



AOC ATHLETES' COMMISSION

***Survey Response to Rule 50.2
& Recommendations to
IOC Athletes' Commission***

Friday 14 August 2020



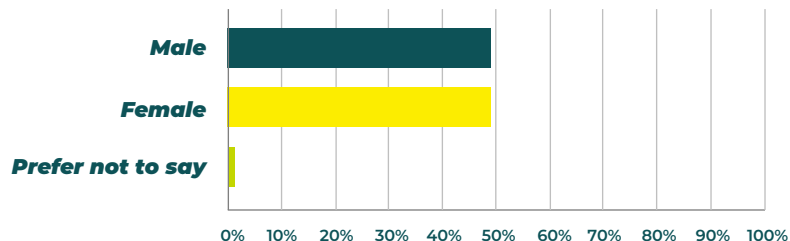
Survey background

496
respondents

50/50
male/female split

Q1 Gender

Answered: 496
Skipped: 0



It is worth noting that we did not receive a significant number of responses from Olympians that identified as minority groups, as such the balance of this report should be viewed with that understanding

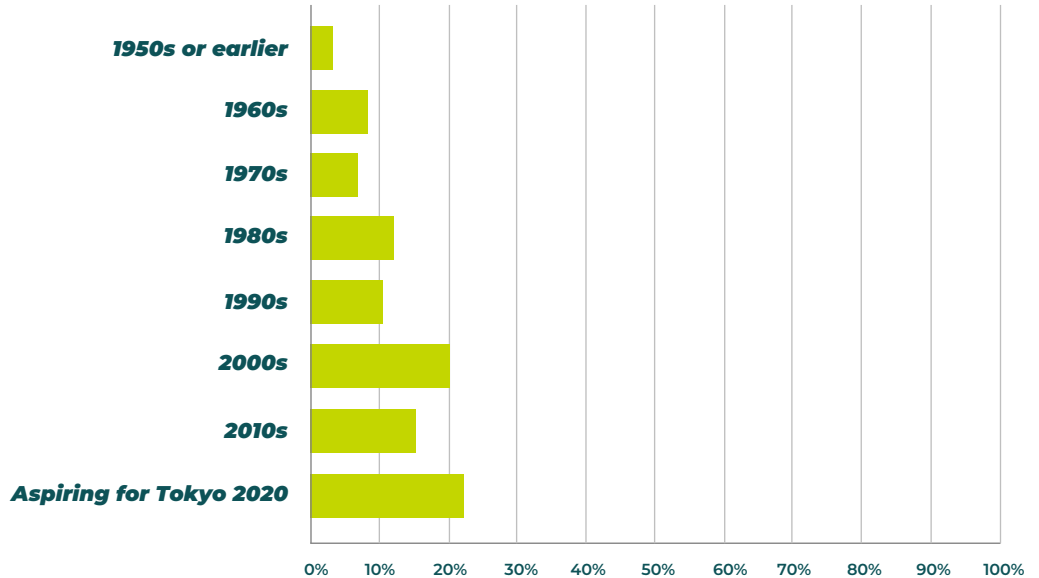


Survey Respondents

Q5 What decade did you compete in your first Olympic Games?

Answered: 496
Skipped: 0

We received responses from Olympians from different eras along with athletes aspiring for the 2020 Games.

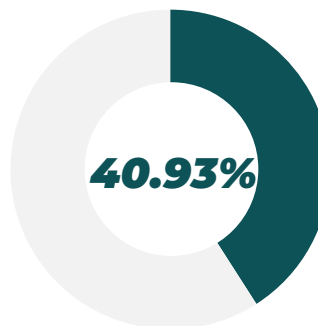
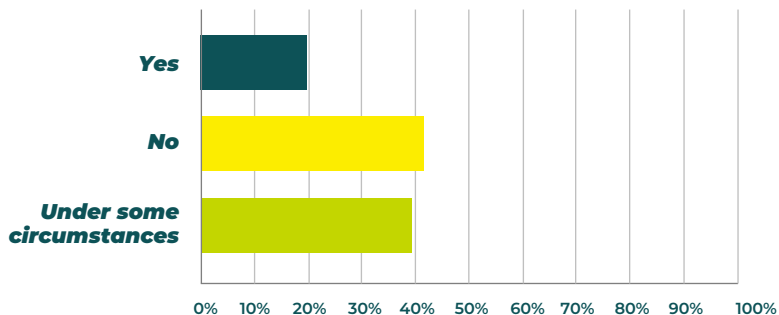




