



**YOUTH
OLYMPIC
GAMES**

INFORMATION ON DAKAR 2026 PARTICIPATION PRINCIPLES

NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

May 2025

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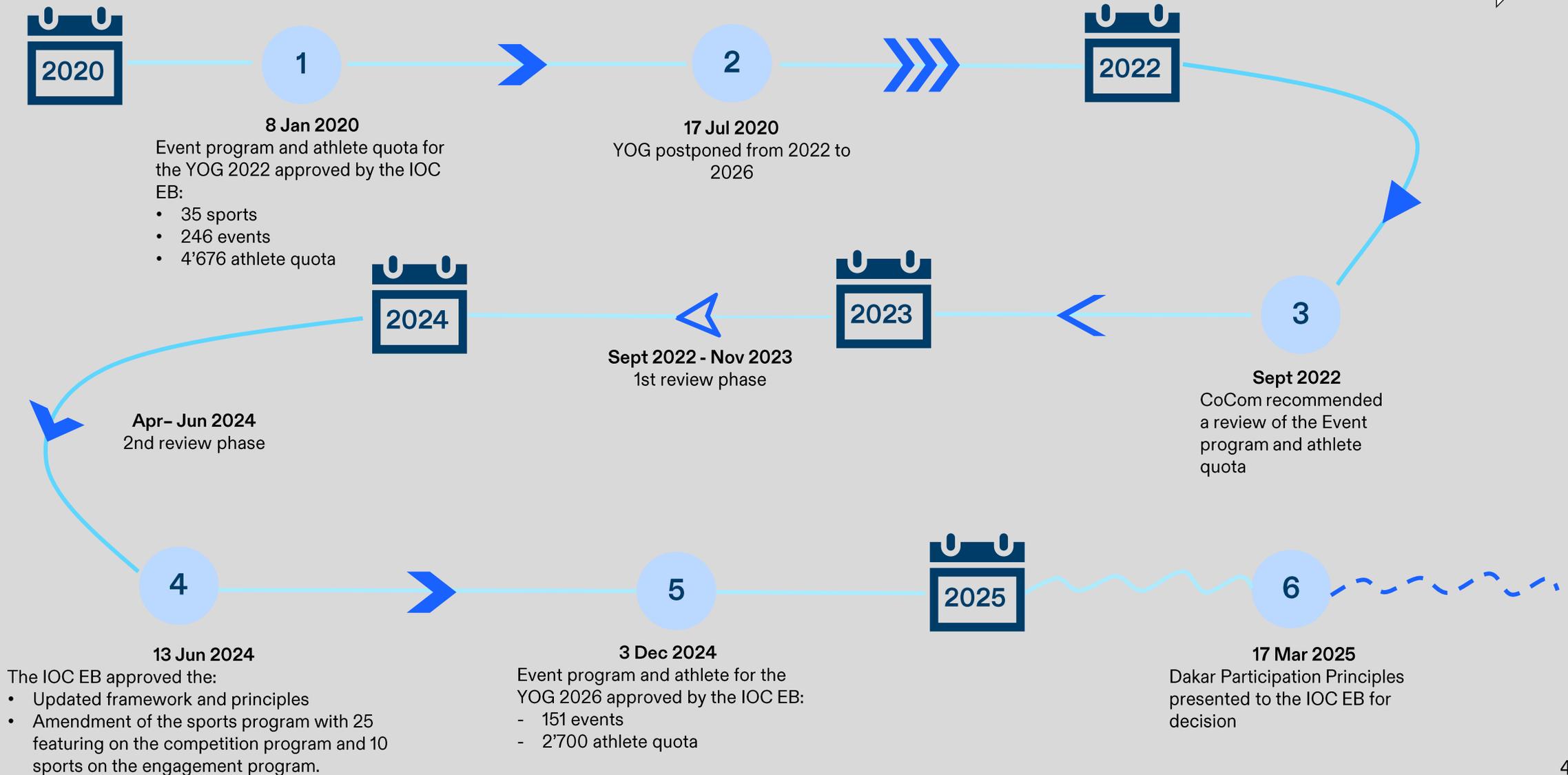
BACKGROUND



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BACKGROUND



PARTICIPATION PRINCIPLES



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PARTICIPATION PRINCIPLES

Context and Rationale

- Align with the revised approach to deliver Games that fit with the local and regional context.
- Reduce YOG-specific travel and cost for the athletes, NFs or NOCs.
- Consider athletes that are on an NOC and/or IF development pathway.
- Reduce workload for IFs and NOCs in terms of quota allocation and confirmation as this is to be done via the IOC SEQ system.
- Allow sufficient time between quota allocation and final sport entries to help facilitate NOC planning and operations.

