



# **IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL**

## **ATHLETE PROTESTS REPORT**

**MAY 2021**

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# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In recent months, certain critical events around the globe have given rise to global discussions and protests about human rights, inequality, and injustices faced by marginalised groups. In the world of sport, athletes have come together in acts of solidarity to show their support for marginalised groups and to address such inequities. To help raise the profile of these efforts, many athletes have participated in protests on the field of play (FOP) and on the podium during the medal ceremony. With the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games scheduled to take place this year, the IPC Athletes' Council decided it was important to hear from Paralympic and Para athletes about their views on FOP and podium protests, and more generally about the topic of athlete expression on social matters.

In August 2020, the IPC Athletes' Council implemented a multi-faceted consultation process with the global Para athlete community, for the threefold purpose of educating and informing them about section 2.2 of the Paralympic Games chapter of the IPC Handbook (i.e., the IPC's version of Rule 50), having an open dialogue on the subject, and soliciting feedback on recommendations for changes to the existing regulation. This report presents the findings of these efforts and provides recommendations for changes to section 2.2.

The consultation process took the form of focus groups, nine in total in English, French, and Spanish, and a survey that was open to all Paralympic and Para athletes. Both the focus groups and the survey were promoted extensively through communications to the IPC membership (i.e., all NPC's, IF's, IOSD's and Regional athlete representatives), as well as the IPC's social media channels. A total of 122 athletes (74 Paralympians and 48 Para athletes) joined the focus group discussions, while 489 athletes (267 Paralympians and 222 Para athletes) completed the online survey.

From the focus groups, most athletes stated that they would like to continue to preserve the FOP, podium and the Opening and Closing ceremonies from athlete protests. However, they also indicated the desire to explore additional opportunities for athletes to express themselves while participating in the Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games. The majority of athletes also indicated that the current wording of section 2.2 needs to be reviewed, as the current wording is unclear, overly strict, and offers no clear sanction protocol. A smaller number of athletes reported that the podium was the most visible space for athletes during the Games and that athletes should be allowed to utilize that platform in whatever way they choose.

Similar to the focus groups outcomes, the survey data revealed 82% of total respondents thought that the current regulation was appropriate and that demonstrations should not be allowed on the FOP, podium, or Opening and Closing Ceremonies, but agreed additional opportunities for expressing views should be considered.

Based on the feedback received throughout the consultation process, the IPC Athletes' Council developed a list of eight recommendations that will increase opportunities for athletes to express themselves at the Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games. In addition, these recommendations call for a review of the current wording of section 2.2 and identify opportunities to increase athlete education. These recommendations include:

1. Protect the Field of Play and Official Ceremonies from all forms of protest
2. Clarify the wording of section 2.2
3. Develop sanction protocol and independent panel
4. Develop guidelines to educate athletes about section 2.2
5. Review Mixed Zone opportunities for athlete expression
6. Develop an opportunity to speak in the Athlete Plaza within the Paralympic Village
7. Increase IPC communications to support athlete expression
8. Social Media

The IPC Athletes' Council Chairperson the IPC AC Chairperson briefed the Governing Board in June of 2021 and is now working on the implementation plan which will dictate when certain suggestions can be practically implemented in time for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games and beyond (i.e., Beijing 2022 forward). This includes allowing participants to demonstrate, protest, and/or make political statements, provided that their demonstrations, protests, and/or political statements do not involve any Impermissible Elements that stand in opposition to Paralympic Values.

## **2 IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Following the analysis of the data from both the focus groups and the survey, the IPC Athletes' Council developed the following recommendations:

## **2.1 PROTECT THE FIELD OF PLAY AND CEREMONIES FROM ALL FORMS OF PROTEST**

### Recommendations:

- Increase opportunities outside of these protected spaces where athletes can express themselves.
- Clearly define the FOP and what areas are included within it.

## **2.2 CLARITY OF THE RULE**

### Recommendations:

- Review section 2.2 for the purpose of increasing clarity of meaning and implementation.
- Consolidate all aspects of the rule into one location in the IPC Handbook so that it is readily accessible to athletes and IPC members.

## **2.3 SANCTIONS**

**Background:** The current sanctioning process under section 2.2. is governed by the IPC Code of Ethics (COE). As applied to athlete protest, this sanctioning process may no longer be fit for purpose.

