

INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE



FACTSHEET

THE YOG – VISION, BIRTH AND PRINCIPLES

UPDATED – DECEMBER 2019 - 1 OF 4

GENERAL INFORMATION

Olympism is a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind. Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy of effort, the educational value of good example, social responsibility and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles. *Olympic Charter – Fundamental Principles of Olympism, 1.*

YOG VISION AND OBJECTIVES

The Youth Olympic Games (YOG) vision is to inspire young people around the world to participate in sport and encourage them to adopt and live by the Olympic values and become ambassadors of Olympism.

The idea behind the YOG is to organise an event, to educate, engage and influence young athletes and other young participants, inspiring them to play an active role in their communities.

In essence, the YOG's main focus is to deliver an experience on and off the field of play which provides skills to the athletes both for their sporting career and beyond sport. The YOG are meant to inspire and empower young Olympians and other young participants. Within the Olympic Movement, the Youth Olympic Games are a catalyst for sporting, educational and cultural initiatives for young people. In addition, the Youth Olympic Games aim to be the leading component of a network of youth sporting events, including World Youth Championships and Continental Youth Games.

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE YOG

The four objectives of the YOG are:

1. Bring together the best young athletes for high level global multi-sport competition at a purpose driven sports festival that includes cultural and educational activities;
2. Promote cultural exchange and the Olympic values, including non-discrimination, fair play and the pursuit of excellence;
3. Engage with young people on their terms through the Olympic Movement's digital

platforms, including the [Olympic Channel](#) and [IOC website](#).

4. Be a catalyst for innovation and an incubator for new concepts such as for the testing and validation of new sports and competition format, young people education initiatives, or technologies focused on more sustainable event delivery model, and creation of programmes that can be shared digitally.

BIRTH OF THE YOG

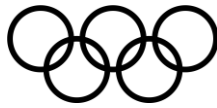
The Youth Olympic Games were created on the initiative of the former President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Jacques Rogge. The IOC Executive Board unanimously welcomed the President's idea on 25 April 2007. The 119th IOC Session later approved the project in Guatemala City, and the YOG were finally able to take shape.



CONCEPT

The YOG are the ultimate multi-sporting event, inviting the world's best young athletes aged between 15 and 18 years. The YOG are centred on a "Compete, Learn & Share" experience that is delivered in a purpose-driven sports festival format. It strives to reach and engage as many young people as possible by integrating sport with educational and cultural activities.

For the young elite athletes, the YOG are a step in their learning pathway, enhancing their long-term athletic development and career opportunities both inside and outside of the sporting arena. Local youth are encouraged to use the YOG to discover new passions, develop a better understanding of key topics, develop new skills, take on new responsibilities and



ultimately become ambassadors for sport and the Olympic values.

There is a summer and a winter edition of the YOG. The Summer YOG are staged in the years of the Olympic Winter Games and vice versa. The period of the Games is adapted to the climate and sports calendar of the host city (region). The two first editions were staged in Singapore in 2010 (Summer) and in Innsbruck 2012 (Winter) (See the factsheet #4 for more information).

PRINCIPLES

Host Selection Process:

The revised YOG 2022 Host Selection Process has four key features:

1. **Streamlined and shorter process:** The formal Candidature process has been shortened to only four months with the compilation of a Candidature Report being undertaken by the IOC, rather than each Candidate party.
2. **The IOC has commissioned research and also completed its own analysis:** By sourcing its own feasibility assessments, the IOC has minimised the scope of work and expenditure of candidates.
3. **Open dialogue and flexibility to ensure strategic alignment:** The IOC conducted a site visit to each Candidate and has held numerous interactive working sessions at its own cost.
4. **Partnership working with greater support and expertise from the IOC:** During the Candidature Phase the IOC created an Outline Plan of Sports and Facilities in consultation with each Candidate Party. The Outline plan sets out an overview of the potential facilities/sites to host the YOG 2022. In the co-construction period, the IOC and Olympic stakeholders will collaborate with the elected Host to jointly develop a YOG 2022 Edition Plan, including a master plan, concepts and budget that aligns to strategic objectives and is adapted and optimised for the local context.

As part of the revised Host Selection Process, the IOC worked collaboratively with each Candidate

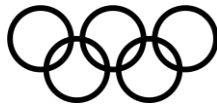
to develop an Outline Plan of Sport and Facilities (Outline Plan). The Outline Plan is a potential master plan, and contains a map of the facilities, accompanying photo files, and a detailed table listing the potential allocation of sports and key facts about each facility, including usage, ownership and key dimensions as applicable.



Duration: The Summer and Winter YOG last for 12 and 10 days respectively.

Age groups: All YOG athletes must be between 15 and 18 years old on 31 December in the year of the YOG. However, depending on the sport and discipline, specific age groups are defined. This is done by the relevant International Federation (IF) responsible for the sport, in close collaboration with the IOC.

