

U.S. OLYMPIC & PARALMPIC TRIALS

Demonstration Participation Rules

Athlete Overview



The USOPC values the expressions of Team USA athletes and believes that their right to advocate for racial and social justice aligns with the fundamental values of equality that define Team USA and the Olympic and Paralympic movements. This document provides an overview of demonstration information for athletes at Trials events.

Racial and Social Justice Demonstrations

A Racial and Social Justice Demonstration (R&S Demonstration) is specifically aimed at promoting the human dignity of individuals or groups that have historically been underrepresented, minoritized, or marginalized in their respective societal context.

Athletes will NOT be sanctioned by the USOPC for engaging in an R&S Demonstration at Trials.

Demonstrations include any verbal or non-verbal communication that involves expression of views, such as:

- Speech or body gestures
- Messages communicated via clothing or signs

Additionally, an R&S Demonstration does not include any “Impermissible Elements” as defined in the rules.

Impermissible Elements

Impermissible Elements are expressions that advocate against other people, their dignity, or their rights. This may include hate speech, racist propaganda, or threatening, abusive, or discriminatory remarks. Additionally, acts that physically impede events at the Trials, cause physical harm to others and/or to property, or violate applicable laws are Impermissible Elements.

Engaging in Impermissible Elements at a Trials violates the USOPC’s Rules.

Other Demonstrations

Other demonstrations include any expression that advocates for something outside the scope of a racial or social justice cause.

Engaging in other demonstrations at a Trials violates the USOPC’s Rules.

Examples of R&S Demonstrations:

- Wearing a hat with phrases such as “Black Lives Matter” or “Trans Lives Matter” or words such “equality” or “respect”
- Orally advocating for equity/equal rights for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) individuals, or other historically underrepresented, marginalized or minoritized populations
- Holding up one’s fist at the start line or on the podium
- Kneeling on the podium or at the start line during the national anthem

Examples of Impermissible Elements:

- Wearing a hat with a hate symbol or hate speech on it
- Making hand gestures affiliated with hate groups
- Violent protests that cause damage or hurt others
- Defacing, distorting or causing physical harm to a national flag
- Protests aimed explicitly against a specific organization, person or group of people

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Athlete Guidelines

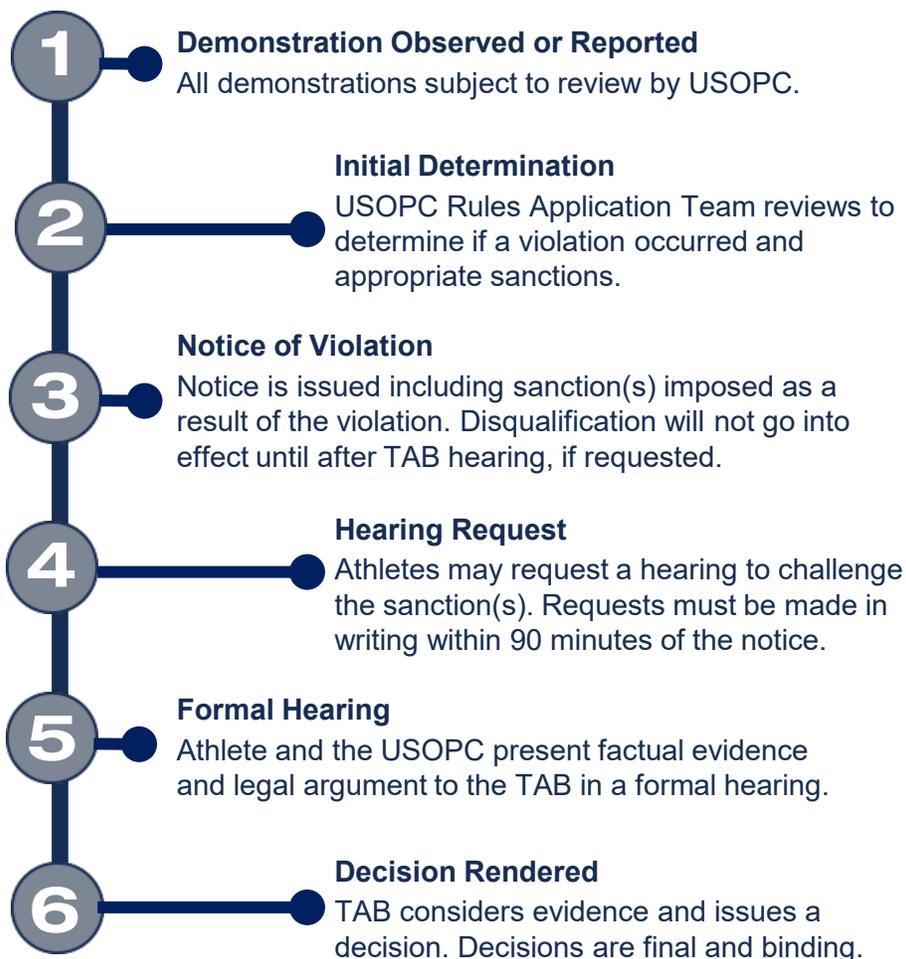


The USOPC is responsible for the enforcement of demonstration rules and will have designated personnel on-site at each Trials Venue to enforce them. Athletes engaging in demonstrations that contain impermissible elements, or demonstrations for causes other than a racial and social justice are in violation of the rules and subject to sanctions.

Enforcement Process

Athletes who engage in a demonstration may continue competing until a full review and hearing is conducted*. Athletes should read the Rules and watch the educational video to fully understand how enforcement and possible impacts to qualification.

** The USOPC reserves the right to immediately remove an athlete if a demonstration puts themselves or others in danger, threatens to damage property or is in violation of local laws.*



USOPC Rules Application Team

- A team of 3 USOPC Representatives from key functional areas
- An outside DE&I expert is available to the team as an additional resource
- Determination is made as expeditiously as possible

Trials Administrative Board (TAB)

- Comprised of:
 - USOPC Board Chair
 - USOPC CEO
 - National Governing Body Council (NGBC) Chair
 - Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC) Chair
 - 10 Year+ Athlete
- An outside DE&I expert is available to the TAB as an additional resource if needed

Athletes are also encouraged to use their voice in other forums, like the press, social media, and areas outside of the Trials Venues in support of causes they believe in.

ATHLETE OMBUDS

The Office of the Athlete Ombuds is available to provide independent and confidential advice regarding athlete rights and assist with navigating available review options if participation is affected.

Contact the
Athlete Ombuds:

719-866-5000

ombudsman@usathlete.org