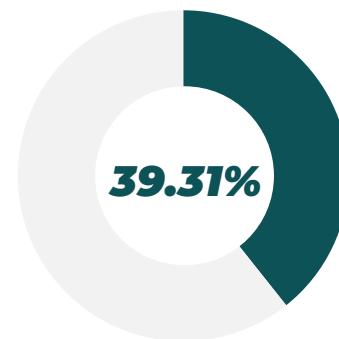
Survey Results

Q6 *Should the Olympics be a stage for athletes to express their views on politics, religion, sexuality, racism, gender and other forms of discrimination or other causes?*

Answered: 496
Skipped: 0



40.93% of all respondents said that the Games should not be a place where athletes express their views

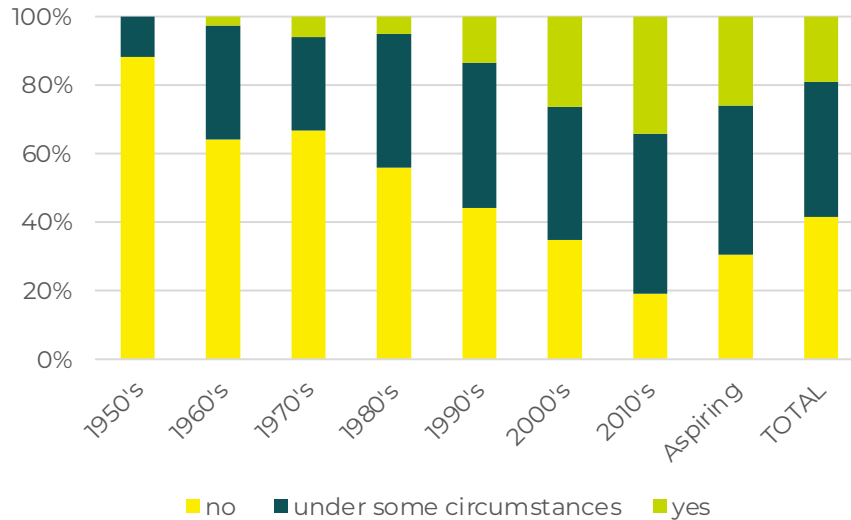


39.31% responded that it depended on the circumstances



Views changing over time

Q6 By Era



The views on this appear to be correlated to the era of the athlete. We can see a clear trend over time towards self expression and that the present-day athlete believed that the Games is a platform to express themselves.

