



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

FACTSHEET 1 of 4



THE YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES VISION AND PRINCIPLES

UPDATED – JUNE 2014

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 a 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 encourage young people around the world to practise sport; raise awareness of and encourage them to adopt the values of Olympism; and disseminate the message of the Olympic Movement around them.

The mission of the YOG is to shape and influence the athletes and other young participants, to prepare them to become ambassadors of Olympism, of sport and of a healthy lifestyle so they can take on an active role in their community.

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.

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 unique. They are not a 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, this is what makes 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).

PRINCIPLES

Host City election procedure: The IOC members elect the city which they consider is most apt to host the YOG, during the IOC Session. For this, the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of the candidate country must submit to the IOC a complete file, using the document entitled "[IOC Candidature Procedure and Questionnaire](#)" which outlines what is required of the YOG Candidate Cities, as well as the procedures, rules and deadlines to be respected. It also contains a detailed questionnaire which provides the structure of the candidature file to be submitted to the IOC by each Candidate City. The following 15 topics are covered:

1. Concept and legacy
2. Political and economic climate and structure
3. Legal aspects
4. Customs and immigration formalities
5. Finance
6. Marketing
7. Sport
8. Culture, education and ceremonies
9. Youth Olympic Village
10. Medical services and doping control
11. Security

12. Accommodation
13. Transport
14. Technology
15. Media operations

The assessment of the Candidate Cities by the IOC Evaluation Commission is based on the File and other documents provided. This Commission is appointed by the IOC President and comprises representatives of the Olympic Movement. The Evaluation Commission produces a report for the IOC Executive Board, which draws up the list of finalist Candidate Cities for the last phase. Once a city is elected by the IOC Session, 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. The role of the [Coordination Commission](#) is to monitor and assist the Organising Committees. It manages and implements the working relationships between the OCOG, the IFs and the NOCs.

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 204 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). 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.



One of the YOG innovations: internationals teams (here: China and Tunisia)

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. 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 privileged place for participants to [come together](#) and [share](#) their [experiences](#) and [cultures](#) among themselves, 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. Many young officials are involved in the staging of the Games: young Chefs de Mission, young coaches, young referees, etc.

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

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 the use of social media, digital initiatives and engaging our stakeholders, the IOC aims to reach young audiences to inspire them with the Youth Olympic Games. The IOC also draws upon the support of Youth Olympic Games Ambassadors, top-level athletes who help raise the profile of the event through media, social media and appearances.

Image credits:

© 2012/International Olympic Committee (IOC)/KASAPOGLU, Mine
© 2010/Kishimoto/IOC/NAGAYA, Yo
© 2014/International Olympic Committee (IOC)/KASAPOGLU, Mine

IMPRINT

THE YOG – VISION AND PRINCIPLES

25 June 2014

A publication by the



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Château de Vidy,
1007 Lausanne,
Switzerland

For more information, contact:

IOC Olympic Studies Centre
Tel. +41 21 621 63 18
Fax +41 21 621 67 18
studies_centre@olympic.org