

Competition Format and Rules

Format et règlement des compétitions

As of WED 21 OCT 2026

Youth Olympic Competition Format

Cycling Road at Dakar 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games will comprise the following events for men and women:

Road Race

In these mass start events, women will race 59.5km and men will race 76.5km. Both races will have 42 riders each. The first rider crossing the finish line at the end of the total distance is the winner.

The actual start of the race will be a standing start, without a neutralised section.

The last kilometre shall be marked by a red triangle. Apart from the finish arch, no banner/arch may be put up after the red triangle.

Individual Time Trial

Men and women cover 8.5km. Riders start at 90 second intervals. Both individual time trial events will have 42 riders each. The rider with the fastest time is the winner.

In all events, change or repair of a damaged bicycle is permitted, but only by the team's own technicians or by the personnel from one of the neutral support cars. If the bicycle is damaged, the rider can finish the race and be ranked if they cross the finish line with the bicycle.

In the individual time trial, a rider who has been passed is not allowed to go into the slipstream of the faster rider.

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

The events are the same, but distances and quotas are different.

Changes since Buenos Aires 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games

Cycling at Buenos Aires 2018 was a team competition, with two Combined events (boys and girls), consisting of a Team Time Trial, Individual Road Race, Individual Criterium, and two Mountain bike Cross Country races. Only UCI standard individual road events are included for Dakar 2026.

Sport Rules and Procedures

Tie Break Rules

For the road race, ties remain if they cannot be resolved by photo-finish.

For the individual time trial, ties remain if the riders have the same time to 1/100th of a second.

Penalties / Disqualification Rules

A rider may be disqualified, relegated (moved down the ranking) or penalised (by adding time in individual time trial) for:

- Pushing or interfering with another rider, by hand or by other means
- Receiving or providing non-regulation assistance
- Participating in a flying relay deviating from a selected lane in a sprint, endangering other riders
- Intentionally taking a detour from the course which results in an advantage
- Holding on to the team's vehicle or other motor vehicle

Protests / Appeals

Decisions of the UCI Commissaires' Panel are considered final, and there are no protests.



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Equipment description

In accordance with UCI Regulations, bicycles used must adhere to specific dimensions and weight requirements where the overall length of a bicycle and its width are regulated. The minimum weight of the bicycle is set at 6.8kg. The same road bike must be used for both races.

The diameter of the wheels is subject to limits, as well where it is essential that both wheels maintain equal diameters. The structure of the bicycle, connecting the saddle, pedals, and front fork, must be triangular in shape.

Furthermore, all components of the bicycle, including the frame, brakes, handlebars, and saddle, must follow the commercialisation requirements of the UCI Regulations. Framesets, wheelsets and equipment not yet commercially available must obtain the approval of the UCI.

Note:
For further information please consult: www.uci.org