Recommended light signals for standing starts in circuit events

The following procedures, based on the "Race weekend light procedures" of the Formula 1 World Championship, are referred to as an example in Article 4.3.1 of Appendix H to the International Sporting Code, for use in events where the starting light installation permits them. Any other starting procedures used should not be in contradiction with them (i.e. use of a same light combination with a different signification). In all cases, the start procedure must be clearly described in the Supplementary Regulations of the event.

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Three minutes to the start of the formation lap

One more pair of red start lights is extinguished and the horn is activated.

One minute to the start of the formation lap

One more pair of red start lights is extinguished and the horn is activated.

Fifteen seconds to the start of the formation lap

One more pair of red start lights is extinguished and the horn is activated.

Start of the formation lap

One more pair of red start lights is extinguished and the green start lights are illuminated.

Thirty seconds into the formation lap

All the green start lights are extinguished.



When all the cars are in position on the grid

The five second signal will be given by illuminating one pair of red start lights.

Four Seconds

One more pair of red start lights is illuminated.

Three seconds

One more pair of red start lights is illuminated.

Two seconds

One more pair of red start lights is illuminated.

One second

One more pair of red start lights is illuminated and the cars are considered "under starter's orders".





The start

After a preset delay of between 0.2 and 3.0 seconds, the race is started by all the red start lights being extinguished. After all the cars have passed the pit exit the red pit exit lights are replaced by green, this is the signal for cars starting from the pit lane to join the race.

During the race

If a car on the track is approaching the pit lane exit the pit exit lights will flash blue to warn drivers leaving the pits.



Start abort procedure one

If the procedure has to be aborted before the start of the formation lap.



Start abort procedure two

If the procedure has to be aborted after the start of the formation lap and before the start signal is given.

Start delay before the race start signal is given

If the start needs to be delayed before the race start signal is given the orange start lights will flash and, if the five second signal has already been given, the countdown lights will freeze in their current state.

All start lights will be extinguished when the restart time is confirmed.

Under normal circumstances there will be a five minute delay if this procedure is followed.







The red start lights will be illuminated and the orange start lights will flash. At this time the green pit exit lights will also be illuminated.

When the race restart time is confirmed

All the start lights will be extinguished. The pit exit lights will stay green for ten minutes from the moment the race abort signal was given.

Ten minutes after the abort signal was given

The red start lights are illuminated, this will normally be the ten minute signal and the lights will flash twice. The red pit exit lights will also be illuminated and the horn is activated, the pit lane is now closed.

If for any reason the stoppage needs to be longer than twenty minutes, the red start lights will not flash at this time.

Three minutes to the start of the new formation lap

Two sets of red start lights are extinguished, the horn is activated and the normal start procedure is resumed.



