue @-@ and @-@ white . Blue also carried a strong religious meaning as it was the colour of Our Lady of the Conception (Portuguese : Nossa Senhora da Conceição) , who was crowned Queen and Patroness of Portugal by King John IV , so its removal or replacement from the future flag was justified by Republicans as one of the many measures needed to secularize the state .

After the presentation and discussion of the many proposals , a governmental commission was set up on October 15 , 1910 . It included Columbano Bordalo Pinheiro (painter) , João Chagas (journalist) , Abel Botelho (writer) and two military leaders of 1910 : Ladislau Pereira and Afonso Palla . This commission ultimately chose the red @-@ and @-@ green of the Portuguese Republican Party , delivering an explanation based on patriotic reasons , which disguised the political significance behind the choice , as these had been the colours present on the banners of the rebellious during the republican insurrection of January 31 , 1891 , in Porto , and during the monarchy @-@ overthrowing revolution , in Lisbon .

The commission considered that red should " (...) be present as one of the main colours , because it is the battling , warm , virile colour , par excellence . It is the colour of conquest and laughter . A singing , burning , joyful colour (...) Recalls the idea of blood and urges to achieve victory " . An explanation for the inclusion of the green was harder to come up with , given that it was not a traditional colour of the Portuguese flag 's history . Eventually , it was justified on the grounds that , during the 1891 insurrection , this was the colour present on the revolutionary flag that " sparked the redeeming lightning " of republicanism . Finally , white (on the shield) represented " a beautiful and fraternal colour , into which all other colours merge themselves , colour of simplicity , of harmony and peace " , adding that " (...) it is this same colour that , charged with enthusiasm and faith by the red cross of Christ , marks the Discoveries epic cycle " .

The Manueline armillary sphere , which had been present on the national flag under the reign of John VI , was revived because it consecrated the " Portuguese epic maritime history (...) the ultimate challenge , essential to our collective life . " . The Portuguese shield was kept , being

positioned over the armillary sphere . Its presence would immortalize the " human miracle of positive bravery , tenacity , diplomacy , and audacity , that managed to bind the first links of the Portuguese nation 's social and political affirmation " , since it is one of the " most vigorous symbols of the national identity and integrity " .

The new flag was produced in large numbers at the Cordoaria Nacional (English : National Rope House) and was officially presented nationwide on December 1 , 1910 , on occasion of the 270 years of the Restoration of Independence . This day had already been declared by the government as the " Flag Day " (currently not celebrated) . In the capital , it was paraded from the city hall to the Restauradores (English : Restorers) Monument , where it was hoisted . This festive presentation did not mask , however , the turmoil caused by a design chosen single @-@ handedly without prior popular consultation , and that represented more of a political regime than a whole nation . To encourage a greater acceptance of the new flag , the government issued all teaching establishments with one exemplar , whose symbols were to be explained to the students ; textbooks were changed to intensively display these symbols . Also , December 1 (" Flag Day ") , January 31 and October 5 were declared national holidays .

= = Symbolism = =

The Portuguese flag displays three important symbols : the field colours , and the armillary sphere and national shield , which make up the coat of arms .

= = = Colours = = =

The explanation for the green and red colours that make up the background field arose during the Estado Novo period , the nationalist authoritarian regime that held power from 1933 to 1974 . It claims that the green represented the hope of the Portuguese people , while the red represented the blood of those who died serving the nation . Sources believe these noble meanings are far from the truth and are nothing more than propaganda , to provide an honourable justification to their choice .

Despite the fact that these colours never constituted a major part of the national flag until 1910 , they were present in several historical banners during important periods . King John I included a green Aviz cross on the red bordure of his banner . The red cross of the Order of Christ was used over a white field as a naval pennon during the Discoveries and frequently on ship sails . A green background version was a popular standard of the rebellious during the 1640 revolution that restored Portugal 's independence from Spain . There are no registered sources to confirm that this was the origin of the republican colours . Another explanation gives full credit to the flag that was hoisted on the balcony of Porto 's city hall during the 1891 insurrection . It consisted of a red field bearing a green disc and the inscription Centro Democrático Federal « 15 de Novembro » (English : Federal Democratic Centre « 15 of November ») , representing one of many masonry @-@ inspired republican clubs . Over the following 20 years , the red @-@ and @-@ green was present on every republican item in Portugal . The 1891 flag @-@ inherited red stands for the colour of the republican @-@ inspired masonry @-@ backed revolutionaries , whereas green was the colour Auguste Comte had destined to be present in the flags of positivist nations , an ideal incorporated into the republican political matrix .

