



Scottish Culture and History

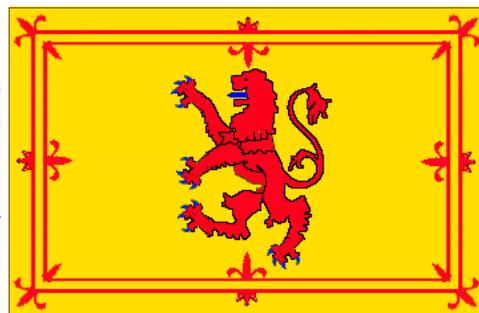


Scottish Heraldic and National Flags — Court of the Lord Lyon

All heraldic flags on Scotland come under the legal jurisdiction of the Lord Lyon King of Arms, in terms of the Act of Parliament 1672 cap. 47 and under 30 and 31 Vict. cap. 17. The Lord Lyon's regulations governing the display of heraldic flags in Scotland, and in particular the Rampant Lion, are now broadly as indicated below.

The "Rampant Lion"

This is **NOT** a national flag and its use by citizens and corporate bodies is entirely wrong. It is the Scottish Royal banner, and its correct use is restricted to only a few Great Officers who officially represent the Sovereign, including the Secretary of State for Scotland as Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland, Lord Lieutenants in their Lieutenancies, the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Lord Lyon King of Arms and other lieutenants specially appointed. Its use by other, non-authorized persons is an offence under the Acts 1672 cap. 47 and 30 and 31 Vict. Cap. 17.



The Saltire

The flag of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland. Blue with a white or silver diagonal cross reaching to its edges, this is the correct flag for all Scots or Scottish corporate bodies to fly to demonstrate their loyalty and their Scottish nationality.

Its proportions are not fixed, but 5:4 is suitable.

It is correct both to fly it with or instead of the Union flag. If both are flown they must be on separate poles.

Pipe Banners

These are banners of personal arms but cut slanted at the top to fit against the big drone and hang down the piper's back.

They are used by most Chiefs and Lairds who have personal pipers, and by the Highland regiments whose company commanders' pipe banners are displayed on the regiment's pipes. The correct usage is for the arms to fill the entire banner to its edges. The Pipe Majors of local government or works pipe bands may display their appropriate pipe banner of the corporation or company's arms. A pipe banner should be 30 centimetres wide and the short side should be 45 centimetres long.

Further Information

Doubts and questions of exact detail should be referred to the Court of the Lord Lyon, HM New Register House, Edinburgh, EH1 3YT, telephone 0131 556 7255.