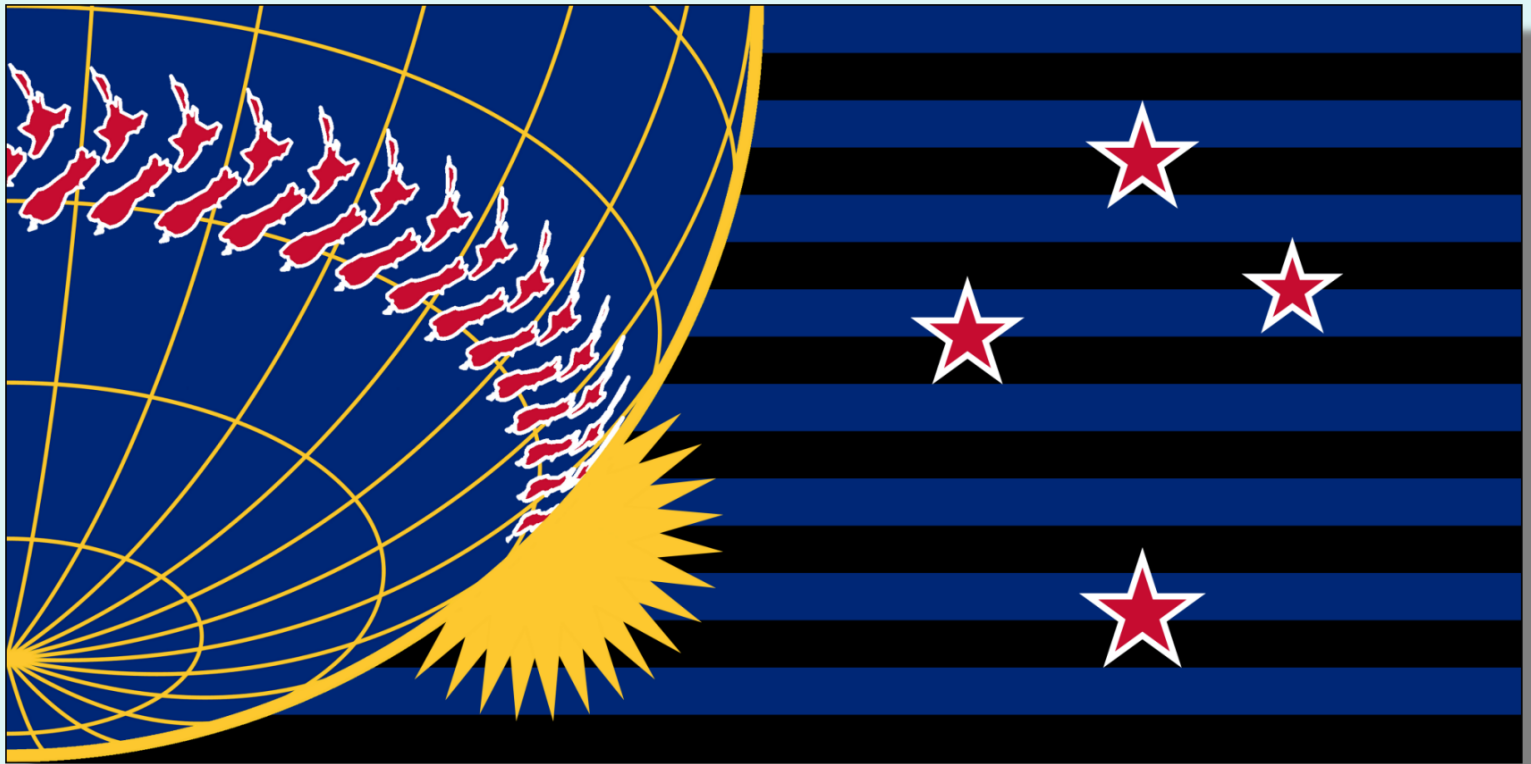


“First to the Light variant 12”, an alternative New Zealand national flag design
 (with suggested adaptations of the design to the other major flags and ensigns of the nation)



Army



Navy ships



Air Force



RSA



Government ships



Civil & merchant ships



Civil aviation



Yacht Squadron



Police Service



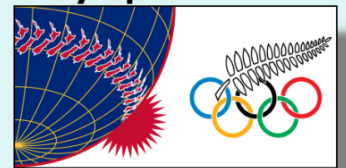
Fire & Emergency



Customs Service



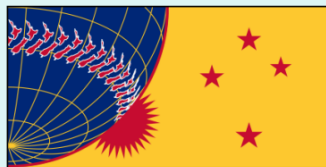
NZ Olympic Committee



Tokelau



Niue



Cook Islands



Ross Dependency



Auckland



Wellington



Christchurch



United Nations



See [this flag waving](#). See [it in all wind conditions](#). See many more alternative New Zealand flag designs at newzealand.flagoptions.com

Essentially the features of this flag design are identical to that of “[First to the Light variant 11B](#)”, particularly in the ways in which they can be adapted to all of the other flags and ensigns of New Zealand, as illustrated above. Where this design differs is in its rendering of the stars of the Southern Cross, which in this case have been given their traditional red-and-white colouring, as well as in its choice of a background field, which in this case has been given sixteen blue-and-black stripes, to symbolise all of New Zealand’s official regions. As with all variants of the basic ‘First to the Light’ design, this version is a visual allegory of the well-known expression, ‘New Zealand is first to the light’, which derives from the fact that New Zealand’s longitudinal position, just west of the International Date Line, means that it is often the first major nation to reach the start of each new Greenwich Meantime day. The curving sequence of New Zealand’s geographical outlines, ‘arrowing’ eastwards towards the sun, not only serves the allegory but places several of the outlines in the flag’s ‘sweet spot’ at the upper-left of the canton, ensuring that the flag will be easily recognisable, even when it is draped in little or no wind.