= = = Armillary sphere = = =

The armillary sphere was an important astronomical and navigational instrument for the Portuguese sailors who ventured into unknown seas during the Age of Discoveries . It was introduced by the Knights Templar , whose knowledge was essential to the Portuguese Discoveries ? Henry , the Navigator , the person mainly responsible for the development of Age of Discovery was actually the Grand Master of the Order of Christ . It thus became the symbol of the most important period of the nation ? the Portuguese discoveries . In light of this , King Manuel I , who ruled during this period , incorporated the armillary sphere into his personal banner . It was simultaneously used as the

ensign of ships plying the route between the metropolis and Brazil , thus becoming a colonial symbol and a fulcral element of the flags of the future Brazilian kingdom and empire .

Adding to the sphere 's significance was its common use on every Manueline @-@ influenced architectural work , where it is one of the major stylistic elements , as seen on the Jerónimos Monastery and Belém Tower .

= = = Portuguese shield = = =

The Portuguese shield rests over the armillary sphere . Except during the reign of Afonso I , it is present in every single historical flag , in one form or another . It is the prime Portuguese symbol as well as one of the oldest , with the first elements of today 's shield appearing during the reign of Sancho I. The evolution of the Portuguese flag is inherently associated with the evolution of the shield .

Within the white inescutcheon , the five small blue shields with their five white bezants representing the five wounds of Christ (Portuguese : Cinco Chagas) when crucified and are popularly associated with the " Miracle of Ourique " . The story associated with this miracle tells that before the Battle of Ourique (July 25 , 1139) , an old hermit appeared before Count Afonso Henriques (future Afonso I) as a divine messenger . He foretold Afonso 's victory and assured him that God was watching over him and his peers . The messenger advised him to walk away from his camp , alone , if he heard a nearby chapel bell tolling , in the following night . In doing so , he witnessed an apparition of Jesus on the cross . Ecstatic , Afonso heard Jesus promising victories for the coming battles , as well as God 's wish to act through Afonso , and his descendants , in order to create an empire which would carry his name to unknown lands , thus choosing the Portuguese to perform great tasks .

Boosted by this spiritual experience , Afonso won the battle against an outnumbering enemy . Legend has it that Afonso killed the five Moorish kings of the Seville , Badajoz , Elvas , Évora and Beja taifas , before decimating the enemy troops . Hence , in gratitude to Jesus , he incorporated five shields arranged in a cross ? representing his divine @-@ led victory over the five enemy kings ? with each one carrying Christ 's five wounds in the form of silver bezants . The sum of all bezants (doubling the ones in the central shield) would give thirty , symbolizing Judas Iscariot 's thirty pieces of silver .

However , evidence pointing out that the number of bezants on each shield was greater than five during long periods following Afonso I 's reign , as well as the fact that only in the 15th century was this legend registered on a chronicle by Fernão Lopes (1419) , support this explanation as one of pure myth and highly charged with patriotic feeling in the sense that Portugal was created by divine intervention and was destined for great things .

The seven castles are traditionally considered a symbol of the Portuguese victories over their Moorish enemies , under Afonso III , who supposedly captured seven enemy fortresses in the course of his conquest of the Algarve , concluded in 1249 . However , this explanation is weakly founded since this king did not have seven castles on his banner , but an unspecified number . Some reconstructions display about sixteen castles ; this number changed to twelve , in 1385 , and was only fixed at seven in 1485 . An hypothesis about the origin of the castles on a red bordure lies in the family ties of Afonso III with Castile (both his mother and second wife were Castilian) , whose arms consisted of a golden castle on a red field .

