



中国奥林匹克委员会
CHINESE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

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31 December 2020

Ms. Kirsty Coventry

Chair of IOC Athletes' Commission

Dear Kirsty,

I hope this letter finds you well.

Upon the call of the IOC and IOC AC, the COC AC has, in collaboration with the Olympic sports NFs of China, encouraged the Chinese Olympians and Olympic hopefuls to take part in the *Olympic Charter* Rule 50 Consultation. By 31 December 2020, 429 Olympians and elite athletes from most Olympic sports signed up for the Athletes365 platform and filled in the survey questions. The respondents represent a good balance of summer and winter Olympic sports, active and retired, men and women athletes. (See attached the number of participating athletes from different sports) To further understand athletes' perspectives, the COC AC and relevant NFs also conducted individual interviews in-person or via phone call/Wechat with those athletes who completed the survey.

While the survey conducted through the Athlete365 platform is anonymous, the individual interviews with Chinese Olympians and elite athletes indicate that a vast majority of Chinese athletes agree with Rule 50 in its current form and support the IOC in preserving and upholding it. The main findings of the consultation are as follows:

1. Most Chinese athletes are aware of the Rule 50 Guidelines and its objective. Around 30% responding athletes feel not sufficiently informed about Rule 50 before and they state that the survey helps them to understand it with greater clarity.
2. The majority of Chinese athletes are not inclined to allow athletes' expression of personal views at the Olympic Games, especially the personal views that have nothing to do with sport. Most respondents believe that the athletes come to the Olympic Games

to compete. Some also state that the existing opportunities provided by the IOC for the athletes to express themselves are sufficient.

3. The majority of Chinese athletes do not regard the Olympic Games as the proper occasion for personal ideas to express. Many respondents believe that the field of play, the podium and the village should always be protected so as to safeguard the Olympic spirit. While respecting other athletes' right to express themselves, some respondents state, they oppose those who express their personal political, religious ideas when representing their nation as competing athletes at the Olympic Games. Most respondents said other athletes' expression of personal ideas would on the one hand detract from their performance or experience, and on the other hand shift the focus and therefore impact the spread of the Olympic values to the audience.

I hope that the feedback from the Chinese athletes will assist your ongoing consultation and deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Zhang Hong', written in a cursive style.

Zhang Hong

Chair of COC AC

On behalf of the COC AC