

TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1935

Zurich, 20 June 2025

Youth Olympic Futsal Tournaments Dakar 2026 – participation principles and expressions of interest

Dear Sir or Madam,

We would like to inform you about the latest updates from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) regarding the Youth Olympic Futsal Tournaments at the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games.

The Youth Olympic Futsal Tournaments for both boys and girls have been confirmed as an integral part of the upcoming Games, and we strongly encourage our Member Associations to express their interest in participating.

The IOC has determined that the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of each Member Association is responsible for submitting their representative teams and holds exclusive authority over the selection of their athletes.

We therefore kindly ask you to liaise with your respective NOC to ensure that your expression of interest is submitted in accordance with their internal procedures and preferred format.

Additionally, we request that you complete the enclosed FIFA Expression of Interest form and submit it to olympicfootballtournaments@fifa.org, copying your respective confederation, by 27 June 2025 or by the deadline stipulated by your NOC, whichever comes first.

Thereafter, FIFA will coordinate with the confederations and the IOC based on the expressions of interest received.

Tournament details:

- The tournaments will take place between 31 October and 13 November 2026, with the full match schedule to be released in due course.
- A total of eight boys' and eight girls' teams will participate in the tournaments.
- A total of ten players per team are entitled to participate.
- The maximum age for the participants will be 17 years old at the time of the Games, including up to 13 November 2026 (date of closing ceremony).

Slot allocation for the Men's Youth Olympic Futsal Tournament Dakar 2026:

Confederation	Number of slots
AFC	1
CAF	1
Concacaf	1
CONMEBOL	2
OFC	1
UEFA	1
Host country	1

Slot allocation for the Women's Youth Olympic Futsal Tournament Dakar 2026:

Confederation	Number of slots
AFC	1
CAF	1
Concacaf	1
CONMEBOL	1
OFC	1
UEFA	2
Host country	1

Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Kathy Morrison, Olympic Tournaments Event Manager, at olympicfootballtournaments@fifa.org.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Mattias Grafström
Secretary General

cc: - FIFA Council
- Confederations
- IOC
- Dakar 2026

Enclosures: IOC Participation Principles
IOC National Federation Information
FIFA Expression of Interest form



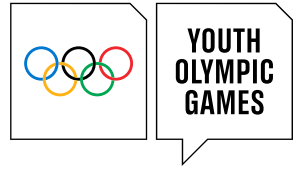
**YOUTH
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INFORMATION ON DAKAR 2026 PARTICIPATION PRINCIPLES

NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

May 2025

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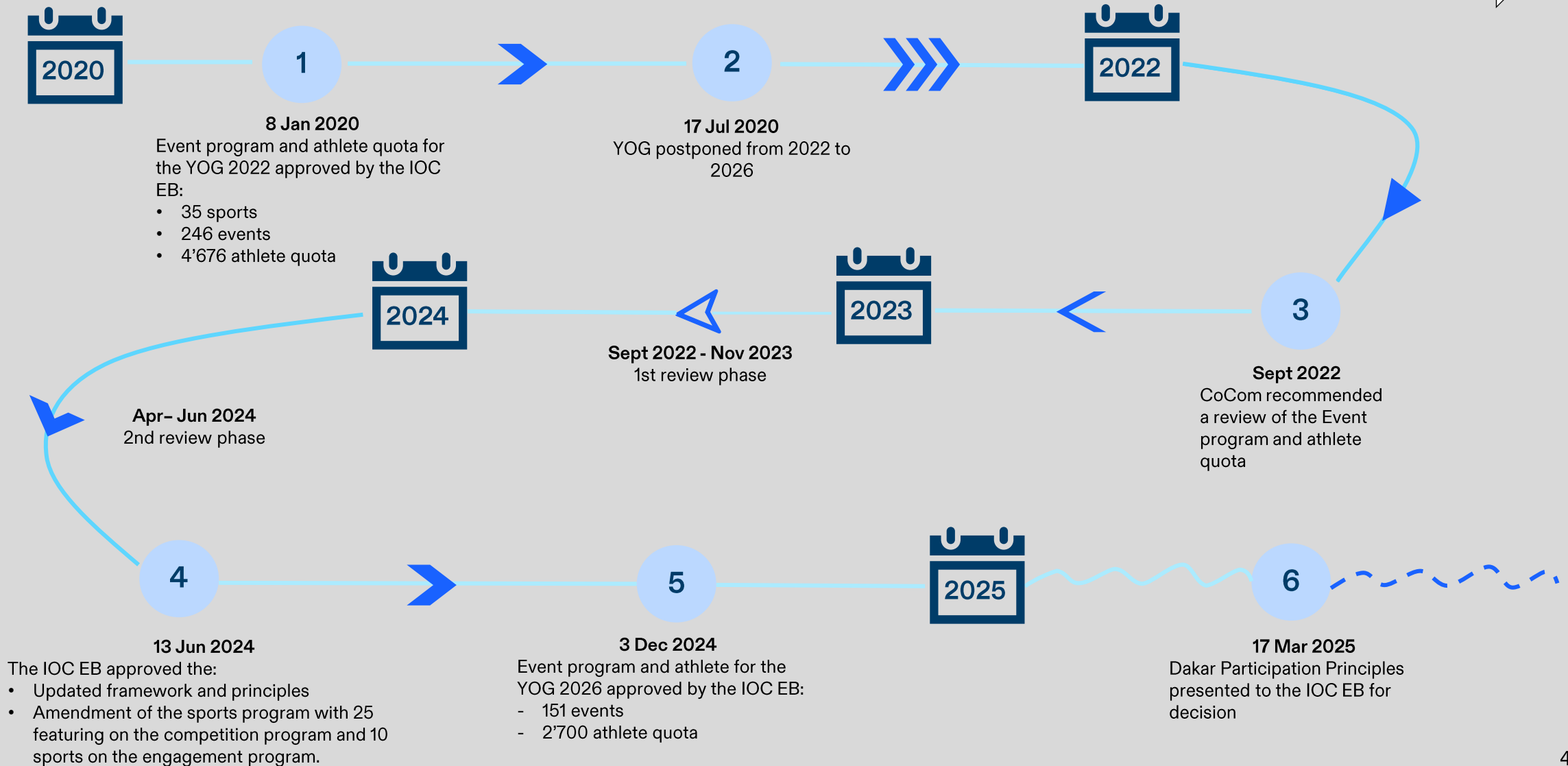
BACKGROUND



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BACKGROUND



PARTICIPATION PRINCIPLES



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PARTICIPATION PRINCIPLES

Context and Rationale

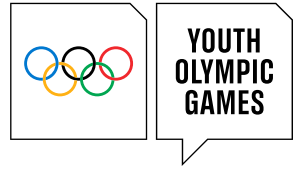
- Align with the revised approach to deliver Games that fit with the local and regional context.
- Reduce YOG-specific travel and cost for the athletes, NFs or NOCs.
- Consider athletes that are on an NOC and/or IF development pathway.
- Reduce workload for IFs and NOCs in terms of quota allocation and 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

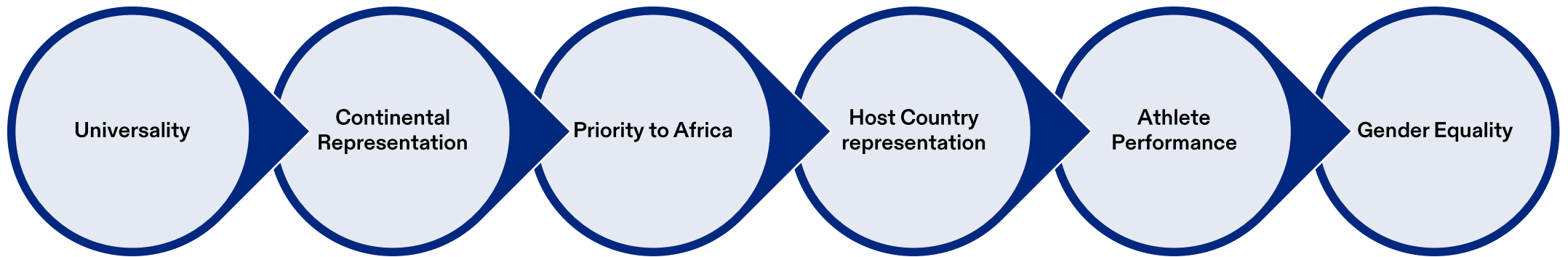
→ **Participation** principles ≠ Qualification system principles.