= = Evolution = =

Since the foundation of Portugal , the national flag was always linked to the royal arms and , up until 1640 , there was no official distinction between both . It evolved in a way that gradually incorporated most of the symbols present on the current coat of arms .

= = = 1095 ? 1248 = = =

The first heraldic symbol that can be associated with what would become the Portuguese nation

was on the shield used by Henry of Burgundy , Count of Portugal since 1095 , during his battles with the Moors . This shield consisted of a blue cross over a white field . Nevertheless , this design has no reliable sources since it is a reconstruction that became popular and widely accepted thanks to the nationalistic purposes of the Estado Novo regime .

Henry 's son Afonso Henriques succeeded him in the county and took on the same shield . In 1139 , despite being outnumbered , he defeated an army of Almoravid Moors at the Battle of Ourique and proclaimed himself Afonso I , King of Portugal , in front of his troops . Following the official recognition by the neighbouring León , Afonso changed his shield in order to reflect his new political status . Sources state he charged the cross with five sets of an unspecified number of silver bezants (most likely large @-@ headed silver nails) , one set on the centre and one on each arm , symbolizing Afonso 's newly gained right to issue currency .

During the time of Afonso I , it was typical not to repair battle damage inflicted on the shield , so changes such as the breaking off of pieces , colour shifting or stains were very common . When Sancho I succeeded his father Afonso I , in 1185 , he inherited a very worn off shield : the blue @-@ stained leather that made the cross had been lost except where the bezants (nails) held it in place . This involuntary degradation was the basis for the next step on the evolution of the national coat of arms , where a plain blue cross transformed into a compound cross of five blue bezant @-@ charged escutcheons ? the quina (Portuguese word meaning ? group of five ?) were thus born . Sancho 's personal shield (called " Portugal ancien ") consisted of a white field with a compound cross of five shields (each one charged with eleven silver bezants) with the bottom edges of the lateral ones facing towards the centre . Both Sancho 's son Afonso II and grandson Sancho II used these arms , as it was usual with direct succession lines (cadency system) . A new modification of the royal arms was made when Sancho II 's younger brother became king , in 1248 .

= = = 1248 ? 1495 = = =

Afonso III of Portugal was not the eldest son , therefore heraldic practices stated he should not take his father 's arms without adding a personal variation . Before becoming king , Afonso was married to Matilda II of Boulogne but her inability to provide him with a royal heir led Afonso to divorce her , in 1253 . He then married Beatrice of Castile , an illegitimate daughter of Alfonso X of Castile . It is more likely that it was this family connection with Castile (his mother was also Castilian) that justified the new heraldic addition to the royal arms ? a red bordure charged with an undetermined number of yellow castles ? rather than the definitive conquest of the Algarve and its Moorish fortresses , considering that the number of castles was only fixed in the late 16th century .

The inner portion contained the arms of Sancho I , although the number of bezants varied between seven , eleven and sixteen (the latter number was used on Afonso 's personal standard while he was still Count of Boulogne) . This same design was used by the Portuguese kings until the end of the first dynasty , in 1383 ; a succession crisis put the country at war with Castile and left it without a ruler for two years .

In 1385 , in the wake of the Battle of Aljubarrota , a second dynasty was founded when John , Master of the Order of Aviz and illegitimate son of King Peter I , acceded to the throne as John I. To his personal banner , John I added his Order 's fleur @-@ de @-@ lys cross , displayed as green flowery points on the red bordure ; this inclusion reduced the number of castles to twelve (three around each corner) . The number of bezants in each escutcheon was reduced from eleven to seven . This banner lasted a hundred years until John I 's great @-@ grandson John II restyled it , in 1485 , introducing important changes : the removal of the Aviz cross , a downward arrangement and edge @-@ smoothing of the shields , and the definitive fixing of five saltire @-@ arranged bezants in each shield (summing up six quinas , i.e. , six ? groups of five ? : one quina of shields and five quinas of bezants) and seven castles on the bordure (as it is currently) . John II 's banner was the last armorial square banner used as the " national " flag or standard . Following his death , in 1495 , radical changes were made by his successor .