### Recommendations:

- Develop a new COE provision that specifically addresses section 2.2. breaches, including the adjudication and sanctioning process. Consider a panel composition that includes retired Paralympic athletes.
- Evaluate and develop a broader range of sanctions for section 2.2. breaches.

## **2.4 EDUCATION**

**Background:** Throughout the athlete consultation process, it became clear that many athletes were not properly informed about the content and purpose of section 2.2. This needs to be remedied.

### Recommendations:

- Develop clear and athlete-friendly guidelines that aim to educate athletes about the purpose, content, and operation of section 2.2.,

- Regarding content, the guidelines should provide as much, if not more, emphasis on how athletes can express themselves as they do warn of athlete sanctions for prohibited self-expression.

## **2.5 THE MIXED ZONE**

**Background:** Paralympic Games medallists do not have a press conference that attracts media where they can express their views on specific topics. The Paralympic Games' most visible space for such activity would be the mixed zone where athletes have time to interact with press.

**Recommendation:**

- Review the mixed zone and/or post competition media process to better provide athletes with a place for effective expression of their views.

## **2.6 ATHLETE EXPRESSION IN THE ATHLETE PLAZA**

**Background:** Section 2.2 also prohibits any kind of demonstration or political, religious, or racial propaganda in any Paralympic venues or other areas related to the Paralympic Games. This includes the Paralympic Village.

**Recommendations:**

- Provide athletes with a platform to express themselves in a designated space in the Paralympic Village international zone. This could be done in various ways, two of which are highlighted here:
  - Publish a daily allocated time where media could enter the international zone and athletes could come to be heard.
  - Provide a streaming setup where athletes can express their views and where such views then can be promoted to media and the public.

## **2.7 IPC COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING**

**Background:** Were the IPC to communicate its support for athlete expression on subjects that align with the Paralympic Movement, it could provide a powerful tool for athlete empowerment and expression.

**Recommendations:**

- Empower Paralympic and Para Athletes to express their voices and offer them opportunities to align with the #WeThe15 campaign, a global and

visible movement that will bring disability inclusion to the centre of the diversity agenda.

- Review the IPC's online presence and communications to identify increased opportunities for athletes to be empowered to express themselves in areas that align with the IPC's mission.

## 2.8 SOCIAL MEDIA

**Background:** The current guidelines for accredited persons prohibit expression on individual social media platforms. [Clause 2.1](#) of the IPC Digital Media Guidelines state "Postings should be polite, courteous, and respectful to others and must not: contain any form of political, religious or racial propaganda" This mirrors the current [section 2.2](#) guidelines in the IPC handbook.

**Recommendation:**

- The IPC Athletes' Council recommends that an athlete's social media platform be identified as a place where they can openly express their views. This includes revising the current social media guidelines to provide opportunities for athletes to express themselves.
- Develop an ongoing social media campaign that runs throughout the quadrennial with content specifically targeted at athletes. This content will help them become more informed about human rights and the IPC's alignment to the UN SDGs. The campaign will also provide educational tips and webinars about how to be an effective advocate for change and a space that gives athletes an opportunity to share their views on topics important to them.

## 3 ATHLETE CONSULTATION

In August 2020, the IPC Athletes' Council launched a [global consultation](#) regarding athlete protests at the Paralympic Games with an aim to better understand the subjects Paralympic and Para athletes feel passionately about and gather views on how they believe they could best be communicated at the Paralympic Games.

The consultation process aimed to provide the Paralympic and Para athlete community with a better understanding about the current rule, including what is and what is not allowed by athletes, and why the rule is in place. It also aimed gather first-hand the ideas and thoughts of Paralympians and Para athletes about how they could make their voices heard during the Paralympic Games.

