

## = Youth Olympic Games =

The Youth Olympic Games ( YOG ) is an international multi @-@ sport event organized by the International Olympic Committee . The games are held every four years in staggered summer and winter events consistent with the current Olympic Games format . The first summer version was held in Singapore from 14 to 26 August 2010 while the first winter version was held in Innsbruck , Austria from 13 to 22 January 2012 . The age limitation of the athletes is 14 to 18 . The idea of such an event was introduced by Johann Rosenzopf from Austria in 1998 . On 6 July 2007 , International Olympic Committee ( IOC ) members at the 119th IOC session in Guatemala City approved the creation of a youth version of the Olympic Games , with the intention of sharing the costs of hosting the event between the IOC and the host city , whereas the traveling costs of athletes and coaches were to be paid by the IOC . These Games will also feature cultural exchange programs and opportunities for participants to meet Olympic athletes .

Several other Olympic events for youth , like the European Youth Olympic Festival held every other year with summer and winter versions , and the Australian Youth Olympic Festival , have proven successful . The Youth Games are modelled after these sporting events . The YOG are also a successor to the discontinued World Youth Games .

The Summer Youth Olympic Games of Singapore in 2010 and Nanjing in 2014 each played host to 3600 athletes and lasted 13 days , whereas the Winter YOG of Innsbruck in 2012 had 1059 athletes and lasted 10 days . Even though this exceeded initial estimates , the YOG are still both smaller in size as well as shorter than their senior equivalents . The next Summer YOG to take place will be the 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games of Buenos Aires . The next Winter YOG to take place will be the 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games of Lausanne .

## = = History = =

The concept of the Youth Olympic Games came from Austrian industrial manager Johann Rosenzopf in 1998 . This was in response to growing global concerns about childhood obesity and the dropping participation of youth in sport activities , especially amongst youth in developed nations . It was further recognized that a youth version of the Olympic Games would help foster participations in the Olympic Games . Despite these reasons for having an Olympic event for young people , the IOC 's response of holding a purely sporting event was negative . IOC delegates wanted the event to be as much about cultural education and exchange as it was about sports , which is why the Culture and Education Program ( CEP ) was developed as a component of each celebration of the Games . Jacques Rogge , IOC President , formally announced plans for the Youth Olympic Games at the 119th IOC session in Guatemala City on 6 July 2007 . There are several goals for the YOG , and four of them include bringing together the world 's best young athletes , offering an introduction into Olympism , innovating in educating and debating Olympic values . The city of Singapore was announced as the host of the inaugural Summer Youth Olympics on 21 February 2008 . On 12 December 2008 the IOC announced that Innsbruck , host of the 1964 and 1976 Winter Olympics , would be the host of the inaugural Winter Youth Olympics in 2012 .

## = = Requirements of host cities = =

The scale of the Youth Olympic Games is smaller than that of the Olympics , which is intentional and allows for smaller cities to host an Olympic event . Potential host cities are required to keep all events within the same city and no new sports venues should be built . Exceptions to this building moratorium include a media center , amphitheater facilities for classes and workshops , and a village for coaches and athletes . This village is to be the heart of the Games for the athletes , and the hub of activity . No new or unique transportation systems are required as all athletes and coaches will be transported by shuttles . According to bid procedures , the track and field stadium for the opening and closing ceremonies must hold 10 @, @ 000 people , and a city must have a 2 @, @ 500 @-@ seat aquatics facility ( for Summer editions ) .

## == Financing ==

The original estimated costs for running the Games were US \$ 30 million for the Summer and \$ 15 million to \$ 20 million for Winter Games , these costs do not include infrastructure improvements for venue construction . The IOC has stipulated that costs for infrastructure and venues is to be paid by the host city . The IOC will pay travel costs to the host city and room and board for the athletes and judges , estimated at \$ 11 million . The funding will come from IOC funds and not revenues . The budgets for the final two bids for the inaugural Summer Games came in at \$ 90 million , much higher than the estimated costs . The cost of the first games in Singapore escalated to an estimated S \$ 387 million ( \$ 284 million ) . Sponsors have been slow to sign on for the YOG , due to the fact that it is a new initiative and corporations are not sure what level of exposure they will get . The budget for the inaugural Winter Games to be held in Innsbruck has been estimated at \$ 22 @. @ 5 million , which does not include infrastructure improvements and venue construction .

## == Participation ==

Over 200 countries and 3 @, @ 600 athletes participated in the inaugural 2010 Youth Summer Olympics . Participants are placed in the following age groups : 14 ? 15 years , 16 ? 17 years , and 17 ? 18 years . The athlete 's age is determined by how old he or she is by 31 December of the year they are participating in the YOG . Qualification to participate in the Youth Olympics is determined by the IOC in conjunction with the International Sport Federations ( ISF ) for the various sports on the program . To ensure that all nations are represented at the YOG the IOC instituted the concept of Universality Places . A certain number of spots in each event are to be left open for athletes from under @-@ represented nations regardless of qualifying marks . This is to ensure that every nation will be able to send at least four athletes to each Youth Olympic Games . For team tournaments one team per continent will be allowed to compete along with a sixth team either representing the host nation or as proposed by the IF with IOC approval . There is a cap of two teams ( one boys ' and one girls ' ) per nation . Finally , no nation may enter more than 70 athletes in individual sports .

