

# Frisian flag Emoji Submission

July 8, 2018

**To:** Unicode Consortium  
**From:** Anna Smit(anna.smit@hotmail.nl) and Ydwine Scarse  
**Date:** May 30, 2018

## 1 Introduction

Frisian is the second official language of the Netherlands. Frisian stems from the Germanic language and is historically closely related to English, rather than Dutch or German. The Frisian in the Netherlands is also referred to as West-Frisian, next to Sater Frisian and North Frisian in Germany. Frisian has around 350.000–500.000 speakers,<sup>1</sup> of whom most live in the province of Fryslân. It is an actively used language in this bilingual province. The language here is used in the government, court, media, education, literature, work, etc. For example, the Frisian radio- and television station "Omrop Fryslân" broadcasts television and radio 24/7. Moreover, Frisian has an online presence as Frisian versions are available for Google Translate, Wikipedia, and Facebook. What is more, a Frisian Swiftkey can be downloaded for smart-phones and the minority language is actively used in social media.

---

<sup>1</sup>Lewis, *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*.

## 2 Images

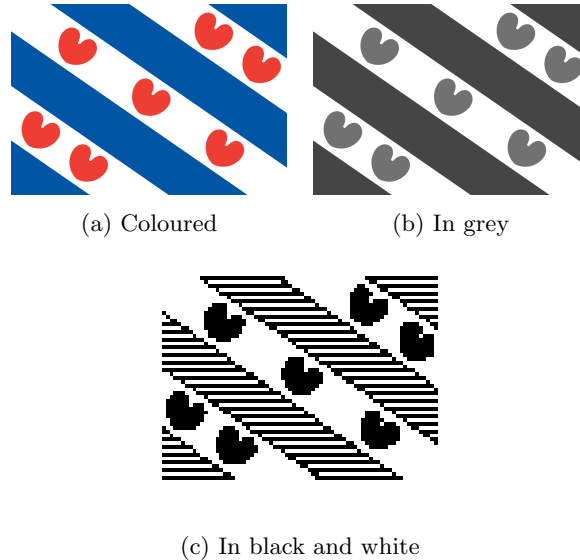


Figure 1: The flag for Friesland

### 2.1 License

The flag is not copyrighted. It is added by many Frisian associations and companies in the logo. In view of Dutch legislation this image is regarded as being in the public domain, as are reproductions of this flag.

## 3 Selection factors — Inclusion

### A Expected usage level

#### 1 Frequency

Frisian has around 350.000–500.000 speakers,<sup>2</sup> of whom most live in the province of Fryslân. The percentage of people that can understand the Frisian language in Fryslân is above 90% and the percentage of people that can speak the Frisian language in Fryslân is above 70%.<sup>3</sup>

There has been some research for the usage of the Frisian language in Social Media in Fryslân.<sup>4</sup> The research concludes that the percentage

<sup>2</sup>Lewis, *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*.

<sup>3</sup>*De fryske taalatlas 2015*, <https://friesland.databank.nl/report/Taalatlas2015Nederlands.pdf> (visited: 2018-05-31).

<sup>4</sup>Jongbloed-Faber and Woodfield, “Social media: A treasure trove for minority language research”.

of Frisian people that always uses the Frisian Language on Whatsapp is around 20% and the percentage that uses it often is around 60%.

**2 Use in sequences**

The Frisian flag emoji has no extra meaning in sequence with other emoji's.

**3 Breaking new ground**

It does not break any new ground.

**B Image distinctiveness**

The new image is distinctive with other flag around the world. Especially since it uses the seven red "Pompeblêden". These are not a reference to the heart, however to the shape of a lily pad.

**C Completeness**

It does not fill a gap in the existing types of emoji.

**D Frequently requested**

It is not officially frequently requested, however there are multiple news outlets on the internet that have requested that they should have their own emoji flag.

## 4 Selection factors — Exclusion

**A Overly specific**

It is not overly specific.

**B Open-ended**

The flag is not open ended.

**C Already representable**

It can not be represented by something else.

**D Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities**

There is a company called Campina, which has the product "Friesche vlag", that is translated to Frisian Flag in the old Dutch language that was spoken in the dark ages. It is one of the oldest dairy product producers in The Netherlands and uses the flag for promotion on their products. However most Dutch citizens would not immediately relate the flag with this dairy product producer.

**E Exact Images**

The image does not have to be exact in width or height. However the flag is comprised of seven red "pompeblêden" and 7 thick diagonal lines from the left to right. The location of the "pompeblêden" should be at the exact locations that are given in the image.

## 5 Location

The flag sequence could be added as a sequence of:

U+1F3F4	Waving blag flag
U+E006E	Tag Latin Small Letter N
U+E006C	Tag Latin Small Letter L
U+E0066	Tag Latin Small Letter F
U+E0072	Tag Latin Small Letter R
U+E007F	Cancel Tag

Table 1: Emoji location