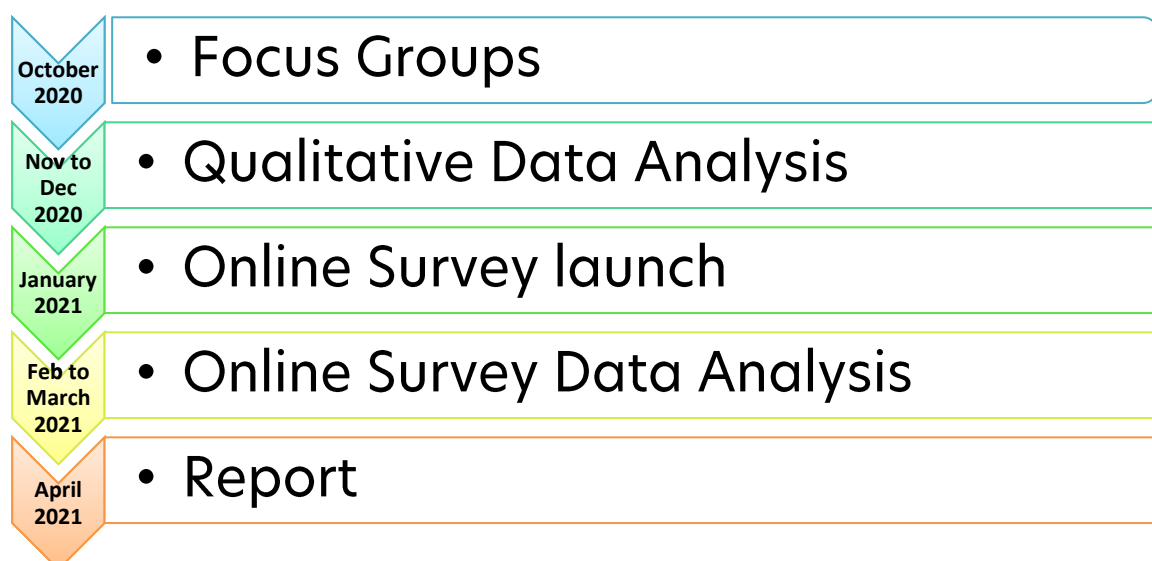
The consultation came after a dialogue between the IPC Athletes' Council and the IPC and was fully supported by the Governing Board.

The consultation exercise was open to all Paralympic and Para athletes and took the form of focus group discussions followed by a survey. The entire consultation process (focus groups and survey) was open from October 2020 to end of January 2021. This was promoted via the [IPC website](#), social media channels, the [Para Athlete Club](#) Facebook page, direct emails to members and athlete representatives.

Following this consultation exercise, the IPC Athletes' Council compiled the overall report which includes recommendations to be further explored.

## 4 THE PROCESS

The consultation exercise began in October 2020 with athlete focus groups and followed up with an online survey which closed at the end of January 2021. Following this, the IPC Athletes' Council compiled and analysed the feedback to come up with recommendations. The recommendations are incorporated in the report.



## 5 FOCUS GROUPS: METHODOLOGY AND OUTCOMES

The focus groups' discussions were led and facilitated by members of the IPC Athletes Council with operational and logistical support from the Management team.



## A.FOCUS GROUPS' OBJECTIVES:

- To inform the athlete community about the existing rule, why it is in place, what it allows and what it prohibits
- Gather a better understanding from the athlete community on ways they wish to express their views on key subjects at the Paralympic Games, while respecting the Paralympic Movement's values and principles
- For the IPC Athletes' Council to make recommendations to potential changes to section 2.2

## B.FOCUS GROUPS BY THE NUMBERS:

The invitation to be part of the focus groups was open to all Paralympic and Para athletes around the globe and this was communicated via direct athlete representatives' emails, the IPC membership, the IPC website, and social media channels.

- A total of 9 focus groups were organised between 12 October and 12 November 2020 and were conducted in English, French and Spanish
- 512 athletes registered for the focus groups: 221 Paralympians and 291 Para athletes
- Out of the registered athletes, only 122 athletes (74 Paralympians and 48 Para athletes) joined the focus groups' sessions.

| GROUP | TYPE                         | DATE                  | Athletes who joined the call |
|-------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1     | Para athletes                | Monday 12 October     | 6                            |
| 2     | Paralympians                 | Wednesday 14 October  | 21                           |
| 3     | Paralympians                 | Tuesday 20 October    | 17                           |
| 4     | Para athletes                | Wednesday 21 October  | 12                           |
| 5     | Para athletes                | Wednesday 28 October  | 8                            |
| 6     | Paralympians                 | Thursday 29 October   | 22                           |
| 7     | Para athletes                | Tuesday 3 November    | 16                           |
| 8     | Paralympians & Para athletes | Thursday 5 November   | 11                           |
| 9     | Paralympians & Para athletes | Wednesday 11 November | 9                            |
|       | Total                        |                       | <b>122</b>                   |

