# Eurovision 2025 tightens flag rules to restrict political displays by artists



As preparations intensify for Eurovision 2025, organisers have introduced new and more stringent rules concerning the display of flags by participating artists, aiming to regulate political and social expressions within the contest. The latest regulations stipulate that only the official national flag of the country represented by the artist may be displayed during performances and at official Eurovision-related events.

This policy marks a tightening from previous years, particularly in response to incidents at Eurovision 2024 in Switzerland. Reports indicate that several spectators had their Pride flags confiscated upon entering the venue, while Swiss winner Nemo revealed they had to smuggle a nonbinary flag to exhibit it during the opening ceremony. These events prompted contest organisers to clarify and enforce stricter guidelines for flag displays.

Under the new rules, artists are prohibited from showing any flags apart from their nation’s official symbol — this includes Pride flags, Palestinian flags, or other banners bearing political or social messages. This ban applies to all areas associated with the contest, including on-stage performances, the Green Room, Eurovision Village, and during the widely viewed opening ceremony. During the traditional flag parade, each participating artist will be handed a single official flag by the Swiss broadcaster SRG SSR, with no exceptions permitted.

In contrast, members of the audience retain broader freedom to bring flags of their choice, provided these do not infringe Swiss law. This means that flags which were restricted in the previous year, such as Pride flags and the Palestinian flag, are now allowed for spectators. However, any flags containing hate symbols, calls for violence, or links to terrorist groups are strictly forbidden by law and may result in removal from the venue without refund.

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU), organiser of the contest, has emphasised that these regulations seek to balance artists’ freedom of expression with clear and consistent guidelines to prevent disruptions. While the organisation has not specified the precise penalties for artists who violate the rules, it has warned that serious consequences will follow breaches.

Flag-related controversies have a notable history in Eurovision. In 2016, Armenia received a warning after its representative waved the flag of the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region. In 2019, the Icelandic band Hatari caused controversy during the voting ceremony in Tel Aviv by displaying a Palestinian scarf, leading to a fine imposed on Iceland’s broadcaster. Even in 2000, Israeli group Ping Pong sparked debate by waving both Israeli and Syrian flags on stage in an attempt to promote peace, an act condemned by their national broadcaster.

As Eurovision 2025 approaches, these updated guidelines are already shaping the atmosphere of the contest, reflecting the organisers’ intent to maintain a politically neutral and celebratory environment. The website Eurovisionfun.com will continue to provide comprehensive coverage of developments as the event unfolds in Switzerland next year.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://escxtra.com/2025/04/25/updated-eurovision-flag-policy-more-freedom-for-the-audience-less-for-the-artists/> - This article explains the updated Eurovision flag policy for 2025, highlighting more freedom for the audience to display flags while restricting artists to only their national flags. It discusses how the new policy contrasts with previous years, allowing spectators to bring various flags as long as they do not violate Swiss law.
2. <https://eurovisionfun.com/en/2025/04/eurovision-2025-green-light-for-palestinian-flag-in-the-audience-pride-flags-banned-for-artists/> - This article confirms that artists are limited to their national flags while spectators can display a range of flags, including the Palestinian flag, as long as they comply with legal requirements.
3. <https://escbubble.com/2025/04/the-flag-of-palestine-will-be-allowed-in-the-audience-at-eurovision-2025/> - This source further supports that spectators can wave flags like the Palestinian flag, in contrast to artists who are restricted to their country's official flag.
4. <https://www.instagram.com/p/DI3oSLAoING/> - This post clarifies the EBU's stance on flag policy, emphasizing that artists in the Green Room are only allowed to display their national flags.
5. <https://www.jfeed.com/news/plo-flag-eurovision-new-rules> - The article discusses how Eurovision 2025 allows audience members to bring flags that do not violate Swiss law, reflecting a shift towards greater freedom of expression for spectators while maintaining stricter rules for artists.
6. <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMizgFBVV95cUxOWVBEa2NhakRLVU9uMVB4OUs2QzR2OWNIamxVVXpsczU3NEkyRVZ6clVpd2pCYlUyMTBtR2pJZVMxSUNPdlFsMVJBaHFNTGcxRDQ4bHNRQmxZMmNRZkJseDJsSHQxWGJRZlQ5bzdfalYzVVhLS3A4ZHdQbkRUb01rT1Q2YzY2TnFhOXFoc0RDWEtpbS1ZNERIamlWeDNaNDZmSkE2ZkZ1ZVlMeDk5T01kN0FQTGVyQllEcXkwdWlSYzBqSXRuZTVYejNSU1J2UQ?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data