Key changes

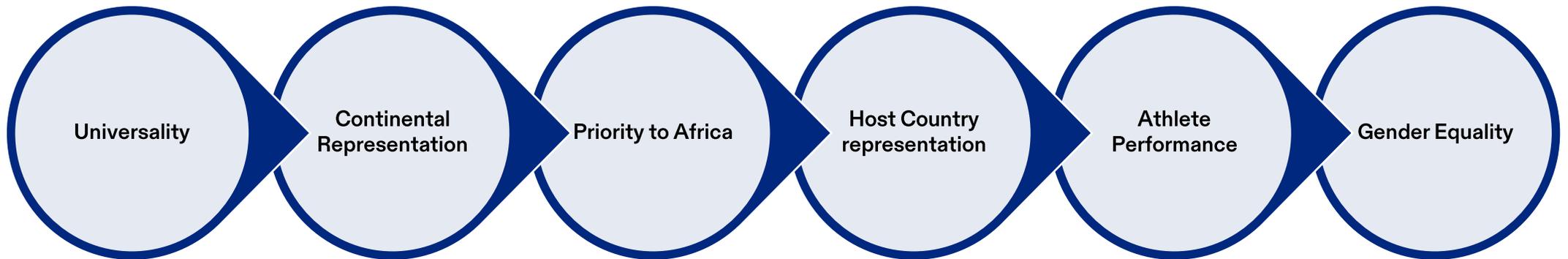
➔ **Participation** principles ≠ Qualification system principles.

- All entries for participation to be **managed directly by the IOC** in collaboration with NOCs, IFs and the Dakar 2026 YOGOC.
- Reverse the order of milestones for Delegation Registration Process.
- **Start the process** by understanding from NOCs in which sport/disciplines they intend to send athletes.

PARTICIPATION PRINCIPLES



- Ten principles developed to ensure that the following six pillars remain the focus for **athlete participation and quota allocation** in all 25 sports on the competition program of the YOG Dakar 2026:



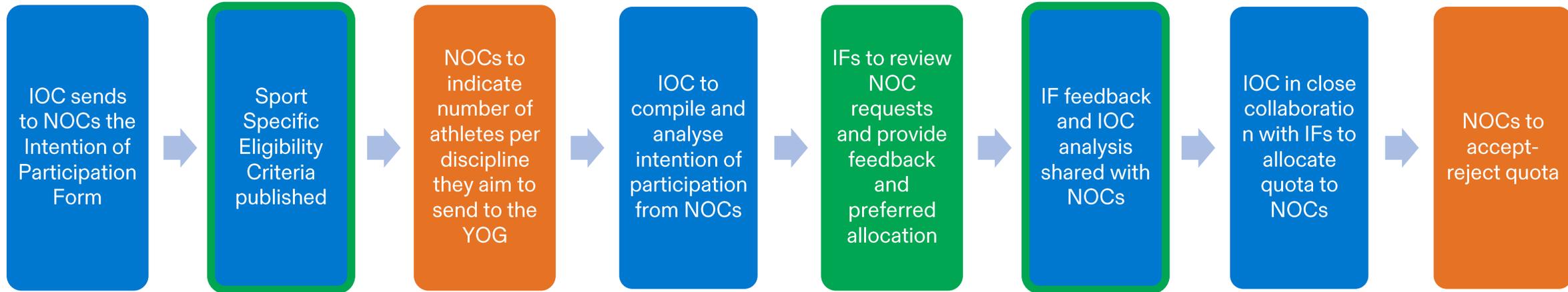
Link to the [Dakar 2026 Participation Principles](#)

SPORT SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA



- Each International Federation (IF) has established **sport-specific eligibility criteria** for their respective disciplines at the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games (YOG), ensuring alignment with the unique requirements and developmental standards of each sport.
- The **age requirements and eligibility criteria per discipline** are outlined in **Section 4 of the Intention of Participation File**, which has been communicated to all National Olympic Committees (NOCs). It is essential that NOCs and National Federations review these details carefully when identifying eligible athletes.
- Athletes must be **17 years of age or younger** at the time of the YOG, **up to and including the Closing Ceremony** of Dakar 2026 (23:59 local time).

