

ABU DHABI AUTONOMOUS RACING LEAGUE SIM SPRINT – YAS MARINA FULL GP 2026

Race 1 – Flag Deceleration Standard – Sporting Bulletin 2026/14

Subject: Clarification – Required Deceleration Rate Under Speed-Reduction Flags

The Sporting Committee has been made aware of an inconsistency between the Sporting Regulations (v1.8) and the Flag Document (v1.9 draft) regarding the required deceleration rate when a Race Car receives a flag requiring a speed reduction. This bulletin provides the definitive clarification and supersedes any conflicting language in either document. It is effective immediately and applies to the Race 1 Grand Final and all subsequent sessions.

1. Background

- During the Race 1 Grand Final, an incident arose under a Code 60 flag in which two cars applied materially different deceleration rates. One car decelerated at 7 m/s^2 (fixed) while the other applied approximately 15 m/s^2 . The speed differential caused a near-collision, which was subsequently resolved by Race Control via a drive-through instruction on the following lap.
- The root cause was identified as a conflict between the current Sporting Regulations (v1.8), which specify a “minimum” deceleration of 7 m/s^2 , and the draft Flag Document (v1.9), which specifies a “fixed” deceleration of 7 m/s^2 . This ambiguity created the conditions for inconsistent behaviour between teams.

2. Clarification – Required Deceleration Rate

- The required deceleration rate when responding to any flag that mandates a speed reduction is fixed at 7 m/s^2 . This is a fixed value, not a minimum. Teams must not apply a higher deceleration rate in response to these flags.
- This standard applies to the following flags: Full Course Yellow (FCY), Code 60, Red Flag, Chequered Flag, and Sector Yellow (where applicable).
- The purpose of a fixed deceleration standard is to ensure predictable and consistent behaviour across all Race Cars, reducing the risk of rear-end collisions caused by speed differential when flags are received simultaneously by multiple cars.

3. Affected Flags & Required Response

- Full Course Yellow (FCY):** Upon receiving FCY, Race Cars must immediately reduce speed by exactly 7 m/s^2 to achieve the mandated 80 km/h speed limit. Deceleration in excess of 7 m/s^2 is not permitted.
- Code 60:** Upon receiving the Code 60 flag, Race Cars must immediately reduce speed by exactly 7 m/s^2 to achieve 60 km/h . Deceleration in excess of 7 m/s^2 is not permitted.
- Red Flag:** Upon receiving the Red Flag, Race Cars must execute an immediate and safe stop using the HLStopRequest deceleration profile. The 7 m/s^2 fixed rate applies to the initial deceleration phase.

- **Chequered Flag:** Upon crossing the finish line under Chequered Flag, Race Cars must reduce speed to 130 km/h by exactly 7 m/s². Deceleration in excess of 7 m/s² is not permitted.
- **Sector Yellow:** Where a Sector Yellow is in force, Race Cars entering the affected sector must reduce speed by exactly 7 m/s² to achieve the sector speed limit communicated by Race Control.

4. Teams' Obligations

- All teams are required to update their autonomous stacks to apply a fixed deceleration of exactly 7 m/s² in response to the above flags before the next official session.
- Any Race Car that applies a deceleration rate materially in excess of 7 m/s² in response to a speed-reduction flag, and in doing so creates a hazard for following cars or gains a positional advantage, may be reported to the Stewards and penalised in accordance with Article 18 of the Sporting Regulations.
- Questions or requests for clarification must be submitted to Race Control via Slack.

5. Note for Sporting Regulations v1.9

- **Art. 15.2 (Red Flag):** Update deceleration language from “minimum of 7 m/s²” to “fixed at 7 m/s²”.
- **Art. 15.3 (Full Course Yellow):** Update deceleration language from “minimum of 7 m/s²” to “fixed at 7 m/s²”.
- **Art. 15.6 (Chequered Flag):** Update deceleration language from “minimum of 7 m/s²” to “fixed at 7 m/s²”.
- **Art. 15.7 (Code 60):** Update deceleration language from “minimum of 7 m/s²” to “fixed at 7 m/s²”.
- **Flag Document:** Ensure all flag protocol entries reference the fixed 7 m/s² standard consistently and cross-reference the relevant Sporting Regulations articles.
- **General:** A note to be added to the opening section of the Flag Document confirming that the Sporting Regulations take precedence in all cases where a conflict exists, pending publication of v1.9.