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Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026 2024 Annual Conference Update

1. Current Position

- 1.1. In June 2024, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) wrote to World Sailing advising that sailing would either be in the sports competition program or in an engagement/festival programme as they reduce cost and complexity.
- 1.2. Sailing is very fortunate to be one of 25 sports that the IOC Executive Board have been selected in the sports competition programme of Dakar 2026. The significance of decision should not be underestimated for sailing as many notable sports and disciplines were not selected due to the context of Dakar 2026.
- 1.3. The IOC have judged that sailing can contribute to a successful, affordable and sustainable YOG and WS must deliver on this expectation.
- 1.4. A decision on the number of events and athlete quota for sailing is expected by the end of 2024. As a reminder sailing requested 4 events and a quota of 128 athletes.
- 1.5. All indications from the IOC are that sailing will receive a quota of about 50 athletes for 2 events. In the context of the YOG, this is likely to see sailing as one of the larger sports and should be viewed as an excellent outcome.

2. Next Steps

- 2.1. As World Sailing awaits the IOC's decision on events and athlete quota, thought should be given to the following, so the next committees have the background to make the necessary decisions:
 - a) How will WS fund the delivery of the YOG sailing competition?
 - a. With extremely limited competitive youth sailing happening in Senegal, WS will likely have to significantly contribute to the resourcing of the necessary people, training, sport equipment and planning to deliver the competition.
 - b) Where and how will WS procure the athlete equipment for YOG?
 - a. Which manufacturers and supplies will be willing to provide suitable equipment for YOG that supports Africa and Senegal with participation and legacy.
 - c) What format of competition will be used?
 - a. Considering the likely weather conditions and that athletes are likely to only be present in Dakar for a week, how will familiarisation, training and racing be scheduled in this time.
 - d) What development activities will WS undertake to ensure a strong and competitive African and Senegalese representation.
 - a. Being an African YOG, a significant percentage of the athlete quota, across both genders, is likely to be required to be from Africa by the IOC.

3. Dakar 2026 Context as defined by the IOC

1. Sports principles:

- Limit the sports to one discipline;
- Ensure credible sports competitions, reflecting the sports' elite youth pathway;
- No mixed-NOCs medal events;

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- Propose innovative formats where appropriate (e.g. physical virtual sports but not traditional esports);
- Maximise connection with Senegal and Africa.
- 2. Athlete quota:
 - Reduce overall athlete numbers according to the Youth Olympic Village capacity;
 - Maintain gender-equal Games;
 - Review the need for dedicated qualification events
- 3. Venue and operational considerations:
 - Maximise the use of existing venues;
 - Ensure there is no significant refurbishment, except for Games needs;
 - Maximise the sharing of venues and FOPs;
 - Reduce road and beach events to minimise complexity and the impact on city operations.
- 4. Principles on NOC representation and qualification:
 - Ensure a pathway for all NOCs to participate in the YOG Dakar 2026;
 - Ensure a strong representation of African NOCs and athletes, adapted to each sport;
 - Ensure continental consideration in all sports.
- 5. Age considerations:
 - Maximum 17 at the time of the Games;
 - Ages to be established reflecting IF regulations and elite athlete pathway (where possible).

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