Demonstrations, protests, and political statements at the Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 (the ‘Games’): Summary of Supplementary Regulations

(Note, this is a summary document only. The binding regulations are in Supplementary Regulations – Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 - Demonstrations)

The Supplementary Regulations are binding on all participants in the Games, including athletes and their training partners, competition partners, coaches and trainers, other team officials and Games officials, other athlete support personnel, and all other accredited persons. They will apply throughout the Games period, starting on 14 August 2021 and ending at midnight of 5 September 2021 (the day of the closing ceremony).

1. The basic rule applicable to all participants in the Games

You must not take part, at any time or place, in any demonstration, protest, political statement or similar conduct, that:

- is contrary to the Paralympic vision, ethos and ideals, or the mission of the IPC;
- hinders or disrupts (a) competitions or official ceremonies (including medal ceremonies); or (b) any participant’s preparation for competitions or official ceremonies (including medal ceremonies);
- involves violence or harm to people or property, or threatening or abusive comments or conduct; or
- includes hostility, prejudice, or unlawful discrimination on grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, national or social origin, disability, or other protected status;
- takes place on the field of play (see definition below) or during official ceremonies (including medal ceremonies).

2. What is permitted, and when?

You may take part in a demonstration, protest, political statement or similar – as long as it does not include any of the prohibited points listed above – as follows:

(a) in mixed zones, at the International Broadcasting Centre, and at the Main Media Centre, during press conferences and media interviews, and during team meetings; and/or
(b) in the Paralympic Village, but here demonstrations, protests, or political statements are only allowed if they are made using traditional media or digital media or social media channels (e.g., no physical or other non-media demonstrations, protests or political statements will be allowed in the Paralympic Village).

In this context, the field of play includes:

- where competitions take place;
- warm-up and training areas;
- changing/locker rooms;
- athlete lounges and call rooms (and routes to the competition);
- athlete equipment storage areas;
- any areas where introductions are made;
- any areas that include official timing and scoring equipment; and
- anti-doping testing and athlete medical areas.

3. What happens if these rules are broken?

Individuals are encouraged to use the approved avenues for demonstrations, protests or political statements, but should a breach of the regulations occur, disciplinary proceedings may be brought against you on an expedited basis. These proceedings could result in sanctions, some of which include a warning letter, a fine, exclusion from Games-time ceremonies, forfeiture of any medals won, immediate exclusion from the Games, a ban from future Paralympic Games and other Para sport activities, and/or other sanctions that reflect the seriousness of the misconduct in issue.

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