## C.FOCUS GROUPS' KEY OUTCOMES:

- There is a need to update the current rule to ensure that it is clear.
- Most athletes were unaware of the rule and its consequences should it be broken.
- Many Paralympians and Para athletes would welcome an opportunity for athletes to express themselves during the Games but in a controlled manner and would like to see increased opportunity to become educated and

engaged throughout the quadrennial. Discussion themes and suggestions include:

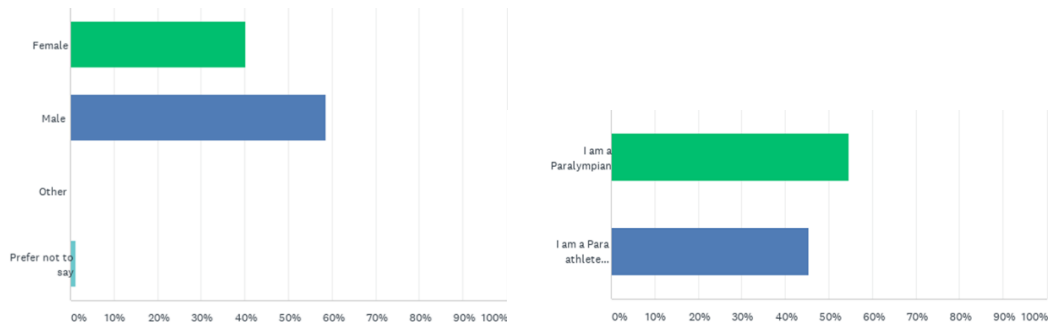
- Expressions or protests to be done away from the FOP and the podium.
  - Introduce social media options for athletes to express themselves.
  - Dedicate a place in the Paralympic Games Village to be used by athletes to express themselves.
  - The mixed zone could also be considered as a place for athletes to express themselves.
  - Create education that explains what the rule is and how it is applied.
  - Suggestion for IPC to determine what topics/subject matter athletes could be allowed to express themselves on, linking the topics to the IPC values and advancing the Human Rights agenda.
  - Appoint a Human Rights expert to ensure the process and recommendations are done in line with Human Rights convention.
- A few Paralympians and Para athletes provided the below input:
    - Athletes should be allowed to express themselves during the Paralympic Games on whatever subject they want and in any form without any restrictions.
    - The FOP and the podium are the best places for expressing oneself as this is the most visible place to the world.
    - Having controlled 'protests' defeat the purpose of what a protest is - it has to be uncomfortable to make a difference.

## **6 ONLINE SURVEY: OUTCOME AND RESULTS**

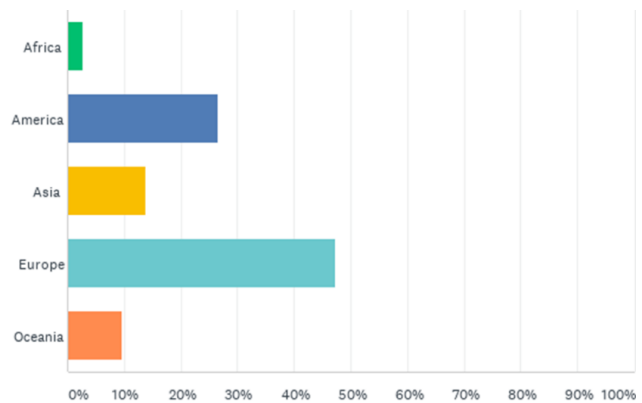
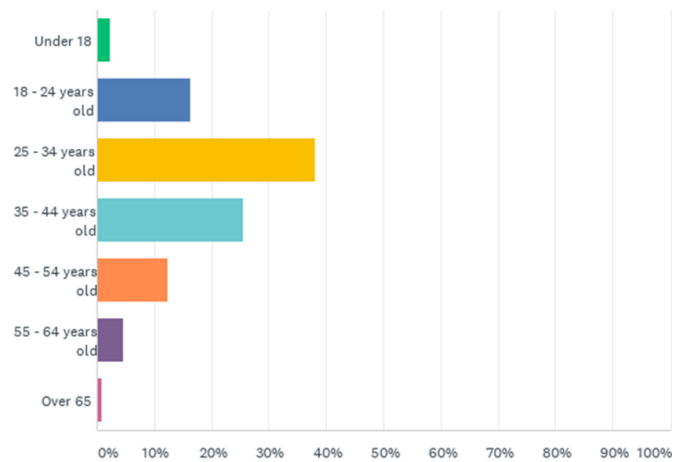
The survey was open for a period of two weeks from 6 to 20 January 2021 and open to all Paralympic and Para athletes.

