



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

FACTSHEET 1 of 4



THE YOG - VISION, BIRTH AND PRINCIPLES

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The "**YOG DNA**" defines the spirit and identity of the Youth Olympic Games (YOG). It is also the official registered mark of the YOG, through which they are distinguished from the Olympic Games, while keeping the Olympic rings symbol. The YOG DNA highlights the freshness and dynamism of youth. It is about giving the best of oneself, discovering new cultures, making new friendships, pushing one's limits, expanding one's horizons and enjoying oneself. Having YOG-DNA also means being aware of the power of sport to make the world of better place. For participating athletes, becoming young Olympians means being ambassadors of sport, of Olympic values and advocates of a healthy lifestyle.

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.

Main objectives of the YOG:

1. to bring together and celebrate the world's best young athletes
2. to propose a unique and powerful introduction to Olympism
3. to innovate in educating and discussing the Olympic values and societal challenges
4. to share and celebrate the cultures of the world in a festive atmosphere
5. to reach youth communities throughout the world to promote the Olympic values
6. to raise sports awareness and participation among young people
7. to act as a platform for new initiatives and ideas within the Olympic Movement
8. to organise an event of the highest international sporting standards.

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 not simply mini-Olympic Games. They are the **ultimate multi-sporting event**, inviting athletes from around the world to compete, learn and share.

In addition to the sports competitions, the athletes take part in a number of **Learn & Share activities** (known previously as Culture and Education Programme (CEP)). Along with several innovations in the competition formats, these are what make the YOG different from other sports events.

There is a summer and a winter edition, like for the Olympic Games. 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). The Chinese city of Nanjing organised the second edition of the YOG in 2014 and in February 2016, Lillehammer will stage the second edition of the Winter YOG. Buenos Aires (2018) and Lausanne (2020) are next editions host cities of the YOG.

PRINCIPLES

Host city election procedure:

The IOC presents what is required from the YOG Candidate Cities, as well as the procedures, rules and deadlines to be respected in a document called "[IOC Candidature Procedure and Questionnaire](#)". This document contains the detailed questionnaire that has to be answered by each Candidate City in close collaboration with the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of the candidate country in its candidature file.

The questionnaire covers a broad range of themes linked to the organisation of the YOG such as the concept and legacy, the marketing and legal aspects, the Learn & Share activities, accommodation, transport, the Youth Olympic Village, etc.

The projects of the Candidates Cities are assessed by the Evaluation Commission appointed by the IOC President - it comprises representatives of the Olympic Movement

The Evaluation Commission produces a report that identifies the key opportunities and risks associated with the bids and a focus on the athletes' experience.

The IOC members elect the city they consider is the most suitable to host the YOG during the IOC Session. Once the city is elected, the respective roles and responsibilities of all parties involved in the organisation of the YOG are formalised through the signing of the Host City Contract by representatives of the IOC, the elected city and the NOC concerned. After the election of the host city, the IOC President appoints a [Coordination Commission](#). Its role is to monitor and assist the Organising Committee of the YOG.

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

Age groups: 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 about 3,800 athletes for the Summer Games from all (or almost all) of the 206 NOCs; and around 1,100 athletes from 70-80 NOCs for the Winter YOG. The conditions for qualifying to compete in the Games change from one sport to another depending on the IFs and NOCs. The young athletes must stay in the host city for [the whole YOG duration](#) (unlike the Olympic Games), in order to make the most of the activities offered in the framework of their experience on and off the field of play.

Venues: No new venues should be built to stage the YOG (or only under exceptional circumstances when a legacy benefit can be



demonstrated). They must support the **concept of sustainable development** as it applies to the Olympic Movement. The size and quality of these facilities must meet the YOG's objectives and be appropriate for the young athletes. A Main Media Centre is required as well as facilities to host the many Learn & Share activities. All the sports venues should be located in the same city, and the use of multi-sport facilities is encouraged.

Compete, Learn & Share: The specific nature of the YOG is to provide the IOC and the International Federations with an "ideas laboratory". For example, new events and competition formats can be incorporated into the competition programme. Depending on the infrastructures and venues available in the city, the sports programme can vary from one city to another. Other sports can also be showcased in addition to the official programme.



Compete, Learn & Share: The Learn & Share activities (formerly known as the CEP Programme) consist of one of the **innovative elements** of the YOG, offering various interactive workshops and forums based on five themes:

1. Olympism
2. Skills development
3. Well-being and healthy lifestyle
4. Social responsibility
5. Expression

The programme offers a **unique experience** for the young athletes and other participants, equipping them with the key skills to become champions on the field of play and life champions off the field of play. Workshops are offered on subjects such as careers in sport, time management, nutrition, environmental responsibility, media training and ethics. The lessons learnt allow the participants to return to their communities as ambassadors for sport and Olympism. These young Olympians also become advocates of a healthy lifestyle.

A number of Olympians and champions are also nominated by their respective International Federation to attend the YOG and share their experience as Athlete Role Models (ARMs). This IOC-run programme has proved very successful as the young participants' learning process is made more impactful and inspiring with ARMs joining them in Learn & Share activities and also sharing tips and recommendations through Chat with Champions sessions.

Youth Olympic Village: The Youth Olympic Village (YOV) accommodates the athletes, their entourage and other participants during their stay. The YOV Square 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**. Furthermore, most of the Learn & Share activities take place in the Village.



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 youth-focused programmes such as the Young Ambassadors and the Young Reporters programmes. For Nanjing, 104 Young Ambassadors were selected by their respective NOC and tasked with the responsibility of encouraging as many athletes as possible to participate in all Learn & Share activities. In addition, 34 Young Reporters were selected and mentored by experienced Olympic Games journalists and media experts. For Lillehammer, 39 Young Ambassadors have been selected and trained as well as 15 Young Reporters.

Olympic legacy and sustainability: The YOG legacy must be taken into account throughout the planning and operational phases. The YOG provide a platform for the athletes to **compete, learn and share**. 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 maximum attention and 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 Youth Olympic Games and the Olympic values. The IOC also has the support of the YOG Ambassadors – top-level athletes – to promote the event through their presence in the traditional media and social media.

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