



February 2021

NZOC Athletes' Commission Statement on Rule 50.2 and a Values-Based approach to Free Speech in Olympic Venues.

The New Zealand Olympic Committee Athletes' Commission plays a respected and active role within New Zealand Olympic sport. We appreciate the invitation from the IOC to provide feedback on Rule 50.2.

With the Commission's support and input, New Zealand Olympic Team has been built on a foundation of Manaaki – the Māori language expression of respect and care for others. Manaaki, and in particular respect, is embedded in all decisions we make as a team and influences our culture, identity, and our actions on and off the field of play.

We acknowledge the values of the Olympic Movement as well as the fundamental human right of freedom of expression that exists in law. The IOC's Rule 50.2 is contrary to this right.

As such, the New Zealand Olympic Committee Athletes' Commission believes a framework that permits free speech within Olympic Venues be developed. The framework should ensure any element of free speech does not incite, hate, violence or is intolerant of minorities and its expression aligns with the Olympic Values of excellence, friendship, and respect.

The New Zealand Olympic Committee Athletes' Commission accepts the challenges freedom of speech may pose if expressed on the podium. We recommend any such expression particularly considers respect and support for the podium experience of any medal-winning athletes that may be present.

To this end, the New Zealand Olympic Committee Athletes' Commission recommends the IOC:

- Disestablish Rule 50.2
- Establish a values-based framework to support the behaviours, outcomes and environment the IOC seeks
- Provide education for Olympic athletes founded on a values-based approach to expressions of free speech in Olympic venues, including, or similar to the Māori concept of Manaaki and respect for others; and
- Implement a fair and transparent remedy process available to be implemented during Games time.

New Zealand Olympic Committee

Olympic House, Hulme Court, 350 Parnell Road, Auckland 1052, New Zealand

PO Box 37774, Parnell, Auckland 1151, New Zealand

T +64 9 375 0040 F +64 9 375 1510

office@olympic.org.nz www.olympic.org.nz



Thank you for your consideration

Ngā mihi



Sarah Cowley Ross

NZ Olympian 1134

Chair New Zealand Olympic Committee Athletes' Commission



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