International Olympic Committee

Dolomiti Valtellina 2028 Winter Youth Olympic Games Qualification System Principles

INTRODUCTION

To participate in the Dolomiti Valtellina 2028 Winter Youth Olympic Games (hereafter the "**YOG**"), athletes and teams will have to respect and comply with the Olympic Charter as well as with the rules of the relevant International Olympic Winter Federations ("**IF(s)**") and their respective National Olympic Committee ("**NOC**"). The IOC Executive Board ("**EB**") reserves the right to revoke the YOG Qualification status of a qualification event, including without limitation in case any of the below principles have not been met or the Olympic Charter has not been adhered to. The IOC EB may delegate any of its powers related to the qualification systems, including without limitation its approval authority, to the IOC administration.

The YOG Qualification System Principles ("**QSP**") are created to give guidance to the IFs to establish the Qualification Systems for their respective sports (and disciplines, where applicable).

Qualification Systems are the regulations established by IFs that consist of rules, procedures and criteria for participation in competitions of the YOG, subject to final selection by each NOC upon recommendation of the respective National Federation ("**NF**"). These Qualification Systems must conform to the QSP set forth below (as approved by the IOC EB in December 2025). The application of the qualification criteria lies with the IFs, their affiliated NFs and the NOCs in the fields of their respective responsibilities. The NOCs have the exclusive authority for the representation of their respective territories at the YOG.

Qualification Systems vary between each sport (and discipline, where applicable). They are established to give the best eligible athletes in the world a fair and equitable opportunity to participate in the YOG and strictly define and limit the number of athletes for each sport/discipline/event on the programme, as approved by the IOC EB in Q3 2026.

1. CONTENT

All relevant information related to the qualification process for the YOG should be included in each Qualification System. References to criteria, rules and regulations published in external IF documentation should be kept to a minimum and should include a precise link to access each concerned document on an IF's website.

The Qualification System in each sport should be easy to access and to comprehend for NOCs, NFs and athletes and should leave no room for individual interpretation. It is recommended for IFs to draft Qualification Systems to ensure that they comply with the QSP and are not contradictory in any of their provisions.

Each Qualification System must follow the official IOC approved template and shall not be published in any other format without prior IOC approval. The official Qualification System for each sport/discipline shall be accessible on Olympics.com

Each Qualification System must determine the maximum number of athletes per NOC for each event.

Each Qualification System shall establish the rules for fair and equal opportunities for all NOCs/athletes/teams to obtain a quota place/qualify for the YOG with no form of discrimination, in the framework of the Olympic Charter. Accordingly, to ensure equal treatment for the participating athletes and sporting delegations, in accordance with the basic principles of autonomy and non-discrimination which govern the Olympic Movement, any host of a qualifying event must guarantee to the relevant IF as part of a hosting agreement that all athletes and sporting delegations eligible to participate, as determined by the international sports organisation concerned, can do so without any undue discrimination or political interference from the host country (e.g., by facilitating the issuance of

visas for participating athletes and sporting delegations to ensure that these athletes can participate on equal terms with others).

2. SELECTION OF ATHLETES

Qualification Systems must allow for the participation of the best eligible athletes through a fair and transparent process within the framework of the Rules of each IF concerned to maximise the opportunity for continental representation at the YOG.

Each Qualification System must ensure that the overall athlete quota places approved by the IOC EB shall not be exceeded.

3. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

All athletes participating in the YOG must be no older than 17 years old on the last day of the YOG (born after TBC***).

Each IF will propose to the IOC for approval a specific age group classification for its sport, disciplines or events. These age groups will have to respect the athlete's age participation eligibility specified above and could be a one, two, three or four-year age bracket, e.g. 15, 15/16, 15/16/17.

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, as well as with the rules of the respective IF under which sport they are competing, may participate in the YOG.

4. HOST COUNTRY PLACES

All sports/disciplines should include quota places for the Host Country's participants. However, these are not automatic in view of safety requirements and should be dealt with specifically in each Qualification System, subject to attainment of a minimum level of performance by athletes or teams. If there is an exceptional reason that there is no provision for Host Country places within a given sport, this should be stated in the Qualification System to avoid any doubt.

The Qualification Systems should include the timeline for confirmation/rejection of Host Country places, and the process for the reallocation of any unused Host Country places.

5. QUALIFICATION PERIOD

Unless otherwise approved by the IOC following a reasoned request by the relevant IF, the qualification period should cover a maximum of eighteen (18) months (two winter seasons), including the season in which the YOG are taking place, and shall conclude at least seven days prior to the YOG's entry by name deadline.

6. PERFORMANCE AND QUALIFICATION EVENTS

Unless otherwise approved by the IOC, athletes/teams shall have more than one opportunity to qualify to the YOG (the "Qualification Event(s)"). The Qualification Systems should not necessitate extensive and expensive travel requirements for the athletes concerned and therefore, existing IF continental calendar events should be used.

If there are existing events and/or rankings already approved by the respective IF, those should be used for the qualification to the YOG. Events that are identified as Qualification Events should be announced by the respective IFs before the start of the qualification period and defined in the Qualification System accordingly even if the location and/or dates have not been confirmed by that time.

For sports/disciplines in which qualification is based on meeting specified minimum standards, the respective IFs shall specify the events in which such standards must be met and implement clear regulations regarding the verification and communication of the official results from these events.

