

NNOC SELECTION POLICY 2026 YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

1. Introduction

This policy establishes the principles, processes, and criteria used by the Namibia National Olympic Committee (NNOC) to select athletes and teams to represent Namibia at the **Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Dakar 2026**.

The policy ensures that selection is:

- Fair and transparent
- Aligned with International Olympic Committee (IOC) and International Federation (IF) rules
- Focused on athlete development and long-term performance pathways
- Consistent across all sports

2. Guiding Principles

The NNOC will apply the following principles in all selection decisions:

1. **Athlete Development:** The YOG is a development event. Namibia prioritises athletes with long-term potential for senior continental and Olympic success.
2. **Compliance with IOC and IF Rules:** All selections must meet the eligibility requirements set by the IOC and relevant IFs.
3. **Fairness and Transparency:** Criteria will be published early, applied consistently, and communicated clearly to athletes, coaches, and parents.
4. **Gender Balance and Continental Representation:** Namibia supports the YOG mandate for gender equality and strong African participation.
5. **Holistic Athlete Readiness:** Athletes must demonstrate physical, mental, behavioural, and academic readiness to participate in an international multi-sport event.

3. Scope of this Policy

This policy applies to:

- All sports and disciplines included in the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games
- All Namibian athletes eligible under IOC and IF rules
- All National Federations (NFs) affiliated to the NNOC

4. Dakar 2026 YOG Specific Context

The Dakar 2026 YOG uses a unique quota allocation model:

- Athletes do not qualify themselves through qualification events.
- NOCs submitted a *Participation of Intention Form* with suggested sport codes by 31st July 2025
- The [YOG Dakar 2026 Participation Principles](#) are applied for these Games.
- Quotas are allocated to NOCs by IFs and the IOC
- Some quotas are based on rankings, others on universality, others on continental representation, etc. Following the 6 pillars of the Participation Principles
- IFs may identify eligible athletes, but the NOC confirms final selection

This policy is designed to operate within this model.

5. Overarching Selection Criteria

5.1 Athlete Eligibility

Any nominated athlete who wishes to be considered for selection to the Dakar YOG Team must meet all eligibility requirements set out in the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Charter and sport-specific eligibility criteria applicable to the Games, this NNOC Selection Policy, the NF Sport Specific Nomination Criteria for the Games and any requirements of the International Federation (IF) of the sport.

5.1.1 International Olympic Committee (IOC) Eligibility

All athletes must:

- Hold a Namibian citizenship and a valid Namibian passport
- Meet the age requirements defined by the IF for their sport
- Comply with the [Olympic Charter](#), including Rule 41 (Nationality of Competitors) and Rule 43 (Anti-Doping and competition integrity).
- Complete all mandatory anti-doping education
- Have no outstanding sanctions or disciplinary actions

5.1.2. International Federation (IF) Eligibility

IF technical and eligibility rules differ for each sport; please refer to Appendix 1 for more details.

5.1.3 NNOC Eligibility

- Medical clearance confirming fitness to compete
- Commitment to attend all NNOC preparation activities (e.g., Athlete Commission workshops)
- Signed athlete and parent/guardian code of conduct

5.2 Sport Specific Nomination Criteria

- As set out by each National Federation and approved by the NNOC.

6. The Selection Process

6.1 Athlete Identification & Intention of Participation

NFs must maintain a long list of eligible athletes and update the NNOC regularly. The NNOC submits an *Intention of Participation Form* to Dakar 2026 by 31st July 2025, indicating the sport codes, categories and genders they want to participate in, including a priority ranking.

6.2 Nomination by National Federations

NFs must submit:

- A ranked list of nominated athletes
- Supporting evidence (results, rankings, reports)
- Confirmation of eligibility as per their *Sport Specific Nomination Criteria*

6.3 NNOC Selection Panel

The NNOC will appoint a Selection Panel responsible for:

- Reviewing NF nominations
- Ensuring athletes' eligibility criteria are followed
- Recommending the final Games Team to the NNOC Board

6.4 Approval by NNOC Executive Board

The NNOC Executive Board will approve the final team.

6.5 Communication of Decisions

Athletes and NFs will receive:

- Written notification of selection or non-selection
- Information on the appeals process as per Point 8.

7. Appeals and Exceptional Circumstance

7.1 Right to Appeal

An athlete who believes that the Selection Policy and/or Selection Procedures for the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games have not been correctly applied in their case may submit an appeal, provided that the appeal relates solely to the process of selection and not to the merits of another athlete's performance or suitability for selection.

7.2 Internal Resolution

In accordance with clause 25.2 of the Constitution of the Namibia National Olympic Committee (NNOC), any sport-related dispute arising from selection decisions shall, in the first instance, be resolved internally within the structures of the NNOC.

7.3 Final Internal Decision

The decision of the General Assembly, or of any ad hoc conciliation, mediation, or arbitration body established by the General Assembly, shall constitute the final internal decision of the NNOC.

7.4 External Appeal

Where a final internal decision has been made and no further internal remedies are available within the NNOC, an athlete or member may appeal that decision exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), Lausanne, Switzerland, in accordance with the Code of Sports-Related Arbitration.

7.5 Time Limit

Any appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport must be lodged within fourteen (14) days of the date on which the final internal decision of the NNOC was communicated to the appellant. The decision of the Court of Arbitration for Sport shall be final and binding.