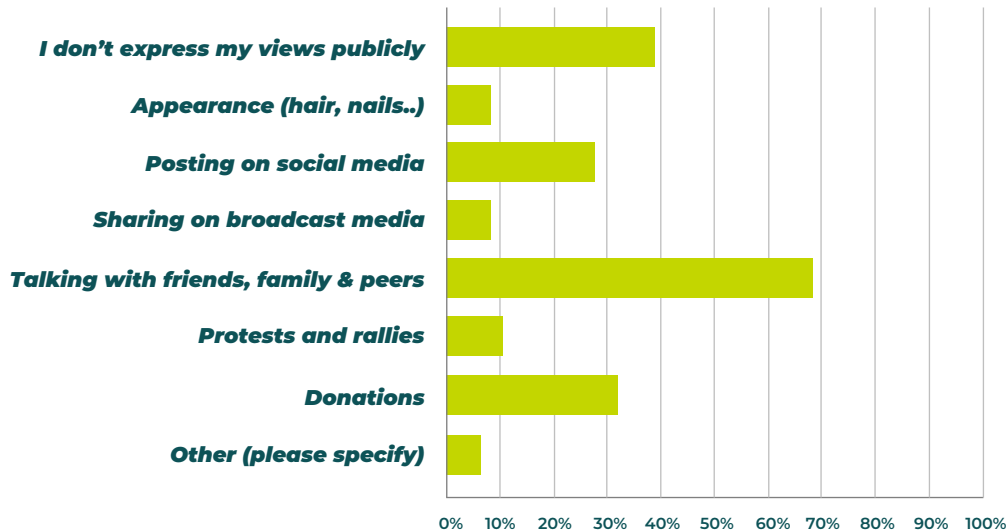
2010's Athletes responded 34% yes, 47% under some circumstances with only 19% responded that the games were not a stage for self expression.



How athletes express themselves

Q8 **How do you normally express your views on politics, religion, sexuality, racism, the environment, gender, forms of discrimination or other causes?**

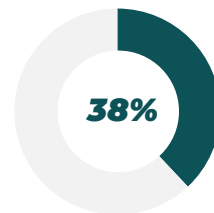
Answered: 400
Skipped: 96



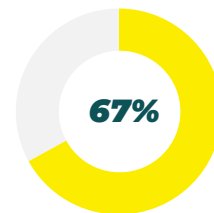


How athletes express themselves

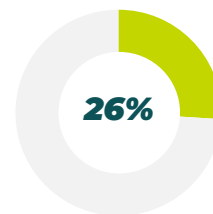
Answer choices	Responses	
I don't express my private views publicly	38.75%	155
Appearance (hair, nails, clothing, tattoos, accessories)	7.5%	30
Posting on social media	28.75%	107
Sharing on broadcast media	8.5%	34
Talking with friends, family and peers	67.5%	270
Protests and rallies	10.75%	43
Donations	31.5%	128
Other (please specify)	6.5%	28
Total Respondents: 400		



38% of athletes don't express their private views publicly



67% of athletes talk with friends, family and peers



26% of athletes post on social media



How and where athletes would like to express themselves at Games Time

When would it be appropriate?

THEMES Athletes should be allowed to express themselves:

If it does not interfere with other competitors/ disrupt the flow of competition.

If they have been personally affected by an issue.

If the issue is in line with Olympic values.

If the protest does not take place on the field of play.

If it is in support of anti-discrimination/human rights abuses.

If it does not promote sponsors or commercial interests.

“
As long as it doesn't disrupt competition or hinder other athletes.
”



How and where athletes would like to express themselves at Games Time

Q10 Under what circumstances would you like the opportunity to express your views?

Answered: 122
Skipped: 374

- 1 Away from the field of play
- 2 Not on the podium or at Opening/Closing ceremonies
- 3 Through physical tokens i.e black armband, ribbon on uniform, nails etc
- 4 At a designated area in the Village
- 5 In post-race interviews
- 6 In media press conferences
- 7 On social media

I believe post-competition interviews, social media, press conferences are an excellent opportunity to express such views, where the focus is solely on the individual. Thus, medal ceremonies and other group or engagements where other athletes are involved are not good times to express views as this can detract from the other individuals sharing that moment.



How and where athletes would like to express themselves at Games Time

Q12 *In what way would you like to express yourself at the Olympic Games?*

Answered: 122
Skipped: 374

The majority of respondents skipped this question, however those that answered conveyed the following main ways they would like to express themselves.

Specifically, responses identified the following ways athletes would like to express themselves at the Olympic Games:

In order of number of responses

- 1 Forums and designated spaces like posting walls in the Village
- 2 During interviews
- 3 Via social media
- 4 Subtle actions like arm bands, emblems on clothing, taking a knee etc
- 5 Moment of solidarity at Opening and Closing Ceremonies



Further thoughts on self-expression

Q13 Do you have any further comments regarding how you would like to express yourself?

