QUALIFICATION SYSTEM
WINTER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES – DOLOMITI VALTELLINA 2028

INTERNATIONAL ICE HOCKEY FEDERATION

ICE HOCKEY

A. EVENTS	MEN (1)	WOMEN (1)
	Six-Team Tournament	Six-Team Tournament

B. QUOTA PLACES

B.1. Total quota places for Ice Hockey			Total
QUOTA	108 (6 teams)	108 (6 teams)	198
HOST COUNTRY QUOTA	18* (1 team)		18
TOTAL	108 (6 teams)	**108** (6 teams)	216

*The host country is entitled to one male **OR** one female team of 18 athletes in the six-team tournament. Please refer to section D.2. Host Country Places.

B.2. Maximum number of athletes per National Olympic Committee			
SIX-TEAM TOURNAMENT	18**	18**	18
QUOTA PER NOC			18

**An NOC may qualify only one male or one female team across both six-team tournaments.

B.3. Type of allocation of quota places

Quota places are allocated to the NOCs.

C. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

All athletes must respect and comply with the provisions of the Olympic Charter currently in force, including but not limited to Rule 41 (Nationality of Competitors) and Rule 43 (World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions).

Only those athletes who respect and comply with the Olympic Charter, the World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, including the conditions of participation established by the IOC, plus the rules of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF), may participate in the Dolomiti Valtellina 2028 Youth Olympic Games.

C.1. Age Requirements

To be eligible to participate in the ice hockey competitions at the Dolomiti Valtellina 2028 Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG), athletes must have been born between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2015, as validated by the passport used for accreditation registration.

C.2. Additional IF Requirements

All athletes participating in Dolomiti Valtellina 2028 Winter YOG must fulfil the requirements of Bylaw 4 (Player Eligibility Rules for Participation in IIHF Championships and Olympic Competitions) of the IIHF Statutes and Bylaws. The IIHF Statutes and Bylaws can be accessed through (iihf.com)

D. QUALIFICATION PATHWAY

	Number of quota places	Qualification events
MEN/WOMEN	**D.1.** Men: 108 (6 teams) Women: 108 (6 teams)	**SIX-TEAM TOURNAMENT QUALIFICATION** D.1.1 The ice hockey six-team tournament will consist of six teams of 18 athletes (15 players and three goaltenders) per gender. The host country will automatically qualify one male team or one female team as detailed in section D.2. Host Country Places. D.1.2 The top 11 NOCs in the 2026/2027 IIHF Youth Ranking published on 10 May 2027 on the IIHF website will qualify one team, either men or women. The 2026/2027 IIHF Youth Ranking is formed by adding the ranking points of the NOC's respective men's and women's team from the 2026 and 2027 U18 Men's and Women's World ranking. The 2027 IIHF Combined U18 World Ranking is the combined average ranking of the 2027 IIHF U18 men's and women's ranking, which is created using the principles described on iihf.com. The 2027 IIHF Combined U18 World Ranking will be published on 10 May 2027. D.1.3 The top 11 ranked NOCs in the 2027 IIHF Combined U18 World Ranking will receive priority on which gender they choose to represent them in the six-team tournament. The next best ranked NOC will then choose, and so on, until six teams of the same gender have been allocated (including the host country). After six teams of the same gender are chosen, the next NOCs will be allocated a quota place in the gender for which the total available quotas are not yet filled. In the event of a tie for the final quota place, the NOC with the higher ranking in the 2027 U18 Women's World Championship will be allocated the quota place. If there is still a tie, the ranking of the 2027 U18 Men's World Championship will be considered. If a tie persists, the 2027 Men's World Ranking will be used to determine the higher-ranking NOC, followed by the 2027 Women's World Ranking.
	D.2.	**HOST COUNTRY PLACES** The host country is entitled to one male **OR** one female team of 18 athletes (15 players and three goaltenders). The selection of athletes is at the discretion of the host NOC, though it must respect the eligibility criteria in section C. Athlete Eligibility. The host country must confirm to the IIHF in writing its selected team (male or female) by 20 April 2027.

E. CONFIRMATION PROCESS

E.1. Confirmation of quota places

The IIHF shall inform the NOCs that have obtained quota places through D.1 on 10 May 2027 after the 2026/2027 IIHF Combined U18 World Ranking is published.

After the 2026/2027 IIHF Combined U18 World Ranking is published on 10 May 2027, the top 11 NOCs will be contacted by the IIHF to select their team gender for the six-team tournament. The NOCs will then have four weeks, until 10 June 2027, to confirm if they wish to use these quota places, as detailed in paragraph E. Qualification Timeline.

F. REALLOCATION

F.1. Reallocation of unused quota places

If an allocated quota place in D.1 is declined or not confirmed by an NOC, the quota place will be reallocated to the next highest ranked NOC in the 2027 IIHF Combined U18 World Ranking as of 10 May 2027.

F.2. Reallocation of unused host country places

If the host country place is not used, it will be reallocated to the next best-ranked NOC not yet qualified according to F.1.

G. QUALIFICATION TIMELINE

Period	Date	Milestone
Confirmation and reallocation	**20 April 2027**	Host country to confirm use of the quota place
	10 May 2027	Publication of the 2027 IIHF Combined U18 World Ranking
	10 May 2027	IIHF to inform NOCs of their allocated quota places in D.1
	10 June 2027	NOCs to confirm use of allocated quota places in D.1 to IIHF and Sport Entries Department
	1 July 2027	IIHF to reallocate unused D.1 and D.2 quota places
	15 July 2027	NOCs to confirm use of reallocated D.1 and D.2 quota places to IIHF
	15 August 2027	IIHF to reallocate all unused quota places
	15 August 2027	End of reallocation period
Sport Entries deadline	**10 January 2028**	Dolomiti Valtellina 2028 sport entries deadline
Games time	**21 – 29 January 2028**	Dolomiti Valtellina 2028 Youth Olympic Games