- 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

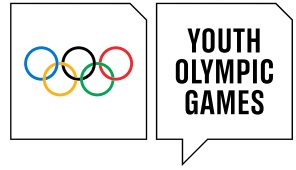


- Ten principles developed to ensure that the following six pillars remain the focus for **athlete participation and quota allocation** in all 25 sports on the competition program of the YOG Dakar 2026:



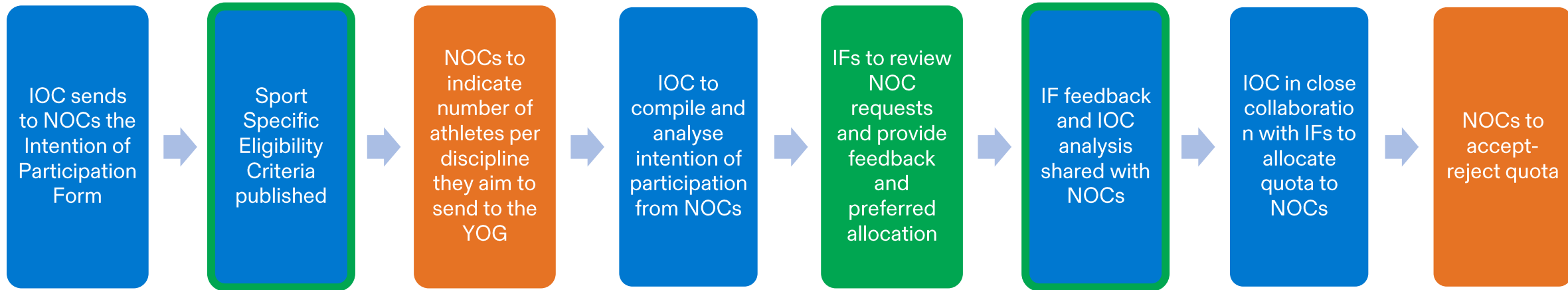
Link to the [Dakar 2026 Participation Principles](#)

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).

