

## PARTICIPANT EXPRESSION GUIDELINES

### The World Games 2025

*Updated in July 2025*

#### 1. Preamble

The International World Games Association (IWGA), together with its Member Federations and the Host City of The World Games (TWG), is dedicated to ensuring that The World Games foster a more peaceful, just, and inclusive world. We aim to promote mutual understanding among people of diverse backgrounds and beliefs.

In this spirit, we encourage all participants to express themselves thoughtfully, particularly when addressing topics such as politics, religion, gender, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. The World Games bring together individuals from a wide range of cultures, viewpoints, and identities. To uphold the unifying nature of sport, it is essential that all participants demonstrate mutual respect and tolerance.

At the same time, the IWGA and its partners recognize and value freedom of speech. These guidelines are intended to balance the right to individual expression with the responsibility to respect others and maintain the inclusive atmosphere of the Games.

#### 2. Guidelines

The TWG Oath, delivered during the Opening Ceremony on behalf of all participants, reflects the principles that guide expression at TWG. It includes a commitment to:

*“The spirit of fair play, inclusion, and equality. Together we stand in solidarity and commit ourselves to sport without doping, without cheating, and without any form of discrimination. We do this for the honour of our country and in respect for the fundamental principles of sport.”*

Accordingly, the following guidelines apply to all participants during The World Games 2025:

##### 1. Respectful Expression

- a. Participants must refrain from making any statements—explicit or implied—that promote hate, racism, or political or religious propaganda.

##### 2. Non-Discrimination

- a. Discriminatory or derogatory remarks relating to race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, political opinions, social origin, or status are strictly prohibited.

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### **3. Forms of Expression Covered**

- a. These guidelines apply to all forms of expression, including:
  - Spoken words
  - Slogans or statements displayed on clothing
  - Obvious symbolic gestures
  - Posts on social media made during the Games

### **4. Pre-Games Social Media**

- a. Participants may be required to make previously published social media posts that contradict these guidelines inaccessible to the public for the duration of the Games, upon request from the responsible committee.

### **5. Designated Neutral Zones**

- a. The obligation to maintain neutrality applies in particular during the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, The World Games Athletes' Night, competition venues (including Award Ceremonies), The World Games Plaza, The World Games Sports Garden, catering centers, and accommodation areas such as the Village.

### **6. Consent and Acknowledgement**

- a. Each participant agrees to abide by these guidelines by signing the general consent form.

### **7. Domestic laws and regulations**

- a. All participants must comply to the host country's laws and regulations and respect the local authorities.

### **8. Duration of Applicability**

- a. These guidelines are in effect from the time the consent form is signed until the conclusion of the participant's involvement in The World Games, as outlined in the IF Passport.

## **3. Non-Compliance and Consequences**

The IWGA is the governing authority of The World Games. Its rules and guidelines take precedence over those of Member Federations at all official TWG events.

The IWGA Executive Committee is responsible for monitoring compliance. Participants will be granted the right to be heard before any decision is made. In the event of violations, the Committee may impose sanctions. In cases of serious breaches, sanctions may include exclusion from The World Games 2025 in Chengdu, China, and potential disqualification from future editions.

These sanctions do not preclude additional disciplinary actions by the relevant Member Federations. Decisions are made by majority vote of the IWGA Executive Committee.

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