= = = 1495 ? 1667 = = =

John II was succeeded by his first cousin Manuel I , in 1495 . This king was the first to convert the traditional square armorial banner into a rectangular (2 : 3) field with the coat of arms on its centre . Specifically , the flag was now a white rectangle centrally charged with the coat of arms (bearing eleven castles) on an ogival or heater @-@ shaped shield and surmounted by an open royal crown . This flag was used exclusively as the kingdom 's banner since Manuel I possessed a personal standard which included the armillary sphere for the first time .

In 1578 , during the reign of Sebastian and on the eve of the fatal Battle of Alcácer Quibir , the flag was again modified . The number of castles was permanently fixed at seven and the royal crown was converted into a closed three @-@ arched crown , which symbolized a stronger royal authority . With Sebastião 's death and the short @-@ lived reign of his great @-@ uncle Cardinal Henry , in 1580 , a dynastic crisis was solved with the Spanish king Philip II acceding to the Portuguese throne as Philip I , installing a Spanish dynasty . The accession was made on the condition that Portugal was ruled as a separate , autonomous state , not as a province . This was fulfilled as Portugal and Spain formed a personal union under Philip I and his successors . A consequence of this administrative situation was the maintenance of the flag created under Sebastian 's reign as the Portuguese national flag , while Spain had its own . As the ruling house in Portugal , the Habsburg banner also included the Portuguese arms .

The country regained its independence from Spain , in 1640 , in a coup d 'état that placed on the throne John , Duke of Bragança , as King John IV . Under his rule , the national flag was slightly changed as the ogival shield became rounded . It was from this reign forward that the royal arms and the kingdom 's arms became separate banners .

= = = 1667 ? 1830 = = =

When Afonso VI 's younger brother Peter II replaced him on the throne , in 1667 , he adapted the flag 's crown to fit the contemporary trends by transforming it into a five @-@ arched crown . The new flag did not remain unchanged for too long , as it was refurbished by Peter 's son John V , after he took the throne , in 1707 . Heavily influenced by the luxurious and ostentatious court of the French king Louis XIV , and by France 's political and cultural impact in Europe , John V wanted to transpose such style into the country 's coat of arms . A red beret was then added under the crown . Besides the change of the crown , the shields started to be represented , on the flags , not only in the traditional round bottom shape (" Iberian type ") , but also in other formats like the samnitic (" French type ") , the horsehead (" Italian type ") or the oval (" cartouche ") shapes . Instated by an absolute monarch like John V , this flag endured through almost the entire absolutist period in Portugal ? John V (1707 ? 1750) , Joseph I (1750 ? 1777) and Maria I (1777 ? 1816) .

During the second half of the 17th century , the maritime use of the white flag with the Royal coat of arms of Portugal was increasingly restricted to the war ships . An ordinance of 1692 expressly banned the use of this flag by the Portuguese merchant ships , restricting its use to ships with 20 or more cannons and with a complement of 40 or more men . The Portuguese merchant ships flew instead green and white striped flags , which were the national colours of Portugal at that time . The colours green and white were also used in other Portuguese flags , like the naval commissioning pennants .

With the invasion of Portugal by Napoleon 's imperial army in 1807 , the Portuguese Royal Court fled to Brazil , establishing the capital of the Portuguese Monarchy and Empire in Rio de Janeiro . In 1815 , the Portuguese state of Brazil was elevated to a kingdom , thus receiving the same status as the Kingdom of Portugal and the Algarves . The whole of the Portuguese Monarchy became then the United Kingdom of Portugal , Brazil and the Algarves . To reflect the change of the status of the Portuguese Monarchy , the Prince Regent John (future King John VI , at that time still reigning in name of his mother , Queen Mary I) established a new Royal coat of arms , where the Portuguese shield (representing Portugal and the Algarves) charged a blue @-@ filled yellow armillary sphere (representing Brazil) surmounted by the same beret @-@ bearing five @-@ arched crown . The new coat of arms replaced the previous one in the Portuguese flags .

