



YOUTH ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT - IDENTIFICATION AND TRAINING

Guidelines

World Programmes – Sport Development – Youth Athlete Development

What are the programme's objectives?

To assist National Olympic Committees (NOCs) with identifying promising young athletes and supporting them in their training as they prepare to qualify for the Youth Olympic Games and other youth competitions.

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 International Federation (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 programme of the 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games or 2028 Winter Youth Olympic Games.

What activities are covered?

Activities for this programme relate to the identification and training of young athletes as well as the development of the entourage members who support them. This includes:

- the creation of a national talent identification structure;
- the development of existing long-term athlete development programmes in collaboration with International Federations and National Federations;
- collaboration with existing national programmes;



- the organisation of short-term national or international talent identification projects and training camps;
- the training of youth athletes and development of their entourage members with a view to the athletes eventually being selected for youth competitions; and
- the implementation of learn-and-share initiatives.

Who can apply?

All NOCs.

Which sports are eligible?

Sports on the programme for regional and continental competitions, the Olympic Games, and the Youth Olympic Games.

Are any third parties involved?

N/A

Are there any restrictions?

For any athletes receiving direct individual support, a contract between the NOC and the athlete must be established listing the name of the athlete, legal guardian (if needed), and NOC officer, as well as the time period, budget and the responsibilities of both parties.

Is there a deadline for submissions?

This programme opens on 1 January 2025 and closes in November 2028. NOCs should apply through RELAY at least two months prior to the start of the activities.

What is the application procedure?

NOCs must apply through RELAY with a detailed proposal and budget breakdown. If targeted athletes will be supported over several years, this should be mentioned in the initial application.

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

A maximum annual grant of USD 25,000 per NOC is available for the 2025-2028 plan. Budgets not allocated for a specific year will be forfeited by the NOC and reinvested back into the programme. They will not be retroactively allocated or carried forward.

What expenses are covered?

A range of items and activities are covered, including:

- the development of materials;
- training activities;
- accommodation;



- transport;
- meals; and
- per diems for athletes and coaches.

The purchase of necessary sporting equipment and clothing for a specific activity (such as team delegation uniforms for regional events, for example) may be considered by Olympic Solidarity on a case-by-case basis as long as the costs are considered reasonable within the context of the overall budget.

What are the payment options for this programme?

Advance payment of 75 per cent is available upon confirmation of each project. The balance payment will be made upon receipt and approval of the technical and financial reports detailing the activities carried out and the budget used.

What are the reporting requirements?

The NOC must submit a final technical and financial report no later than two months following the conclusion of the activities. These reports must be accepted by Olympic Solidarity before an NOC can apply to take part in the programme the following year.

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.