Dear Ms. Coventry,

dear friend,

On behalf of the Russian Olympic Committee Athletes’ Commission (hereinafter – ROC AC) I would like to thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Rule 50 of the Olympic Charter with the IOC Athletes’ Commission’s representatives and to express our views on this important issue by holding a conference-call with you.

After the IOC AC launched the global consultation with athletes, the ROC AC with the support of the ROC office took a number of steps in order to hear the Russian athletes’ views on this issue.

The ROC AC has sent out the official letter to all National Sports Federations with a request to ensure athletes are aware of the survey which the IOC AC launched. At the same time the ROC has published the link on the survey in the social media.
In order to raise Russian athletes' awareness about the Rule 50, the ROC has translated the IOC Guidelines on the Rule 50 into the Russian language and published it on the website.

Also we asked the chairs of the National Sports Federations ACs to share with us their opinion and they fully supported the ROC AC’s official statement on the Rule 50:

«The ROC Athletes’ Commission fully supports the Rule 50 of the Olympic Charter and we are categorically against its weakening or changing. We believe that any concessions can lead to disorder, clash of interests and separation of people, which is contrary to the spirit of the Olympic movement. Nobody forbids us, athletes, to express our opinion, we have a lot of ways to express our position in public, but this should happen outside the Olympic movement. The Olympic Games are an international sports festival that has nothing to do with politics, racism and other social and religious movements. The Olympic Games should remain a sports festival, a place where athletes are able to demonstrate their sporting achievements and successes, and does not become a platform for protest movements, political statements, making money and false popularity.»

I would like to thank you for your great job in representing athletes’ viewpoints, protecting our rights, and promoting a clean and fair sport.

The ROC AC is always ready to engage with the IOC AC and the entire Olympic Movement to ensure athletes’ voice is part of the decision-making process.

Sincerely,

Sofia Velikaya
Chair
The ROC Athletes’ Commission