7. NOC RESPONSIBILITIES

NOCs have the exclusive authority for the representation of their respective countries at the YOG and may decide not to accept an allocated quota place.

NOCs are also responsible for keeping their constituents informed of the Qualification System and of any updates, as well as informing athletes/teams of their eligibility selection criteria, and in particular any eligibility/selection criteria that are stricter than the relevant Qualification System.

8. ENTRIES

All sports/disciplines will have a common closing date for NOCs to complete all entry formalities for their athlete / and team entries by name. This date will be specified by the IOC in coordination with the YOG Organising Committee ("**YOGOC**") and listed in the Qualification Systems.

9. ALLOCATION

Each Qualification System shall include the qualification pathway, allocation process, reallocation process and timeline for qualification events.

Each qualification system must indicate if the quota place is allocated to the athletes by name or to the NOC. NOCs have the exclusive authority for the representation of their respective countries at the YOG even if the quota is allocated to the athlete by name. NOCs may have stricter eligibility/selection criteria in comparison to the IF qualification system. The IF should ensure that the technical ability of each athlete is sufficient to ensure safe participation.
To avoid unused quota places and to ensure fairness to all athletes and countries looking to participate in the Games, the Qualification System must include the process and timeline for NOC acceptance/rejection of quota places, as well as the process for reallocation of unused places. This shall be clearly defined in the Qualification Systems.

In principle, for specified qualification events taking place during the qualification period, the IFs should directly notify the NOCs within one week of the date on which the quota place was earned according to the Qualification System. The acceptance/rejection of quota places by NOCs should be within two weeks of the date on which the IF notifies the respective NOCs of the earned quota place. For Qualification Systems which conclude during the last two weeks of the qualification period, or similarly for events taking place during the last two weeks of the qualification period, IFs should notify the NOCs within twenty-four (24) hours of the date on which the quota place was earned according to the Qualification System, and the notification of acceptance/rejection of allocated quota places by NOCs shall also be limited to a maximum of two working days (48 hours) from the date the IF notifies the respective NOCs of the earned quota place, in order to maximise the potential for reallocation of any unused quota places.

10. REALLOCATION

Reallocations should not be carried out beyond the reallocation deadline set out in the specific Qualification System, unless it would negatively impact the competition format (e.g. changes to the competition schedule, heats, phases, draw, etc.) as agreed by the IOC and the respective IF.

In exceptional circumstances, if the maximum athlete quota per IF is not allocated or reallocated by the time of the reallocation process, a supplementary reallocation may be suggested by the IF for the IOC and YOGOC review and approval. Such supplementary reallocation may be proposed with a view to maximize the participation of eligible athletes in the YOG while preserving the gender balance and universality participation.

11. TEAM QUALIFICATION

For events that are final team qualifying competitions, the Qualification System should clearly indicate whether NOCs are required to submit any form of preliminary documentation related to the acceptance of quota places (where applicable). Team sports at the YOG are defined as follows: Ice Hockey and Curling. This principle may also apply to team events in individual sports/disciplines.

12. ADHERENCE TO DEADLINES

Strict deadlines with regards to the determination and publication of allocated quota places by IFs as well as to the NOCs' acceptance/rejection of quota places must be applied.

13. CHANGE MANAGEMENT

The Qualification Systems for each sport, once agreed upon by the IOC and IFs, shall not be changed without the prior written agreement of the IOC EB and shall not be published in any other format without the IOC's prior written approval.

Any publication or information related to a Qualification System must be sent to NOCs and NFs concurrently by the IOC and the IF respectively. This includes, but is not limited to, advice regarding amendments to the Qualification System, publishing of qualification lists or requests for confirmation of the acceptance of quota places.

Any amendments or updates to the Qualification System for each sport/discipline will be logged and published in a separate document for reference and will be communicated to the NOCs immediately.

14. ISSUE RESOLUTION

Any dispute between an IF and a NOC in connection with the interpretation or execution of a Qualification System should be resolved through direct consultation between the IF and the NOC. Should such dispute not be resolved through the consultation, it shall be referred exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

15. COMMUNICATION

When publishing the allocated quota places and the list of qualified athletes, IFs need to communicate directly with NOCs at the same time as with their respective NFs. This includes, but is not limited to, advice regarding amendments to the Qualification System, publishing of qualification lists or requests for confirmation of the acceptance of quota places. The YOGOC Sport Entries team shall be informed of all quota places allocated to the NOCs.

TIMELINE

DEADLINE	DESCRIPTION
10 December 2025	• IOC EB to approve the Event Programme (events and quota)
By end of December 2025	• Letters to IFs confirming the programme for Dolomiti Valtellina 2028
2 February 2026	• IOC EB to approve the Qualification System Principles
By end of February 2026	• Information to IFs on Qualification System Principles along with steps and timelines for the development of the Qualification System(s) (per discipline)
15 April 2026	• Draft of Qualification Systems by sport/discipline submitted by IFs to IOC
By end of June 2026	• IF Qualification System(s) for sport(s)/discipline(s) approved by IOC EB and released to NOCs
July 2026 – December 2027 **	• Maximum Qualification Period
TBC **	• Sports Entries Deadline
15 January – 29 January 2028 TBC *	• 5th Winter Youth Olympic Games in Dolomiti Valtellina

* Dates according to bid file. To be confirmed
** To be confirmed once Opening Ceremony date has been validated
*** To be confirmed once Closing Ceremony date has been validated