Competition Format and Rules

Format et règlement des compétitions

As of WED 21 OCT 2026

Youth Olympic Competition Format

The sailing competition at Dakar 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games consists of two events: men's and women's windsurfing. Each NOC is permitted to enter one athlete of each gender.

Windsurfing events have a target to reach 15 races (opening series).

Races are conducted around a course of marker buoys laid out by the Race Committee. A race may be over one to four laps. The number of laps in each race is decided by the Race Committee immediately prior to the start of the race and depends upon the wind conditions and the length of the course.

The Race Committee will adjust the size of the course and number of laps with the aim that the race is completed in the target time. The orientation of the course is set so that the length of the course is parallel to the wind. The start is between two boats anchored and the time to the start is signalled by the raising of flags on one of the start boats. As some legs are orientated to be directly into the wind, and because boats cannot sail directly into the wind, they must sail a zig-zag course to the mark and as a result, the boats can spread out over a wide area.

Differences between World Sailing Youth World Championships and the Summer Youth Olympic Games

At the Youth Olympic Games there are 2 events and 48 athletes. At the youth world championships there are 11 events and in 2025 there were 424 athletes from 67 nations.

Changes since Buenos Aires 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games

The men's windsurfing and women's windsurfing events have changed their equipment to the Techno 293.

The following events have been removed from the programme: men's kite, women's kite and mixed multihull.

Sport Rules and Procedures

Competition format

- Opening Series:
  - Scoring uses a "low point" scoring system whereby the winner of each race is awarded one point, second place is awarded two points, etc. Failure to finish the race, or a disqualification earns the boat the number of points equal to one more than the total number of boats in that event, e.g. if there are 20 boats in an event, a failure to finish would earn a boat 21 points.
  - The points from the worst race performance(s) for each competitor are discarded, and the remaining points are summed to calculate the event placing after the opening series (but points from some disqualification types cannot be discarded). The crews with the best (lowest) overall score will be the winner.

Tie Break Rules

- Any ties during the opening series will be broken according to the Racing Rules of Sailing
- Medals will be awarded based on the series total score. If two or more boats are tied, a two-stage tie break procedure is used. Ties are broken in favour of the boat that has:
  1. The highest number of first places, then second places, etc.
  2. Achieved a higher placing in the last race of the event

Judging

The action in sailing is spread out over a wide area with the boats all taking different routes in order to sail the course as fast as possible, therefore direct judging is not possible. Sailing has a system of "self-policing" whereby if a team feels that they have been infringed by another team on the water, they can call to the other boat to sail a penalty turn (sailing in a tight circle

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once or twice, commonly referred to as a "360" or "720"). If the team fails to accept the penalty, or an official observes an infringement of the rules, a "protest" is filed by the competitor or official after racing has finished and a hearing is convened.

There is a time limit, usually one hour after the end of racing for the day, in which a protest may be filed with officials; therefore, it is quite common for results to be amended one to two hours after the completion of racing. Protests are more common than in most other sports and are a normal part of the sport. The most common rule infringements for disqualification are when two boats are crossing on opposite tacks and when rounding marks.

Penalties / Disqualification Rules

See the Racing Rules of Sailing

Protests / Appeals

See the Racing Rules of Sailing

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