

Competition Format and Rules

Format et règlement des compétitions

As of WED 21 OCT 2026

Youth Olympic Competition Format

The equestrian competition at Dakar 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games consists of one event, the jumping individual.

Twenty-four athletes will compete in the jumping individual event. Athlete/horse combinations jump a series of obstacles all designed to test the athlete's skill and the horse's jumping ability. Penalties are given for faults such as knocking down an obstacle, refusals and exceeding the time allowed.

The jumping Individual event comprises two qualifier rounds (A and B) and one final round. All compete in both qualifier rounds and the final. The starting order in the qualifier rounds A and B are established by draws. The qualifier results are based on the total number of penalty points incurred in both rounds and the time incurred in round B. The starting order for the final will be in the reverse order of the combined qualifier results. No scores are carried forward from the qualifier rounds to the final.

Horses will be allocated to competitors by a draw held after the horse inspection. A separate draw for order to go will be held prior to the start of competition.

To be eligible for the Youth Olympic Games, athletes must be born between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2011. In addition, the athletes must have a Certificate of Capability. The certificate can be obtained either through the Junior/Young Athlete Continental Championships or the FEI Challenge Category A, after achieving a score of not more than eight penalties in the first round of any of the competitions.

NOC quota: Maximum of one athlete per NOC.

Differences between the FEI Junior Continental Championships and the Summer Youth Olympic Games

A key difference between the Youth Olympic Games and the Continental Championships is that horses are provided by the Organising Committee at these Games.

Changes since Buenos Aires 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games

The Jumping International Team event has been removed from the Youth Olympic Games programme. Instead, a team event has been incorporated and organised by the FEI as part of the competition. The individual competition format has been changed from two rounds to two qualification rounds and a final round.

Sport Rules and Procedures

Qualification is achieved by meeting minimum standards of performance at nominated competitions or competition levels within the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 May 2026.

A total of twenty-four athletes are eligible to compete at the Youth Olympic Games. The Organising Committee will organise training and warm-up sessions before the competition in the main arena or elsewhere under FEI regulations.

The course of eight to twelve obstacles is laid out in an enclosed arena on an artificial surface. Various attributes are tested in the discipline (speed, precision, power, etc.) but the object is always the same: to jump the entire course within the time allowed without making a mistake - a clear round. Penalties are given for faults such as knocking down an obstacle, refusals and exceeding the time allowed. The "faults" are accumulated. A fall of either horse or athlete entails elimination.

Tie Break Rules

Any tie for medals (same number of penalties) is broken by a jump-off.

Disqualification Rules

If an athlete/horse combination, taking part in the event, is disqualified for unsportsmanlike behaviour or serious misconduct (DQB) they will receive no rank and will be listed at the bottom of the ranking.

Protests / Appeals

The NOCs may protest or appeal according to the FEI rules.

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

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