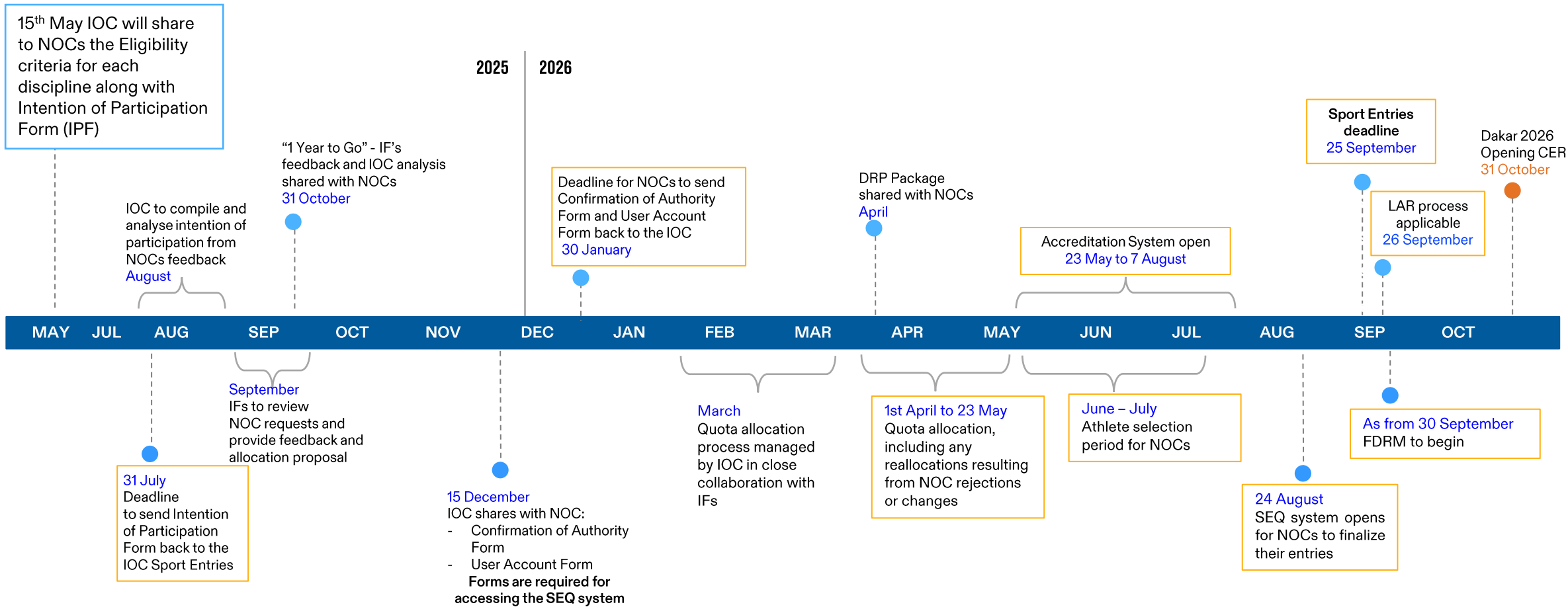
QUOTA ALLOCATION PROCESS



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.

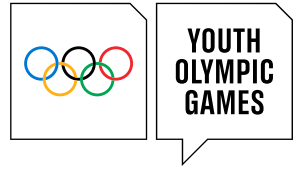
PARTICIPATION TIMELINE

NOC milestones



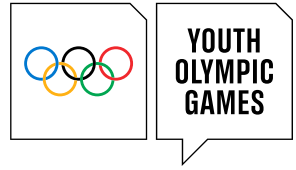
Continuous dialogue between IOC SEQ – NOCs - IFs

SUGGESTIONS FOR NATIONAL FEDERATIONS



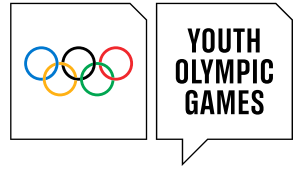
- Proactively identify young talent within your development pathways and share this information with your NOC. Include details on each athlete's performance history, competition participation, and training background.
- Engage early with your NOC to express your National Federation's (NF) interest in 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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Any use is limited to the context in which it was given by the IOC and for the purpose of that context.

Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026 – Participation Principles

From 31 October – 13 November 2026 Dakar, Senegal will host the 4th edition of the Summer Youth Olympic Games. To participate in the YOG, athletes will have to respect and comply with the Olympic Charter as well as with the rules of the relevant International Federation (IF) and their National Olympic Committee (NOC).

All entries for participation shall be managed directly by the IOC in collaboration with the respective NOCs, IFs and Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee to ensure that the quotas are attributed in accordance with the principles and the athlete quota is not exceeded.

The YOG Participation Principles serve to ensure that the following six (6) pillars remain the focus for athlete participation and quota allocation in all sports on the competition programme of the YOG:

- Universality
- Continental representation
- Strong African representation
- Host country representation
- Athlete performance
- Gender equality

Key principles

1. Ensure the opportunity for participation of athletes from the territories of 206 NOCs + Refugee Olympic Team (EOR) with a minimum of one (1) male and one (1) female in their delegation, where possible.
2. There shall not be more than one (1) quota per NOC per event.
3. Representation of all 54 African NOCs shall be prioritised by the IOC in their allocation of quota places. Where possible, all African NOCs will have a minimum representation with two (2) male and two (2) female athletes.
4. There shall be continental and host country representation, where possible, across each sport and discipline.
5. There shall not be any qualification events organised by the IFs to avoid YOG-specific travel and cost for the athletes, NFs or NOCs.
6. The IFs shall establish minimum sporting and eligibility criteria for participation in their respective events at the YOG. This may include participation and results in national, continental and/or international events to verify these criteria.
7. The maximum age for participants will be 17 years old at the time of the Games, including up to the Closing Ceremony, with the minimum age requirements per discipline aligned with the IF regulations and approved by the IOC.
8. The IOC shall prioritise allocation of quota places to athletes on an NOC and/or IF development pathway and those athletes participating in youth competitions.
9. The NOCs have the exclusive authority for the selection of their respective athletes at the YOG, ensuring they fulfill the age requirements and eligibility criteria set by the respective IFs.
10. The IOC shall ensure the allocation of equal number of quota places for women and men across the disciplines.

Youth Olympic Futsal Tournaments Dakar 2026

Expression of Interest Form

Member Association

herewith submits an expression of interest in the following competition(s)

- Men's Youth Olympic Futsal Tournament**
- Women's Youth Olympic Futsal Tournament**

Name and job title

Place and date

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO FIFA BY 27 JUNE 2025
(Olympicfootballtournaments@fifa.org)**