Answered: 167
Skipped: 329

The majority of respondents skipped this question however, most of responses reflected that the Olympics is about sport and should remain that way.

The only new ideas were;

- 1 Education programs in the Village in the athlete space
- 2 Indigenous education programs by the AOC, pre, during and post games

“

Clear guidelines on how social media can and can't be used for these purposes (in alignment with Rule 50.2), but still allowing athletes to express themselves on important issues is critical.

“It would be great for the AUS Olympic team to have more outreach and engagement opportunities before, during and after the games for those interested.”

“I would like to use my voice to educate people on my own experiences as an Olympian of Aboriginal heritage and the injustices within local Australian context.”

“To promote the world of Indigenous issues in Australia and this need to be supported by the AOC & IOC.”

“I think my own space in the Village - my room - is where I would express myself, also it would be great to have a space in my country's headquarters to express and connect to my culture.”

”



Where should protest be discouraged

Q14 *Is there anywhere protests of any nature should be discouraged?*

Answered: 345
Skipped: 151

The majority of responses conveyed that sporting events should not be a platform for protests as it will detract away from and disrupt sporting performances.

Specifically, responses identified the following places for protests to be discouraged:

At sporting events

At Olympic Games

In the Village

On the podium

In the field of play

“

Protests should be discouraged if they are designed to disrupt the performance of fellow competitors.

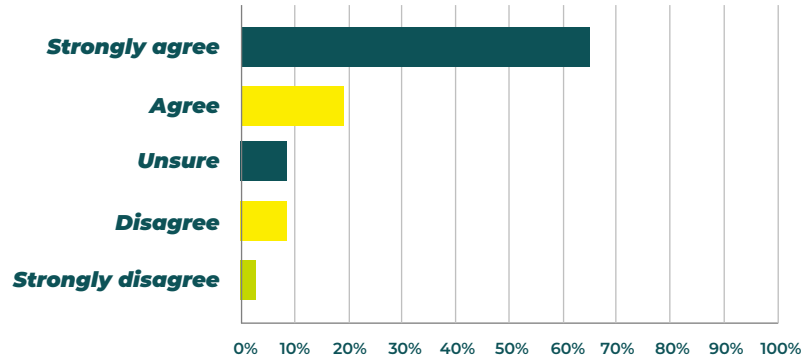
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Performance and the field of play

Q15 *A protest on the field of play would detract from the performance or experience of athletes*

Answered: 345
Skipped: 151



Over 80%

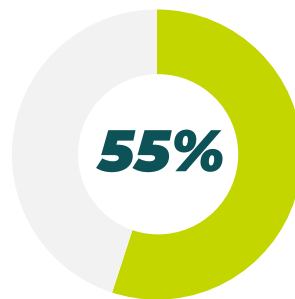
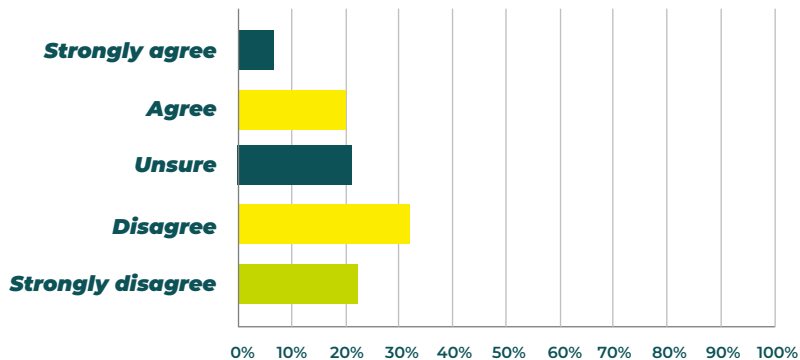
of respondents said that a protest on the field of play would detract from the performance or experience of athletes



