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The Verification of the isolation bubble system for OlympicsCamp -Ethnography of the French national team-

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In February 2021, amidst the spread of the new coronavirus (Covid 19), the Tokyo Organising Committee for the Olympic Games published a set of rules and regulations that adopted an isolation bubble system. The bubble system is a bubble system in which the Games are operated in such a way as to envelop the host city in a giant bubble, blocking athletes and officials from contact with the outside world. In addition to regular PCR inspections before and after entry and during the Games, strict curfews are imposed at the Games venue to ensure isolation. This bubble system is now becoming established as the new modality for international sporting events. A concrete example of the bubble system for infection control at the Tokyo Olympics is that athletes will be tested for Covid19 within 72 hours before leaving the country and will continue to be tested regularly during the Games. They must then download a health management app called COCOA or O C H A . The scope of activities is also limited to the athletes village, competition, and practice venues, and public transport is not allowed for travel. After entering the country, the athletes activities are restricted to the competition and training venues and the athletes village. Furthermore, as a rule, they must leave the country within 48 hours of the end of the Games. Nevertheless, while such strict and thorough infection control measures reduce the risk of infection, it can be imagined that athletes placed in a bubble (external isolation) will experience increased stress. Under the extreme tension of the Olympics, what kind of stress will athletes place inside the bubble face, and how will they accept the isolation of the bubble environment for the Games? I was appointed by the French Olympic Committee as the local head co-ordinator of the Taekwondo team and spent time with the team in isolation. As a sociologist, I was motivated to accompany the team to the pre-camp and observe the normative awareness of the living environment of the Olympic team in the bubble and the governance within the organization.

In this research, I accompanied the overseas team to the teams pre-camp as a local attendant and spent time with the team in the pre-camp, and observed them in the same bubble, eating the same life, conducting interviews in French, and recording their behavior and words using the ethnographic method. Regarding living in isolation, we found that the lawns as a relaxation zone, ice baths, and the provision of Japanese food served as a stress buffer for the athletes. To ensure that they felt protected rather than isolated, weekly online meetings were held for two months before the camp to promote communication. Thanks to the various considerations by the pre-camp host municipality and facilities, the players did not feel so burdened. The athletes did not feel any discomfort because they had already been using the bubble system for more than a year for their training camps in France.

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