## == Sports ==

The sports contested at the Youth Games are the same as those scheduled for the traditional Games , but with some adaptations , and a limited number of disciplines and events . For example , in the aquatics sport the IOC decided to include diving and swimming events but excluded synchronized swimming and water polo . Some of the sports have been modified for the Games . The basketball competition uses the 3x3 format , which is a 3 @-@ on @-@ 3 half @-@ court game , where the periods are five minutes each , and the first team to 33 points wins . The hockey was introduced as outdoor format in 2010 games but was later changed to the hockey5s a smaller version of indoor played in outdoor in 2014. The cycling disciplines are mountain bike , BMX , and road , while track cycling has been left off the schedule . Other youth @-@ driven sports may eventually be contested if backed by international sports federations . In November 2007 , it was revealed that pentathlon will be included , as well as sailing , giving an edge to candidate cities near water .

The Winter Youth Games will feature seven sports . Hockey will have not only a men 's and women 's tournament but also an individual skills challenge . In luge , figure skating and short track speed skating there will be mixed NOC events that will allow athletes from various countries to compete together in teams . Alpine and cross @-@ country skiing will have events in which men and women will compete on mixed @-@ gendered teams .

## == Culture and education ==

Education and culture are also key components for the Youth edition . Not only does the education /

culture aspect apply to athletes and participants , but also youth around the world and inhabitants of the host city and surrounding regions . To this end a Culture and Education Program ( CEP ) will be featured at each Games . The first CEP at the 2010 Singapore Games featured events that fostered cooperation amongst athletes of different nations . It had classes on topics ranging from health and fitness to the environment and career planning . Local students from Singapore made booths at the World Culture Village that represented each of the 205 participating National Olympic Committee . The Chat with Champions sessions were the most popular portion of the program . Participants were invited to hear inspirational talks given by former and current Olympic athletes .

Also part of the CEP are the Young Ambassadors Programme , Young Reporters Programme and Athlete Role Models . Under the Young Ambassadors Programme , a group of youths aged 18 to 25 years old are nominated by the NOCs to help promote the YOG in their regions and communities , and encourage the athletes to participate in the CEP programmes .

The Young Reporters Programme provides journalism students or those who have recently started their journalism careers a cross @-@ platform journalist @-@ training programme and on @-@ the @-@ job experience during the YOG . Young Reporters , between the ages of 18 and 24 , are selected by the Continental Associations of National Olympic Committees and will represent each of the five continents .

Acting as mentors to help support and advise young Olympians are the Athlete Role Models , who are typically active or recently retired Olympians nominated by the IFs , such as Japanese wrestler Kaori Icho , Italian Simone Farina and Namibian Frank Fredericks .

Emphasis on exchange goes beyond the CEP . Another unique feature of the Youth Olympic Games are mixed @-@ gender and mixed @-@ national teams . Triathlon relays , fencing , table tennis , archery and mixed swimming relays are a few of the sports in which athletes from different nations and mixed genders can compete together . YOG organizers are also using social media such as Facebook , Flickr , and Twitter as key platforms for engaging young athletes before , during , and after each celebration of the Games . Multi @-@ lingual , multi @-@ cultural , and multi @-@ age requirements are the targets of the program , which stress the themes of " Learning to know , learning to be , learning to do , and learning to live together " .

= = All @-@ time Youth Olympic Games medal table = =

= = List of Youth Olympic Games = =

In early November 2007 , Athens , Bangkok , Singapore , Moscow , and Turin were selected by the IOC as the five candidate cities to host the inaugural Youth Olympic Games . In January 2008 , the candidates were further pared down to just Moscow and Singapore . Finally , on 21 February 2008 , Singapore was declared host of the inaugural Youth Olympic Games 2010 via live telecast from Lausanne , Switzerland , winning by a tally of 53 votes to 44 for Moscow .

On 2 September 2008 IOC announced that the executive board had shortlisted four cities among the candidates to host the first Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2012 . The four candidate cities were Harbin , Innsbruck , Kuopio , and Lillehammer . IOC president Jacques Rogge appointed Pernilla Wiberg to chair the commission which analysed the projects . As with the Summer Games , the list was then shortened to two finalists , Innsbruck and Kuopio , in November 2008 . On 12 December 2008 , it was announced that Innsbruck beat Kuopio to host the games . Nanjing , China was selected by the IOC over Poznan , Poland to be the host @-@ city of the 2014 Youth Olympics . The election was held on 10 February 2010 , two days before the start of the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver . Lillehammer , Norway will host the 2016 Winter Youth Olympics . At this moment have speculated bidding for the 2023 Summer Youth Olympics .

= = = Summer Games = = =

=== Winter Games ===

== Medal count ==