



To: Kirsty Coventry,
Chair of the IOC Athletes Commission

Dear members of the IOC Athletes Commission,

I hope you are doing well in these challenging times.

On behalf of the members of Slovak NOC Athlete Commission I am pleased to inform you about discussions we had related to the current rules protecting the Olympic Games from political, racial, religious or any kind of demonstrations, protests or propaganda. As representatives of athlete community in Slovakia we feel it's important to share our voice with you and get involved in the ongoing consultation process you are leading.

We believe in freedom of expression and we believe athletes should have right to express their views. However we strongly feel that the Olympic Games should be fully protected from any political demonstrations or protests, especially the podium, field of play and the Olympic Village. We acknowledge that athletes already have a lot of opportunities to be vocal and express their views on different topics, even during the Games, such as press conferences, social media, outside of the Olympic venues.

Any kind of protests, demonstration or propaganda could negatively affect experiences of athletes and therefore we support Rule 50 as it stands now. The Games must stay politically neutral to guarantee that the focus during their period is strictly on sport performance and celebration of Olympic values. That's the Olympic Spirit we all love and want to celebrate.

I am on your disposal for any further consultation on behalf of athletes in Slovakia.

With my best regards,

Matej Tóth, Chair of Slovak NOC Athletes Commission

Date: 18.12.2020