



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Lausanne, May 2016

MIXED ZONES OPERATIONS FOR THE RIO 2016 OLYMPIC GAMES

General Principles

The following policies relating to the operation of the Mixed Zones will be implemented for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

- An effective Mixed Zone is a critical Games time operation, for athletes and the media
- In the operation of the Mixed Zones, the media are expected to exercise courtesy towards the athletes who may be experiencing extremes of emotion or fatigue so soon after their competitions, while the athletes are expected to respect that the media have an important role to play in publicising their exploits and their sport
- All athletes must pass through the Mixed Zone when leaving the field of play. They are encouraged to participate in interviews, however they are not obliged to answer questions or participate in interviews if they do not wish to do so
- Mixed Zones will be operational during all open training sessions held in competition venues and will operate under the same rules as during competition i.e. athletes must leave the field of play through the Mixed Zone but are not obliged to talk with the media
- OBS's Olympic News Channel (ONC) will have positions at the beginning of the Mixed Zone in all key venues and will attempt to interview all medallists for the benefit of all rights holders and press. These ONC Mixed Zone interviews will be broadcast live on the CATV to tribunes, mixed zones and media workrooms within the venue for the benefit of all media.
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) requests that the Organising Committee (OCOG), International Federations (IFs) and National Olympic Committees (NOCs) provide all the necessary assistance in the mutual interests of all in the smooth operations of the Mixed Zone

Mixed Zone Management

- RIO 2016 Sport is responsible for escorting the athletes from the field of play to the entrance of the broadcast Mixed Zone, but not through the Mixed Zone.
- OBS and Press Operations then are responsible for escorting the athletes through their respective sections of the Mixed Zone
- OBS is responsible for the Rights Holding Broadcasters' section of the Mixed Zone
- RIO 2016 Press Operations is responsible for the press section of the Mixed Zone
- OBS and Press Operations will liaise closely to facilitate the smooth operations of the Mixed Zone, under the instruction of the IOC
- OBS and RIO 2016 must prevent any interference with the free flow of the athletes. Corridors should be unobstructed and will be wide enough to allow easy movement
- Only those with an operational role in the Mixed Zone i.e. competing athletes, media, OBS, Mixed Zone supervisors, doping control, ONS flash quote reporters, IOC media operations, registered NOC press attaches, etc., are to be permitted into their respective areas of the Mixed Zones
- Coaches of team sports, including archery and combat sport where the coach is on the FOP, will pass through the Mixed Zone for interview possibilities.
- Coaches of non team sports, managers and/or agents for individual athletes, as well as security, volunteers or other persons are not permitted in any area of the Mixed Zone
- Mixed Zone interviews in the broadcast area are to be kept short only to ensure that the athletes can offer as many interviews as possible while passing through the Mixed Zone
- Flexibility will be offered if no other media wish to interview the athlete (athlete is primarily of national interest), in consultation and with the approval of the OBS Mixed Zone supervisor in consultation with the press Mixed Zone supervisor
- The IOC-recognised world news agencies, host national agency and a ONS reporter will be located in a fenced area and will be the first stop of the press Mixed Zone.
- Elevated platforms and amplification of athletes' interviews will be used in certain press Mixed Zones to enable the athlete to be heard and seen, under the supervision of the Mixed Zone Team Leader
- For Victory Ceremonies held within ten minutes of the completion of the event, the medalling athletes will pass through the Mixed Zones immediately following the Victory Ceremony proceedings. The non medalling athletes will proceed through the mixed zone as normal.

- Doping Control chaperons will maintain a distance from the athletes, out of camera, and will in no way interfere with the mixed zone operations and athletes interviews
- ENR (Non Rights Holding Broadcasters) accredited reporters are permitted to enter and work in the press Mixed Zone, without audio/video equipment.
- Press and ENRs are not permitted to film in the Mixed Zone or to conduct interviews via mobile phones
- The respective Mixed Zone supervisors will ultimately be responsible for managing their section of the Mixed Zone (broadcast or press) and maintaining a sense of order

Order of Interviews

Separate designated areas within the Mixed Zone will ensure that interviews are conducted in the following order:

- Broadcast Section
 1. Live unilateral television
 2. OBS ONC Mixed Zone feed
 3. Additional live unilateral television
 4. Live unilateral radio
 5. ENG and radio rights-holders
- Press Section
 6. IOC-recognised world news agencies, and the Host National News Agency, Press Association and ONS
 7. Written Press and Photographers

ONS Flash Quote reporters will be permitted to work from designated sections of the Mixed Zones, under the direction and approval of the Mixed Zone supervisors

One ONS reporter is permitted to work from within the broadcast section of the mixed zone, standing outside of camera shot behind the RHBs and list, and not conducting interviews.

NOC Press Attachés

Mixed Zone access for NOC Press Attachés will be granted in accordance with the rules established by the IOC.

For the operations of the Mixed Zone, the IOC will issue registered and approved NOC Press Attachés with an armband, which will act as a supplementary access device for the Mixed Zone. This device will not be transferable. Only Press Attachés wearing the required armband will be permitted to work on the athletes' side of the press section of the Mixed Zone during the period when their nation's athletes are competing. Press Attachés will enter the athletes' side of the Mixed Zone at the access point located between the broadcast and press Mixed Zones. Press Attachés are not permitted in the broadcast Mixed Zone unless requested by OBS.

Registered NOC press attaché's will be permitted to work on the athletes' side of the press section of the Mixed Zone, under the following conditions:

1. The Press Attaché's role is to assist in the free and functional flow of the athlete from their NOC through the press section of the Mixed Zone, offering as many interview opportunities as possible with the press
2. They will respect the protocol order of the Mixed Zone. The Mixed Zone at the Olympic Games is international in nature and the Press Attaché is to provide assistance with their athletes to ensure they answer questions from any press organisation. They will not give priority or preference to their domestic organisations over others
3. They will not attempt to influence an athlete to not speak with any particular broadcast or press organisation
4. The Press Attaché's should attempt to make sure that the interviews are done in the right time frame so that all the media in the Mixed Zone can get comments from the athlete in a timely manner
5. They will conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner and follow the guidelines established by the IOC
6. They will follow the instructions and directions of the RIO 2016 Mixed Zone supervisors at all times, including vacating the Mixed Zone if requested

The IOC will hold a NOC briefing for all Press Attachés at the MPC, on Monday 1 August from 14.00 – 16.00. Press Attaché armbands will be distributed and signed for at the IOC Media Operations office in the MPC following this meeting.

The armband and Mixed Zone access privileges of any Press Attaché at the Olympic Games will be withdrawn for the duration of the Olympic Games at the discretion of the IOC, if a Press Attaché fails to comply with these guidelines.