### **A.SAMPLE PROFILE**

The sample comprises 489 athletes, with 267 Paralympians and 222 Para athletes. This comprised 40.08% female, 58.49% male, 0.20% other and 1.23% preferred not to say.



Age range (18 – over 65) with highest number of responses from the 25-34 years bracket accounting for 38.04% and the over 65 years category accounting for 0.82%. Respondents came from all IPC regions, Africa (2.66%), America (26.58%), Asia (13.91%), Europe (47.24%) and Oceania (9.61%).



## Sports Represented

| ANSWER CHOICES         | RESPONSES |    |
|------------------------|-----------|----|
| Archery                | 3.48%     | 17 |
| Athletics              | 17.38%    | 85 |
| Badminton              | 3.27%     | 16 |
| Boccia                 | 1.84%     | 9  |
| Canoe                  | 1.02%     | 5  |
| Cycling                | 6.34%     | 31 |
| Equestrian             | 5.11%     | 25 |
| Football 5-a-side      | 0.00%     | 0  |
| Goalball               | 1.84%     | 9  |
| Judo                   | 1.64%     | 8  |
| Powerlifting           | 1.43%     | 7  |
| Rowing                 | 2.25%     | 11 |
| Shooting Para Sport    | 6.34%     | 31 |
| Sitting Volleyball     | 4.09%     | 20 |
| Swimming               | 11.66%    | 57 |
| Table Tennis           | 2.66%     | 13 |
| Taekwondo              | 1.43%     | 7  |
| Triathlon              | 1.02%     | 5  |
| Wheelchair basketball  | 11.86%    | 58 |
| Wheelchair fencing     | 0.82%     | 4  |
| Wheelchair rugby       | 4.09%     | 20 |
| Wheelchair tennis      | 5.32%     | 26 |
| Alpine Skiing          | 3.89%     | 19 |
| Biathlon               | 2.04%     | 10 |
| Cross country skiing   | 3.89%     | 19 |
| Para ice hockey        | 2.25%     | 11 |
| Snowboard              | 0.61%     | 3  |
| Wheelchair curling     | 1.43%     | 7  |
| Total Respondents: 489 |           |    |

## B. RESULTS BY EACH QUESTION

Question 1 to 9 responses are summarised under the sample profile section. Responses below are based on 489 total responses.

**Q10: The current rule states that: "No kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in any Paralympic venues or other areas related to the Paralympic Games". What is your opinion on the current rule?**

| ANSWER CHOICES   | RESPONSES  |
|--|------------|
| The rule is appropriate and should remain the same                           | 50.92% 249 |
| The rule is appropriate but needs to be relaxed to allow for some amendments | 31.49% 154 |
| The rule is inappropriate, it must be abolished                              | 5.11% 25   |
| I do not have an opinion on this   | 7.16% 35   |
| I am not sure  | 5.32% 26   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>489</b> |

**Q11: Would you be interested to protest or demonstrate your views on any topic including political, religious, or racial propaganda at the Paralympic Games?**

| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES  |
|----------------|------------|
| Yes            | 9.61% 47   |
| No             | 61.55% 301 |
| Maybe          | 18.61% 91  |
| I am not sure  | 10.22% 50  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>489</b> |

**Q12: Would you agree for fellow athletes to protest or demonstrate their views on any topic including political, religious, racial propaganda etc. at the Paralympic Games even if you do not want to protest personally?**

| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES  |
|----------------|------------|
| Yes            | 27.40% 134 |
| No             | 39.06% 191 |
| Maybe          | 22.49% 110 |
| I am not sure  | 11.04% 54  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>489</b> |