Participants: There are currently approximately 4,000 athletes for the Summer Games from all (or almost all) of the 206 NOCs; and around 1,800 athletes from 80 NOCs for the Winter YOG. To maximise the reach and impact of the YOG for young elite athlete development and to increase the level of competition, the sports programme for YOG 2022 will be designed around waves of athletes. Applying waves of athletes will provide an opportunity to optimise the number of athletes at YOG 2022 while avoiding increased costs to the city. The young athletes must stay in the host city for the **whole duration of the YOG** or, for 2020 onward, for the duration of their wave at the YOG, in order to make the most of the activities offered in the framework of their experience on and off the field of play. The conditions for qualifying to compete



in the YOG change from one sport to another depending on the IFs and NOCs.

Venues: For the YOG, the following principles, are applied

- no new permanent facility should be built for the sole purpose of hosting YOG events;
- the use of **existing facilities** should be realistic and consider affordability in terms of the efficiency of the overall operational footprint, impact on direct and indirect operating costs and the contribution to the overall YOG experience;
- utilisation of facilities with small to moderate capacities and/or affordable temporary solutions that support delivery of a multi-faceted YOG experience will be prioritised;
- hosting events outside of traditional self-contained venues and/or in **urban environments** that showcase local youth-specific locations or landmarks is considered for specific sports, disciplines or events in order to enhance the YOG experience;
- the use of **temporary solutions** should be realistic and affordable (fit for purpose), with due consideration of options for simplified solutions that are appealing to young people;
- options for **co-location of NOC team delegation** accommodation solutions with Festival Sites will be actively encouraged, including consideration for utilisation of existing hotels, student accommodation facilities, privately owned housing schemes and/or residential housing projects as appropriate;
- athlete training venues should be located as close as possible to the NOC team delegation accommodation solutions to reduce travel times for athletes;
- facility planning should support the concept of sustainable development as it applies to the Olympic Movement in general and to events infrastructure, including the use of temporary facilities;

During the YOG, athlete competition will take place alongside athlete education and local youth activities to create the Compete, Learn & Share

experience. These locations are the “beating heart” of the YOG and are known as Festival Sites.



The Compete, Learn & Share experience: The YOG are structured around a “Compete, Learn & Share” experience. This is a unique blend of sporting, cultural and educational activities that comprise the YOG “product” and are offered to the YOG target groups of young elite athletes, the athletes’ entourage (coaches and parents) and the local youth, as summarised below.

The objective of the Compete, Learn & Share experience is to celebrate youth sport, culture and education with the participating athletes and the local youth and offer a unique and transformative experience that ultimately contributes to the IOC’s vision of building a better world through sport.

The Athlete Education Programme: For the young athletes and their entourage (coaches and parents), the YOG represent a unique, once-in-a-lifetime experience to acquire key sport and life skills and to celebrate the spirit and values of Olympism. For the athletes, experiencing educational and cultural activities and taking part in the athlete competitions are of equal importance and benefit. The Athlete Education programme is **structured around three central themes**; Athlete Performance, Protect the Clean Athlete and the Athlete Beyond Sport (see dedicated factsheet #3).



Youth Olympic Village (YOV): It accommodates the athletes, their entourage and other participants during their stay. This is the heart of the YOG and a special place for participants to **come together** and **share** their **experiences** and **cultures** with each other, and also with their relatives and communities through digital and social means of **communication**.

Transport: The YOG transport system relies simply on a shuttle service (for all accredited persons). There is no need for additional road and railway infrastructures.

Empowering Youth: The YOG are also an opportunity to involve and empower young talented people beyond sport. The organising committee hires many young staff members who take on some critical responsibilities and build up their skills. The nomination of young people as Chefs de Mission, leaders, coaches, volunteers and referees is also encouraged. The IOC also manages or encourages youth-focused programmes implemented by the YOGOCs or the International Federations such as Young Change makers, Young Reporters, Young Technical Officials, Young Volunteers, Young Broadcasters, Young Commentators, Young Sports presenters and Young Translators, amongst examples. In Buenos Aires, 84 NOCs had a Young Change Maker and 34 Young reporters from the five continents were accredited.

Olympic legacy and sustainability: The YOG legacy must be taken into account throughout the planning and operational phases. They can also serve as a **catalyst** and produce a number of long-lasting benefits in the areas of sport (number of young people who join local clubs), healthy lifestyle and enhanced fitness level or knowledge management (skills development among local young people). A number of sustainable approaches and technologies can also be applied throughout the organisation and are encouraged. These can range from ethical sourcing and sustainable

procurement methods or other sustainable solutions applied to food and beverage or licensing. Organising an event of this size requires a real vision to deliver a sustainable legacy to the city and its young people.



Promotion: Through social media, digital initiatives and partner engagement, the IOC seeks to reach out to young people and inspire them through the YOG and the Olympic values. The IOC also has the support of the YOG Ambassadors and athletes to promote the event through their presence in the traditional and social medias.

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