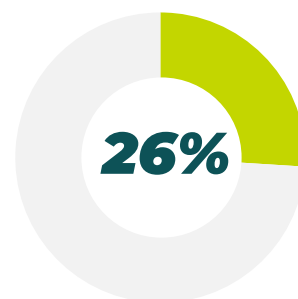
Discrimination on the field of play

Q16 *Discrimination exists on the field of play in my sport*

Answered: 345
Skipped: 151



55% of respondents didn't believe that discrimination existed on the field of play with a further 20% unsure



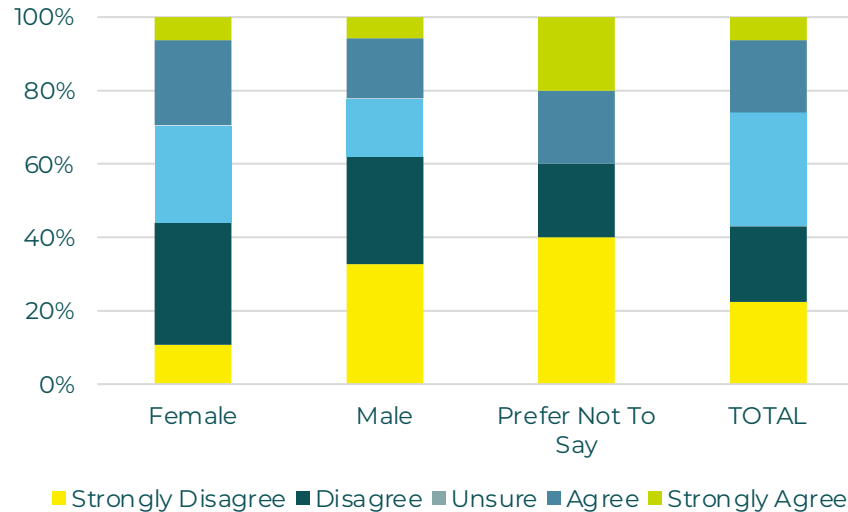
26% believed that discrimination exists on the field of play in their sport



Discrimination on the field of play

Q16 *By gender*

Answered: 345
Skipped: 151



Discrimination on the field of play appears to be observed at higher rates by female athletes



Discrimination on the field of play

Q17 ***What type of
discrimination do
you believe exists
in your sport?***

Answered: 117
Skipped: 379

The majority of respondents skipped this question however those that answered conveyed the following to be the main types of discrimination:

Sexuality/Homophobia

Disability

Race

Religion

Gender



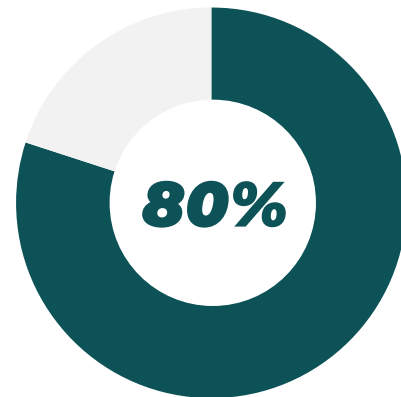
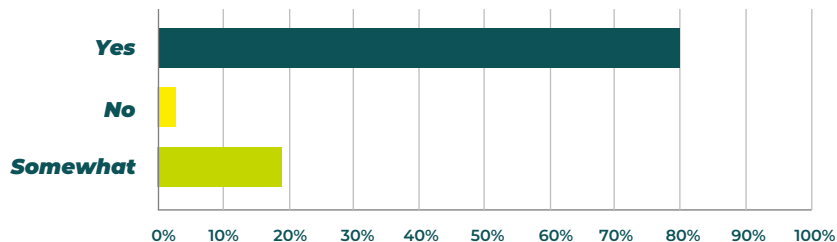
Rule 50

Understanding and Consequences

Q18 **I understand my rights and responsibilities in relation to Rule 50.2:**

(Rules 50.2 of the Charter is designed to protect the neutrality of sport and the Olympic movement and it states: 'No kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in any Olympic sites, venues or other areas.')