Despite the United Kingdom of Portugal , Brazil and the Algarves ceased to exist in 1822 , when Brazil became independent , its coat of arms continued to be used , inclusive in flags , until the death of John VI in 1826 . From then on , the previous coat of arms , without the armillary sphere , became in use again .

= = = 1830 ? 1910 = = =

John VI died in Lisbon in 1826 . His elder son Peter , who had declared the independence of Brazil in 1822 , becoming Emperor Peter I , succeeded to the Portuguese throne as Peter IV . Because the new Brazilian constitution did not allow further personal unions of Portugal and Brazil , Peter abdicated the Portuguese crown in favour of his elder daughter Maria da Glória , who became Maria II of Portugal . She was only seven years old , so Peter stated she would marry his brother Miguel who would act as regent . However , in 1828 , Miguel deposed Maria and proclaimed himself king , abolishing the 1822 liberal constitution and ruling as an absolute monarch . This started the period of the Liberal Wars .

The liberals formed a separate government exiled on the Azorean island of Terceira . This government issued two decrees establishing modifications to the national flag . While supporters of usurper King Miguel I still upheld the flag established by John VI , the liberal supporters imposed important changes on it . The background was equally divided along its length into blue (hoist) and white (fly) ; the armillary sphere (associated with Brazil) was removed and the coat of arms was centred over the colour boundary ; and the shield reverted to the " French type " shape of John V. This new flag configuration was decreed solely for terrestrial use , but a variation of it was used as the national ensign . This ensign differed in the way the colours occupied the background (blue 1 ? 3 , white 2 ? 3) with a consequent positional shift of the arms .

With the defeat and exile of Miguel in 1834 , Queen Maria II returned to the throne and the standard of the victorious side was hoisted in Lisbon as the new national flag . It would survive for 80 years , witnessing the last period of the Portuguese monarchy until its abolition , in 1910 . Currently this flag is used by Portuguese monarchists .

= = Flag protocol = =

= = = Use = = =

The Portuguese legislation concerning the use of the National Flag is mostly limited to the Decree @-@ law 150 / 87 , issued in 30 March 1987 , which replaced the previous scarce legislation dated back to the beginning of the 20th century .

The Decree @-@ law 150 / 87 states that the flag is to be hoisted from 9 : 00 a.m. to sunset (during the night , it must be properly lit) , on Sundays and national holidays , throughout the entire national territory . It can also be displayed on days where official ceremonies or other solemn public sessions are held ; in this case , the flag is hoisted on @-@ site . The flag can be hoisted in other days if it is considered appropriate by the central government , or by other regional or local governing bodies , or by heads of private institutions . It must follow the official design standard and be preserved in good condition .

On the headquarters buildings of the bodies of sovereignty , the flag can stay hoisted on a daily basis . It can also be hoisted on civilian and military national monuments ; on public buildings associated with the central , regional or local administration ; and on headquarters of public corporations and institutions . Citizens and private institutions can also display it , on the condition that they respect the relevant legal procedures . In the facilities of nationally @-@ based international organizations or in the case of international meetings , the flag is hoisted according to the protocol used on those situations .

If national mourning is declared , the flag will be flown at half @-@ staff during the fixed amount of days ; any flag hoisted along with it will be flown in the same manner .

When unfurled in the presence of other flags , the national flag must not have smaller dimensions and must be situated in a prominent , honourable place , according to the relevant protocol .

If there are more than one flagpole , the National Flag should be flown :

Two flagpoles ? in the right pole viewed by a person facing the exterior ;

Three flagpoles ? in the central pole ;

More than three flagpoles :

Within a building ? if odd number of poles , in the central pole ; if even number , in the first pole on the right of the central point ;

Outside a building ? always in the rightmost pole ;

If the flagpoles have not the same height , the flag must be flown in the highest pole . The poles should be placed in honourable locations of the ground , building façades and roofs . On public acts where the flag is not hoisted , it can be suspended from a distinct spot , but never used as decoration , covering or for any purpose that can diminish its dignity .

