

## ARTICLE 50 OF INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



### Issue

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has made new changes for conduct of athletes that does not allow protest on the field, on podiums, and during ceremonies.

### Background

The IOC has stipulated certain guidelines as Tokyo Olympics is set to commence. This includes giving life to Rule 50.

### Details

- The IOC's Rule 50 bans any form of demonstration or religious, racial or political propaganda at venues and any other Olympic area.
- The Olympic body has been pressurised to allow participants to express their belief after the anti-racism protests during Black Lives Matter campaign.
- An athlete survey has shown that about 70 percent of participants do not want play arena and official ceremonies to be places of demonstrations.
- There is a belief that sports should be played with dignity and neutrality without allowing space for political protests.
- There is a suggestion instead to increase the expression in press conferences, mixed zones and social media without interference.
- Several athletes feel that they should be allowed to make use of the podium to express an opinion they believe in.

**Sanctions**

At present there is no clarity in form of sanctions that may be imposed if athletes violate the Rule 50 and protest in the prohibited areas.

**NOTES**

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