Competition Format and Rules

Format et règlement des compétitions

As of WED 21 OCT 2026

Youth Olympic Competition Format

The Badminton competition at Dakar 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games comprises Singles events for men and women.

There are 32 players.

The Badminton competition will be played in two stages: The group play stage and the knock-out stage.

Draw

Group allocation for the group play stage will be determined by a draw.

The number of seeds will correspond to the number of groups. The seeded players will be placed at the top of each group. Players from the same NOC cannot be drawn into the same group.

The remaining players will be drawn into the groups, one by one, until all players are placed in a group. The order of play is defined by the World Badminton Federation (BWF) rules.

Group play stage

The players will play in groups (eight groups of four players each), in which all players in the group play each other. A final ranking order for each group will be calculated. Ranking will be established by the number of matches won.

The top ranked player from each group of the group play stage will qualify to the quarterfinals.

If two players have won the same number of matches won, the winner of the match between them will be ranked higher.

If three or more players have won the same number of matches won, ranking will be established by the difference between total games won and total games lost, with greater difference ranked higher.

If two players remain tied, the winner of the match between them will be ranked higher.

If three or more players have won the same number of matches won and are equal in the difference between total games won and total games lost, ranking will be established by the difference between total points won and total points lost, with greater difference ranked higher.

If two players remain tied, the winner of the match between them will be ranked higher.

If three or more players remain tied, then ranking will be established by drawing lots.

Knock-out stage

This stage consists of a head-to-head match from which the winner advances to the next round. The only time a losing player will contest another match is when the losing semifinalists meet in the bronze medal match.

Differences between the BWF World Junior Championships and the Summer Youth Olympic Games

There are no differences in the general competition regulations and laws of Badminton, however the format is different. The BWF World Junior Championships is a straight knockout competition whereas the Summer Youth Olympic Games has a round robin format leading to a knockout competition.

The BWF World Junior Championships field contains more competitors due to the different quotas for member association's participation.

Changes since Buenos Aires 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games

The Relay Team event has been removed from the programme.

Sport Rules and Procedures

Toss

Before the play, a toss will be conducted and the side winning the toss will choose either to serve or receive first, or start play at one end of the court or the other.



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Scoring format

A match will consist of the best of three games. A game will be won by the player which first scores 21 points provided there is a two point lead. One point is awarded to the winner of each rally, which is an unbroken sequence of strokes from the service until a player fails to make a valid return. The winner of the point becomes the next server. If the score becomes 20 all, the side which first gains a two point lead will win the game. If the score becomes 29 all, the side scoring the 30th point will win the game. The side winning a game will serve first in the next game.

Substitutions

No changes or substitutions of any kind can be made to the entries after the completion of the Youth Olympic Games draws.

Penalties/disqualification rules

A coloured penalty card system (yellow, red and black) is used to act as a visual aid when an umpire issues a warning for misconduct or other misdemeanour.

Disqualifications in Badminton are very rare, with the most common cause being a player reporting late for a match. Players can also be disqualified for serious or persistent misconduct, but this is equally rare.

During the match an umpire can issue a warning (and a yellow card) if a player fails to respect the laws of badminton or the players' code of conduct.

Faults

If the player has already been warned for misconduct, or when the offence is flagrant, the umpire can call a fault and issue a red card.

If the player is guilty of persistent or flagrant acts of misconduct, the umpire will fault the offending side, and report the offending side immediately to the referee. If the referee decides that a disqualification is necessary, he hands a black card to the umpire to issue to the offending side, signalling their disqualification from the match.

Protests

In Badminton the result is final once the player leaves the court. Any decision taken by the referee is final.

Note:
For further information please consult: www.bwf.sport