Answered:: 314
Skipped: 182



80% of athletes responded that they understood rule 50.2

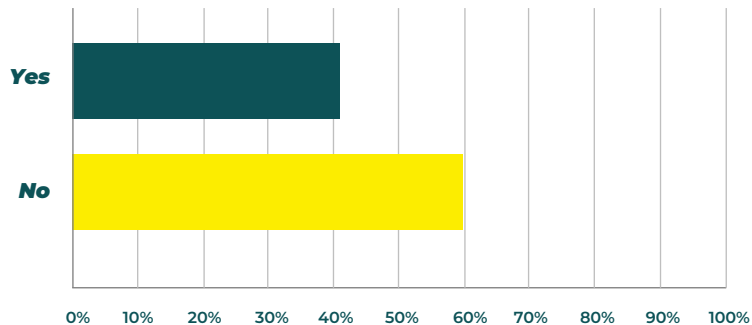


Rule 50

Understanding and Consequences

Q20 Are you aware of the consequences of a breach of Rule 50.2?

Answered: 314
Skipped: 182



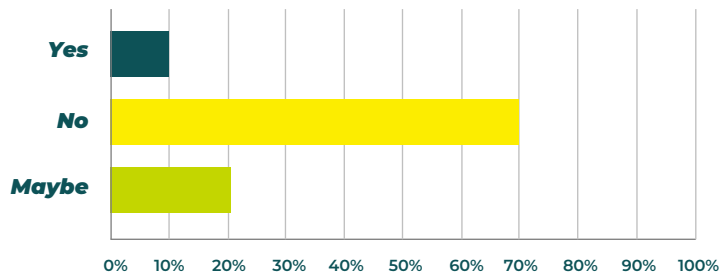
However,
nearly 60%
of athletes weren't aware of
the consequences of a
breach of rule 50.



Breach of Rule 50

Q22 *Knowing that there are consequences, would you still consider protesting on the field of play or at a podium ceremony at an Olympic Games?*

Answered:: 314
Skipped: 182

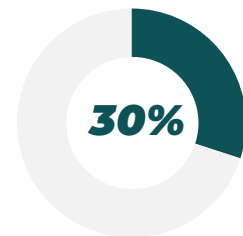


Respondents were unclear about the consequences regarding Rule 50 and sought further clarification.

Recent and aspiring Olympians generally thought Rule 50 should be reviewed.



I'm interested in knowing the full extent of such consequences when breaches have occurred i.e. including past examples



30% of athletes said that they would consider breaching Rule 50.



Summary

Views have changed over time and the current day athlete believes they should be able to express their views during Games time

The majority of athletes don't want to see protest on the field of play or anywhere that would detract from performance or the athlete experience.

Athletes are not sure how and when they are allowed to express themselves off the field of play

Many wanted to utilise interviews and social media

There is a lack of understanding around the consequences of a breach of Rule 50



Recommendations & Opportunities for the IOC AC

Athletes should be provided opportunities to express themselves in forums away from the field of play and podium

There should be clarity about what is permissible in these alternative forums

There should be a framework for how Rule 50.2 breaches will be assessed and applicable sanctions

Athletes would support a moment of solidarity at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies

Athletes would like the opportunity to express themselves or engage in discussion with fellow Olympians in a forum within the Olympic Village

Athletes would like access to IOC education programs in the Village



Recommendations for the AOC Executive & Tokyo 2020 Team Executive

Athletes would like access to AOC education programs pre-Games on Rule 50.2, particularly in relation to self-expression on social media and in interviews

Athletes would like the AOC to provide education opportunities in relation to Indigenous history both in the Olympic Village and outside of games time

Consideration should be given to the type of guidance, counselling and support the AOC would offer an Australian athlete who expresses views in a way that breaches Rule 50.2 and subsequently faces sanction for their actions