

DRAFT Article 4 Guidance:

World Rowing will follow the principles of the IOC Guidance on demonstrations and protests and freedom of expression at events.

The focus at a World Rowing event must remain on athletes' performances, sport and the international unity and harmony.

It is a fundamental principle that sport is neutral and must be separate from political, religious or any other type of interference. Specifically, the focus for the field of play and related ceremonies must be on celebrating athletes' performance, and showcasing sport and its values.

Where are protests and demonstrations not permitted during the Olympic Games?

- At competition venues, including:
 - On the field of play
 - During medal ceremonies
 - During Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- Any protest or demonstration outside the event venue must obviously comply with local legislation wherever local law forbids such actions.

While respecting local laws, athletes have the opportunity to express their opinions, including:

- During press conferences and interviews, e.g. in the mixed zones
- At team meetings
- On digital or traditional media, or on other platforms.

It should be noted that expressing views is different from protests and demonstrations. It should be noted, too, that these guidelines are also applicable to any other accredited person (trainers, coaches, officials, etc.).

Here are some examples of what would constitute a protest, as opposed to expressing views (non- exhaustive list):

- Gestures of a political nature
- Displaying any political messaging, including signs or armbands , like a hand gesture or kneeling
- Refusal to follow the Ceremonies protocol.

If an athlete or participant is in breach of this guidance each incident will be evaluated by their respective MF and World Rowing, and disciplinary action will be taken on a case-by-case basis as necessary.

In conclusion, these guidelines have been developed with the aim that every one can enjoy the experience of a World Rowing Championships event without any divisive disruption.