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# YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES - BUENOS AIRES 2018

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## QUALIFICATION SYSTEM PRINCIPLES AND ALLOCATION PROCEDURE FOR NOC UNIVERSALITY PLACES

### PREAMBLE

The Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Qualification System Principles (QSP) were created to ensure that the following pillars remain the focus for participation in all competitions on the programme of the YOG: universality, performance, host country representation and gender equality.

Qualification Systems vary between each sport (and discipline, where applicable), and are established to give a fair and equitable opportunity for the best young athletes in the world to participate in the YOG as well as to ensure universal participation. They also serve to determine the number of athletes for each sport/discipline/event, as approved by the IOC Executive Board

As universality is one of the central pillars, a specific process has been developed to facilitate the participation of National Olympic Committees (NOCs) that sent small delegations to the YOG in Nanjing in 2014. A number of quota places have therefore been reserved in each of the individual sports to allow a certain number of NOCs to receive Universality Places in order to take part in the YOG.

In addition, a number of other technical principles have been established to provide a basis for the development of Qualification Systems for all sports at the YOG.

### PRINCIPLES

#### 1. Performance and qualification events

The principle of performance will be ensured through the Qualification Systems developed by each IF, which will allow for the participation of the best athletes through a fair and transparent process. In principle, existing events and/or rankings approved by the respective IFs should be used for qualification.

For all qualifying events taking place under the auspices of the IF or their continental or regional associations, the IF and the organiser of the event must ensure that the principle of non-discrimination is respected, and all athletes and other competition personnel from all IF members can enter a country to participate and are treated equally. Should this requirement not be respected, the IOC Executive Board may reserve the right to revoke the Olympic Qualification status of the event concerned.

- 1.1. **Individual sports:** A reasonable percentage of the quota shall be distributed on the basis of performance within continents and shall reflect the specificities of each sport at junior level in terms of quota distribution between continents.
- 1.2. **Team sports:** Participation shall be limited to one women's and one men's team per NOC across the following team sports: football, handball, hockey and rugby. The reallocation process for these sports should be defined accordingly, in the event that an NOC qualifies more than one team per gender across these sports.

## **2. Universality**

The participation of all 206 NOCs is the key factor in ensuring the universality of the YOG. The principle of universality shall be reflected in qualification systems through continental representation as well as Universality Places.

2.1. **Individual sports:** In each sport a specific number of Universality Places for NOCs will be reserved so that a minimum of one (1) woman and one (1) man per NOC will be given the possibility to participate in the YOG. The number of Universality Places to be allocated to eligible NOCs remains at the full discretion of the Youth Olympic Games Tripartite Commission and will vary between two (2) and four (4) per NOC depending on the availability of places and the level of the athletes proposed following the entry by name. Universality Places will not be allocated to NOCs which have qualified more than four athletes at the Youth Olympic Games Nanjing 2014. Universality Places and team sports quotas are excluded for the purpose of the calculation (for the Nanjing 2014 YOG, team sports= football, handball, hockey and rugby).

After the qualification period, all NOCs that have not entered at least one (1) woman and one (1) man through the qualifications or the Universality Places, will be offered the possibility to enter a maximum of two (2) Universality Places (one (1) woman and one(1) man) in Athletics and/or Swimming combined.

The distribution will be done by a YOG Tripartite Commission (consisting of ASOIF, ANOC and the IOC) in collaboration with the respective IFs. The attribution list of Universality Places will take into account, whenever possible, the preferences listed by each NOC, the places available in each sport, and the sporting relevance in the country.

2.2. **Team sports:** Football, handball, hockey and rugby will consist of tournaments for women and men which will feature at least one national team from each of the five continents. Should it be considered that there is no sporting relevance in a continent, the possibility will be offered to propose a second team from a different continent. This proposal will be reflected in the individual qualification systems submitted to the IOC for approval.

## **3. Host country participation**

In principle, all sports should include quota places for host country participants. However, these places are subject to athletes or teams reaching a minimum level of performance.

3.1. **Individual sports:** The number of host country places per sport, discipline or event will be decided in agreement with the IF and IOC.

3.2. **Team sports:** A maximum of one (1) host country team (women or men) can qualify per sport in the following team sports: football, handball, hockey and rugby.

## **4. NOC delegation**

4.1. **Minimum NOC delegation size:** At least two (2) athletes per NOC - one woman and one man - are guaranteed a place to participate in the YOG.

4.2. **Maximum NOC delegation size:** A maximum number of athletes per NOC will be set within each sport, discipline or event to maximise universality and avoid overly large delegation sizes. In addition, and irrespective of the number of athletes qualified, an NOC delegation may comprise a **maximum of 75 athletes in individual sports**.

## **5. Allocation and reallocation**

- 5.1. For each sport, the qualification system should clearly indicate whether the allocation of places is destined to either specific athletes by name or to the NOC. If places are allocated to the NOC, it should be clear whether NOC has an open right of selection or if there are requirements for athletes to meet minimum eligibility criteria.
- 5.2. The IF shall confirm qualified athletes and teams to NOCs immediately following the last qualifying event of a specific discipline. NOCs will then have up to two weeks from the date of receipt of the IF's confirmation to confirm in writing to the IF and YOG Organising Committee (YOGOC) that they will use the obtained places (or not), pending the finalisation of point 5.3 below. For team sports, following the final qualifying event across all four team sports, NOCs will be asked to indicate which of the sports they will enter, should the NOC have managed to qualify more than one women and one men team.
- 5.3. NOCs that manage to qualify over 75 athletes in individual sports will be asked to designate their final team composition.
- 5.4. Provision should be made within the IF's qualification system for the reallocation of any places not used by an NOC. Unfilled men's quota places cannot be reallocated to fill a quota place in another men's discipline or event, nor can such unfilled quota place be reallocated to fill any women's quota place. Unfilled women's quota places cannot be reallocated to fill a quota place in another women's discipline or event, nor can such unfilled quota place be reallocated to fill any men's quota place.
- 5.5. All sports/disciplines will have a common closing date for athlete entries by name, to be specified by the IOC in collaboration with the YOGOC.

## **6. Amendments**

The qualification system for each sport, once agreed by the IOC and IFs, shall not be changed without IOC agreement and shall not be published in any other format without IOC approval.

## **TIMELINE**

July 2016	IOC Executive Board to approve Qualification Systems for all sports
March 2017	YOG tripartite commission to validate allocation of Universality Places by sport
April 2017 – June 2018	YOG 2018 qualification period for team sports (14 months)
April 2017 – July 2018	YOG 2018 qualification period (15 months)
31 August 2018	Entries deadline by name for all sports, including Universality Places
14 September 2018	Complementary allocation in Athletics and Swimming for NOCs that did not enter at least one (1) woman and one (1) man.
TBC	Final accreditation list & DRP concluded
6 – 18 October 2018	Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018