**Q13: Do you agree to athletes protesting or demonstrating their personal views on any topic including politics, religion, etc. in any of the below spaces at the Paralympic Games?**

|                                       | STRONGLY AGREE | AGREE         | NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE | DISAGREE      | STRONGLY DISAGREE | (NO LABEL)    | TOTAL | WEIGHTED AVERAGE |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|-------|------------------|
| Field of Play                         | 5.00%<br>24    | 12.50%<br>60  | 14.79%<br>71               | 24.79%<br>119 | 40.00%<br>192     | 2.92%<br>14   | 480   | 3.23             |
| Podium                                | 7.13%<br>34    | 15.51%<br>74  | 16.56%<br>79               | 20.13%<br>96  | 37.95%<br>181     | 2.73%<br>13   | 477   | 3.14             |
| Mixed zone                            | 11.37%<br>54   | 25.68%<br>122 | 22.53%<br>107              | 14.95%<br>71  | 22.32%<br>106     | 3.16%<br>15   | 475   | 2.80             |
| Paralympic Village                    | 12.16%<br>58   | 22.64%<br>108 | 20.96%<br>100              | 18.66%<br>89  | 23.27%<br>111     | 2.31%<br>11   | 477   | 2.81             |
| Media                                 | 17.57%<br>84   | 29.92%<br>143 | 20.08%<br>96               | 12.13%<br>58  | 18.20%<br>87      | 2.09%<br>10   | 478   | 2.57             |
| Opening and Closing Ceremonies        | 7.11%<br>34    | 13.39%<br>64  | 17.78%<br>85               | 22.59%<br>108 | 37.03%<br>177     | 2.09%<br>10   | 478   | 3.14             |
| Any place away from the Podium        | 7.56%<br>36    | 21.43%<br>102 | 28.36%<br>135              | 18.07%<br>86  | 20.17%<br>96      | 4.41%<br>21   | 476   | 2.92             |
| Any place away from the Field of Play | 9.05%<br>43    | 23.37%<br>111 | 26.53%<br>126              | 17.05%<br>81  | 18.74%<br>89      | 5.26%<br>25   | 475   | 2.88             |
| I do not know                         | 3.61%<br>12    | 7.83%<br>26   | 37.65%<br>125              | 6.33%<br>21   | 12.65%<br>42      | 31.93%<br>106 | 332   | 3.61             |

**Q14: Would you prefer to have other opportunities for athletes to be able to demonstrate or protest at the Games? If yes, choose any of the options below that you would prefer.**

| ANSWER CHOICES  | RESPONSES  |
|---|------------|
| Dedicated place in the Paralympic Village to be used by athletes to express themselves, like the speaker's corner                                   | 40.49% 198 |
| Introduce social media options for athletes to express themselves   | 39.26% 192 |
| The mixed zone  | 19.02% 93  |
| Solidarity gestures to be done at the Opening Ceremony during athletes' parade, particularly for promotion of inclusion of people with disabilities | 29.24% 143 |
| Key messages on athletes' clothing or armbands etc. in Paralympic venues  | 26.79% 131 |
| None of the above   | 31.90% 156 |
| Total Respondents: 489  |            |

### Q15: How much do you agree or disagree with the below statements regarding demonstrations or protests on the Podium?

|   | STRONGLY AGREE | AGREE         | NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE | DISAGREE      | STRONGLY DISAGREE | (NO LABEL)  | TOTAL | WEIGHTED AVERAGE |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|-------|------------------|
| The podium should not be used as a place where athletes can demonstrate or protest.   | 42.42%<br>207  | 22.13%<br>108 | 16.39%<br>80               | 11.27%<br>55  | 5.94%<br>29       | 1.84%<br>9  | 488   | 2.03             |
| It would be unfair to allow medallists to have an opportunity to demonstrate or protest on the podium as only a small percentage of athletes reach the podium.                                    | 27.01%<br>131  | 25.15%<br>122 | 23.51%<br>114              | 11.96%<br>58  | 8.25%<br>40       | 4.12%<br>20 | 485   | 2.37             |
| The podium is the most visible space and athletes should have an opportunity to protest their views on political, religious, racial discrimination etc. on the podium.                            | 6.79%<br>33    | 17.28%<br>84  | 19.14%<br>93               | 22.02%<br>107 | 30.45%<br>148     | 4.32%<br>21 | 486   | 3.08             |
| Athletes' protests on the podium will distract from the success and excellence of the performance as the focus will shift from celebrating to the subject matter being protested or demonstrated. | 35.12%<br>170  | 29.34%<br>142 | 17.56%<br>85               | 9.71%<br>47   | 5.17%<br>25       | 3.10%<br>15 | 484   | 2.12             |
| I would not want my podium experience to be overshadowed by other athletes' demonstrations or protests.   | 40.37%<br>195  | 26.29%<br>127 | 15.94%<br>77               | 9.32%<br>45   | 4.97%<br>24       | 3.11%<br>15 | 483   | 2.04             |
| I do not want to overshadow fellow medallists on the podium celebratory moment by protesting or demonstrating my personal views on political, religious, racial propaganda etc.                   | 40.91%<br>198  | 29.55%<br>143 | 18.60%<br>90               | 4.13%<br>20   | 2.89%<br>14       | 3.93%<br>19 | 484   | 1.99             |

