Semaphore

The Semaphore flag signalling system is an alphabet signalling system based on the waving of a pair of hand-held flags in a particular pattern. The flags are held, arms extended, in various positions representing each of the letters of the alphabet.
The signals which have alternate numeric meanings, i.e. A-K only have those alternate meanings after a "Numerals Follow" signal has been sent and will continue to have those meanings until a "Letters Follow" (i.e. J) signal is sent, when they revert to being the letters A- K. Ideally, semaphore flags should be approximately 30cm x 30cm. Generally they are red and yellow for signalling between two ships at sea and blue and white for signalling to and from land.

Image and text from scoutingresources.co.uk