= = = Penalties = = =

An early decree , from December 28 , 1910 , established that " any person who , through speech , published writings or any other public act , shows lack of respect to the national flag , which is the motherland 's symbol , will be sentenced to a three to twelve @-@ month prison term with corresponding fine and , in case of relapse , will be sentenced to exile , as stated in the 62nd article of the Penal Code " . In its 332nd article , the current penal code punishes infractions with a prison sentence of up to two years . If the sentence is shorter than 240 days , there is a formula for converting it into a fine . If the offense is directed towards regional symbols , the penalties are halved .

= = = Folding = = =

During formal occasions , four people are required to properly fold the flag , where each person holds one of the sides . A correctly folded flag must be a square limiting the national shield . However , the order by which the different folding steps are performed to achieve this result is not legislated .

The procedure begins with the flag fully extended and held in a horizontal plane with the obverse facing down . One of the possible folding sequences is demonstrated below :

= = Military flags = =

The National Flag of Portugal also serves as war flag and ensign , so being flown on military facilities and naval ships . There are however specific national military flags for specific uses , namely the military colors , the naval jack and the naval pennant . The military colors are occasionally referred as war flag , however they are not to be flown on military facilities but are only to be carried by the military units on parades .

= = = National colours = = =

The national colours constitute the variants of the National Flag for use on parades by the military units . Originally , the colours were referred as " regimental flags " or " military units flags " , but now they are referred as " national standards " (estandartes nacionais) . The colours are always carried in parade by a junior officer , escorted by a colour guard .

The standard model of the colours - also adopted in 1911 - is a rectangular flag measuring 1 @.@ 20 metres (3 @.@ 94 ft) in width and 1 @.@ 30 metres (4 @.@ 26 ft) in length (ratio 12 : 13) . Green and red are positioned at the hoist and fly , respectively , but occupy the field in an equal manner (1 ? 1) . Centred over the colour boundary lie the armillary sphere and Portuguese shield , surrounded by two yellow laurel branches intersecting at their stems . These are bound by a white

stripe bearing the verse by Luís de Camões " Esta é a ditosa pátria minha amada " (English : " This is my beloved fortunate motherland ") as the motto . This differs from the version of coat of arms employed as emblem , where the laurel shoots are tied by a green and red stripe without the verse . The sphere 's outer diameter is ? of the width and lies 35 centimetres (14 in) from the upper edge and 45 centimetres (18 in) from the lower edge .

Although the 1911 regulation is , theoretically , still in force , the various branches of the Armed Forces made specific changes to it and so , several types of colours are used by the different military units . For example , the colours adopted by the Portuguese Army , in 1979 , measures just 0 @.@ 80 m (4 @.@ 26 ft) by 0 @.@ 80 m .

= = = Naval jack = = =

The Portuguese naval jack (jaco or jaque) is only hoisted at the prow of docked or anchored Navy ships , from sunrise to sunset . The national flag is permanently hoisted at the stern , when sailing , and from sunrise to sunset , when docked . It is a square flag (ratio 1 : 1) bearing a green @-@ bordered red field with the minor coat of arms on the centre . The width of the green border and the diameter of the armillary sphere are equal to 1 / 8 and 3 / 7 of the side 's dimension , respectively .

= = = Commissioning pennant = = =

The Portuguese commissioning pennant (flâmula) is a long triangular flag , green on the hoist and red on the fly . It is to be flown on the main mast of the naval ships commanded by officers .

= = Government flags = =

Highly ranked state and governmental offices are also represented by their own flag . The President of the Republic (Portuguese : Presidente da República) uses a flag largely similar to the national flag , except for having dark green as the only background colour . It is usually hoisted at the President 's official residence , the Palace of Belém , as well as on the presidential car , as small @-@ sized flags . The flag of the Prime @-@ Minister is a white rectangle (ratio 2 : 3) with a dark green saltire , holding the lesser coat of arms on its centre , and a red bordure charged with a pattern of yellow laurel leaves . Other ministerial flags do not possess the red bordure . The flag of the Assembly of the Republic (Portuguese : Assembleia da República) , the national parliament , is also a white rectangle (ratio 2 : 3) with the lesser coat of arms in the centre and a dark green bordure .