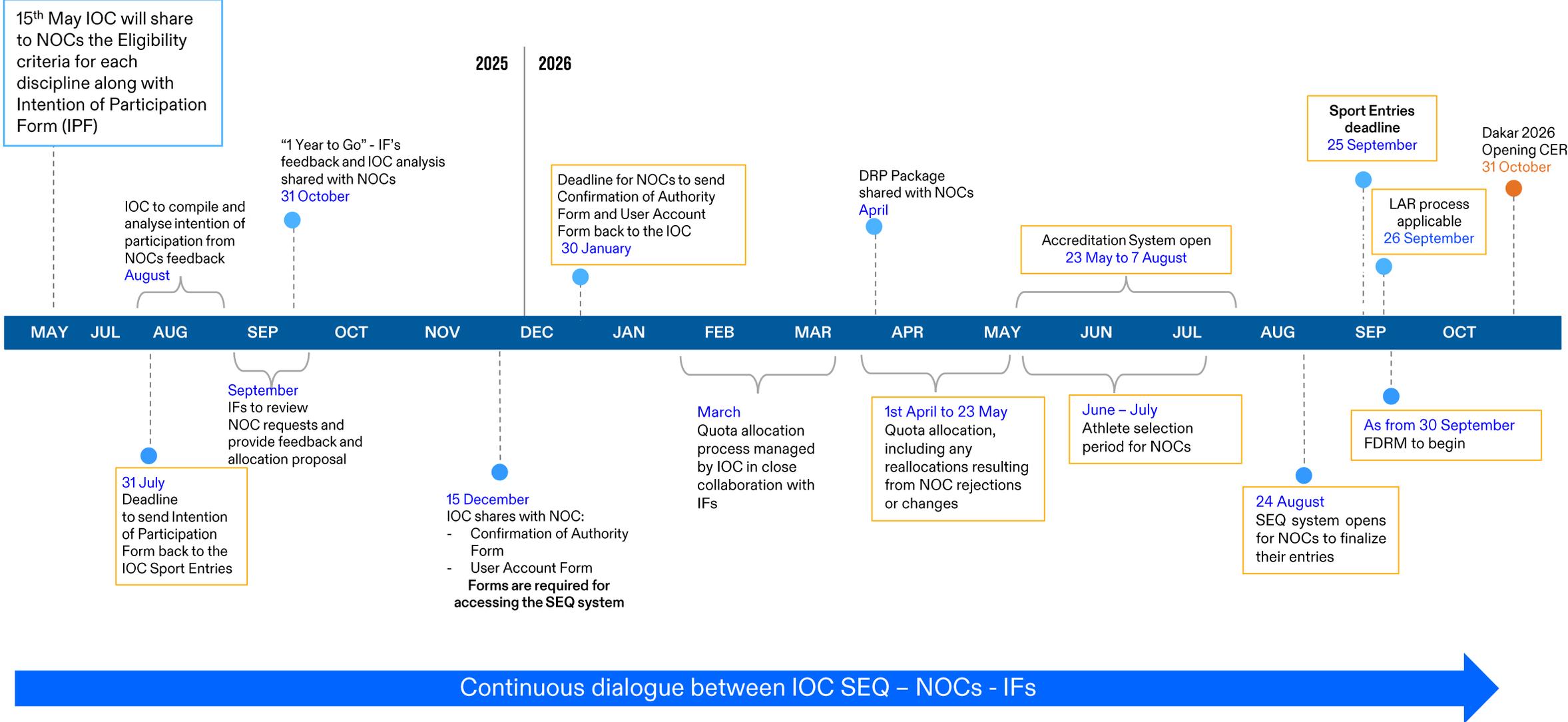
QUOTA ALLOCATION PROCESS



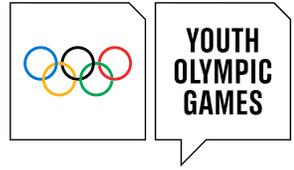
The IOC and IF will review and analyse the preferences put forward by each NOC, ensuring that quota are allocated in line with the Dakar 2026 Participation Principles. Submission of requests does not guarantee allocation of quota.

PARTICIPATION TIMELINE

NOC milestones

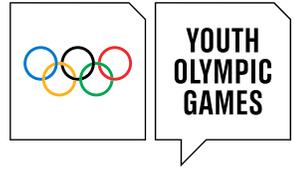


SUGGESTIONS FOR NATIONAL FEDERATIONS



- Proactively identify young talent within your development pathways and share this information with your NOC. Include details on each athlete's performance history, competition participation, and training background.
- Engage early with your NOC to express your National Federation's (NF) interest in participating in the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games. **The deadline for your NOC to submit the Intention of Participation Form is the 31st of July 2025.**
- Ensure gender-balanced representation by identifying and promoting athletes of both genders, in line with the Youth Olympic Games' commitment to gender equality. For coaches this can also be an opportunity for NFs to encourage young female and male coaches.

SUGGESTIONS FOR NATIONAL FEDERATIONS



- Stay up to date on eligibility requirements set by each respective International Federation and the IOC. Ensure all athletes meet the age requirements at the time of the YOG. The Intention of Participation File is a working document and might be updated if needed. In such case updates will be immediately communicated to your NOCs and to NFs through the respective IF.
- NFs need to coordinate closely with NOCs on the Intention of Participation Form, align on nomination procedures, timelines, and key action points. It's important to maintain open and regular communication for seamless coordination.

SUGGESTIONS FOR NATIONAL FEDERATIONS



- Based on new Participation Principles, NFs should set realistic participation goals and manage expectations, this should be complimentary to existing athlete development pathways as well as developing the next generation of coaches and officials.
- Proactively NFs should verify eligibility to avoid late-stage eligibility issues, and integrate eligibility checks into your athlete monitoring and management systems.
- **Please note: Submission of the Intention of Participation Form by your NOC does not guarantee that the quotas requested will be allocated.**



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THANK YOU

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