



YOUTH ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT - INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OPPORTUNITIES

Guidelines

World Programmes – Sport Development – Youth Athlete Development

What are the programme's objectives?

To assist National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in the development of a limited number of talented young athletes (and in some cases also the coaches that support them) through training opportunities offered by the International Federations (IFs).

Who is this programme for?

- Young athletes with the potential to participate in national, continental or international youth competitions and/or the Youth Olympic Games;
- Athletes who practise sports that are included on programme of the Summer or Winter Youth Olympic Games;
- Athletes identified by an NOC or IF following promising sporting results at international or continental youth competitions; and
- Athletes either qualified or identified by their NOCs to benefit from Universality Places to participate at the Youth Olympic Games.

Athletes should be 23 or younger as it relates to continental and world events, or eligible within the qualification criteria set for each sport on the YOG programme.

What activities are covered?

Under this programme, athletes can benefit from access to:

- training camps;
- competitions; and
- annual support.



NOCs will receive invitations from Olympic Solidarity on behalf of the IFs to take part in the programme. NOCs are required to accept or decline the invitations. In some cases, NOCs will be asked to approve multiple opportunities across various sports.

Which sports are eligible?

Sports on the programme of the Winter or Summer Youth Olympic Games.

Are any third parties involved?

International Federations play a leading role in this programme. With NOC approval, IFs will manage the costs for the delivery of this activity as outlined in the invitation. Projects are co-financed and managed by the IFs and, in some cases, target specific athletes and coaches who have been identified as having potential in the sport. IFs are also responsible for submitting all reports to Olympic Solidarity.

Are there any restrictions?

Unless an IF provides a project proposal in 2025 that covers the entire four-year period, budgets that are not allocated in a specific year will be reinvested back into the programme and will not be retroactively allocated or carried forward.

Is there a deadline for submissions?

This programme opens on 1 January 2025 and closes in November 2028.

What is the application procedure?

Olympic Solidarity will invite selected NOCs to take part in the IF opportunities for the 2025-2028 period.

Approval of the NOCs is required before an athlete or coach can be confirmed to participate in any activity proposed by the IF.

Invitations will be sent to the NOCs by email. All details, such as athlete names, sporting CVs, arrival and departure dates, etc., must be communicated by the NOCs or National Federations directly to the International Federation as specified in the invitation.

For all activities organised for athletes under 18 years of age, NOCs/NFs must ensure that the consent of a parent and/or legal guardian is given before submitting an application to Olympic Solidarity.

What is the maximum amount of funding an IF can apply for?

An annual maximum grant of USD 50,000 per IF will be made available for the 2025-2028 plan.

What expenses are covered?

Expenses typically covered under this programme include those for:

- travel;
- accommodation;
- meals;
- equipment and other related training costs; and



- delivery of the activity in a safe, inclusive and sustainable manner.

Visa costs, medical screenings, insurance, per diems and incidentals are **not covered**.

All expenses are managed by the IFs, and no payments are made directly to the NOC; however, a detailed breakdown of all the costs will appear on RELAY when the project has concluded.

What are the payment options for this programme?

There are no payments made to NOCs for this programme.

For a project to be approved, IFs must provide Olympic Solidarity with a detailed project overview, timeline and budget breakdown per NOC.

For reimbursement of expenses, IFs must submit a final invoice with costs per NOC provided. Upon receipt and approval of all reports, including technical and financial, Olympic Solidarity will provide reimbursement through a purchase order.

What are the reporting requirements?

Following the activities, the reporting and payment process will be carried out between Olympic Solidarity and the International Federation.

Are there any other instructions?

NOCs should involve a gender-equal balance of female and male athletes (50 per cent each). For coaches and administrators related to this programme, the goal should be a participation rate for females of at least 30 per cent.

Where gender balance cannot be achieved, NOCs, in coordination with the NFs, must propose measures towards reaching it over a certain period of time.

All beneficiaries must be made aware of the topics of athlete well-being, safeguarding, anti-doping and the prevention of competition manipulation through links provided in the Olympic Solidarity – Preface to Programme Guidelines. All beneficiaries have the responsibility to access the information and observe the guidelines.