

Framework Rule 50 – Athlete Consultation

Background

In 2019, the IOC Athletes' Commission (AC) consulted with the global athlete community while drafting the [Rule 50 Guidelines](#), which were then published in January 2020. These guidelines are intended to provide clarity on the existing opportunities athletes have to express their views at the Olympic Games, and where it is not appropriate to do so.

The opportunities that already exist during the Olympic Games include: mixed zones at the Olympic venues; press conferences and interviews; and traditional and digital media or other platforms. The expression of views in these spaces should still be respectful and in line with the Olympic values.

In June 2020 the IOC Executive Board (EB) published a resolution against discrimination in which the EB supported the proposal from the IOC AC to lead a consultation with athletes on athlete protests and non-discrimination.

Supporting the freedom of expression

The athlete consultation is intended to gather feedback on the current guidelines in light of the developments of the past few months, and follows the EB resolution with regard to racism and inclusion, [published on 10 June](#), which offers full support to the IOC AC in leading this process.

The IOC AC and the IOC are fully supportive of freedom of expression. This is highlighted in the [Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration](#), where the first right is to "Practise sport and compete without being subject to discrimination on the basis of race, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other immutable status."

The Athletes' Declaration [Steering Committee](#), which consists of 19 members from across the Olympic Movement (only two members of the Committee are IOC AC members), met recently to discuss this topic, and we are happy that they will support us with the athlete consultation.

Objective and responsibilities

The overall objective is for the IOC AC to consult with the athlete community and explore additional ways of how Olympic athletes can express their support for the principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter, including at the time of the Olympic Games, and respecting the Olympic spirit.

The final proposal will be submitted to the EB by the IOC AC.

Led by: the IOC Athletes' Commission

Supported by: the Athletes' Declaration Steering Committee, the International Federations', Continental Associations' and NOCs' athletes' commissions.

The key actions include:

- Engage with athletes and athlete representatives across the Olympic Movement through various means
- Consolidate and review the feedback from the global network of athlete representatives
- Develop survey questions that will form part of the consultation with athletes globally
- Submit a proposal to the IOC EB concerning ideas resulting from the consultation.

Draft Timelines and Deliverables:

- July – October: Ongoing engagement with athletes' commissions globally
- September: Launch of qualitative consultation with athletes and athletes' commissions
- October: Launch of a mixed quantitative and qualitative online survey with the global athlete community
- November: Survey analysis and further discussion through the global network of athletes' commissions
- December: First report to the IOC EB
- Q1 2021: Finalisation of the recommendation

(All timings are subject to change)