**Q16: Do you agree or disagree that protests on the FOP have a potential to distract athletes from focusing on their competition.**

| ANSWER CHOICES             | RESPONSES |     |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Strongly Agree             | 43.15%    | 211 |
| Agree                      | 35.58%    | 174 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 10.02%    | 49  |
| Disagree                   | 8.59%     | 42  |
| Strongly Disagree          | 2.66%     | 13  |
| TOTAL                      |           | 489 |

## **C. SUMMARY: ANALYSIS OF THE ONLINE SURVEY**

Total of 489 athletes from all regions participated in the survey. 55% of the respondents were Paralympians. Fifty-one per cent of the respondents thought that the current rule is appropriate and should remain the same, while 31% thought it is appropriate but needs to be relaxed to allow some amendments. In other words, 82% thought that the rule is appropriate. On the contrary, 5% of the respondents thought that the current rule is inappropriate and must be abolished.

Ten per cent of the respondents would be, and 62% would not be interested to demonstrate their views at the Games. Twenty-seven per cent of the respondents would agree for fellow athletes to demonstrate their views on any topic at the Games, while 39% would not.

As for demonstrations in various spaces at the Games, an average of responses in the 5-point scale, from strongly disagree to strongly agree, for each space given was calculated. These averages are as follows: the respondents disagreed to allowing demonstrations in the FOP, podium, or Opening and Closing Ceremonies; neither agreed nor disagreed to demonstrations in the mixed zone, Paralympic Village, or media. Media was the only option for which the percentage of those who agreed/strongly agreed was greater than that of those who disagreed/strongly disagreed. Among Paralympians, however, the percentage of agree/strongly agree was greater than that of disagree/strongly disagree for both the mixed zone and media, but still the averages were neither agree nor disagree. It must be kept in mind that not just the number of respondents, but also



the strength of their responses impacts the averages. In fact, for every option, the percentage of strongly disagree was greater than the percentage of disagree, and the percentage of strongly agree was smaller than the percentage of agree to demonstrations. Furthermore, there were, of course, also those who really responded neither agree nor disagree, which count as well.

Sixty-five per cent of the respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed to demonstrations in the FOP, whereas 18% either agreed or strongly agreed. This difference can be explained, in part, by the finding that 79% of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that protests in the FOP have a potential to distract athletes from focusing on their competition, whereas 11% disagreed/strongly disagreed.

In terms of the podium, 65% of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with a statement that the podium should not be used as a place where athletes can demonstrate or protest, whereas 17% either disagreed or strongly disagreed with that. Twenty-four per cent of the respondents agreed/strongly agreed that the podium is the most visible space and athletes should have an opportunity to demonstrate there, whereas 52% either disagreed or strongly disagreed. In addition, responses to other statements related to the podium show that the majority of the respondents do not want their podium experiences to be overshadowed by other athletes' demonstrations, do not want to overshadow fellow medalists on the podium by demonstrating, thought that the protests will distract from the success and excellence of the performance, and thought it would be unfair to allow such a small percentage of athletes as medalist to have an opportunity to demonstrate.

As for other opportunities for demonstrations, 68% of the respondents preferred one or more of the options given in the survey. The most popular options were a dedicated place in the Paralympic Village and social media, which were preferred by 40% and 39% of the respondents, respectively, and both of these options were preferred by 23% of the respondents. It should be noted that 19% of the respondents preferred the mixed zone, but 36% of the respondents agreed/strongly agreed to demonstrations there in the previous question. Those who wanted to abolish or relax the current rule were more inclined to prefer the options given than those who wanted the rule to remain the same.

These data suggest athletes overwhelmingly feel demonstrations should not be permitted on the FOP, podium, nor Opening and Closing Ceremonies. However, athletes are largely open to other opportunities for expression. On the basis of these collective athlete views, the IPC Athletes' Council recommends the proposed changes that are identified in section 2 of this report.