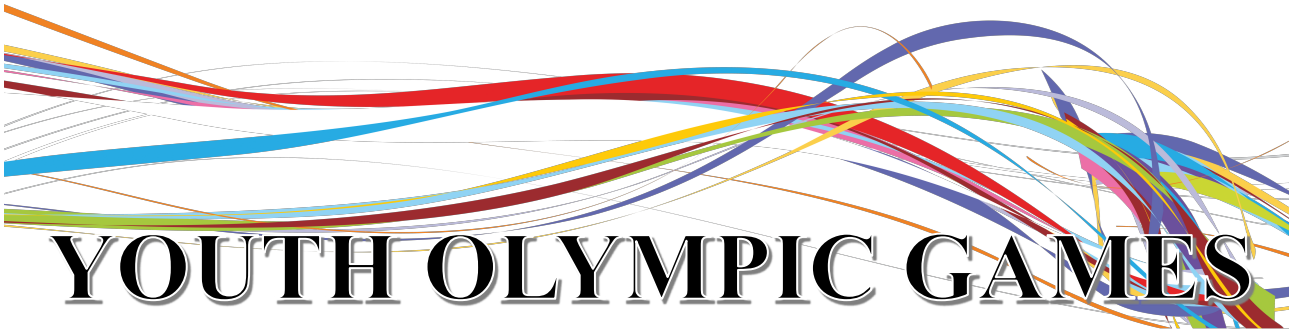


The Youth Olympic Games are an international multi-sport event for athletes aged 15 to 18. They are organized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and take place every four years. The first summer edition was held in Singapore from August 14 to 26, 2010.

The idea of such an event was introduced by Austrian Johann Rosenzopf in 1998. On July 6, 2007, members of the International Olympic Committee, at the 119th IOC Session in Guatemala City, approved the creation of a youth version of the Olympic Games.

The Summer Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in 2010, Nanjing in 2014, and Buenos Aires in 2018 hosted approximately 3,600 athletes from over 200 countries. The Games, originally scheduled for 2022, were postponed to 2026 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will now be held in Dakar, Senegal.

Qualification for participation in the Youth Olympic Games is determined by the IOC in collaboration with the International Sports Federations (ISF) for the various scheduled sports. To ensure that all nations are represented at the Youth Olympic Games, the IOC established the concept of Universal Places. A certain number of places in each event must be left open for athletes from underrepresented nations, regardless of their qualifying scores. Finally, no nation may enter more than 70 athletes in individual sports.

Walking has been included in the program since the first edition, with the 10,000m track walk for boys and the 5,000m track walk for girls. Following the qualifications, each nation could participate with only one representative.

In the last edition, the walking events were held in two 5,000m legs, also for boys. At the end of the two legs, the ranking was drawn up based on the combined times of the two races.

In Singapore 2010, 17 boys and 17 girls competed, representing 17 nations, having qualified in the preliminary rounds. In Nanjing, 15 athletes competed in both boys and girls, representing 15 nations and in Buenos Aires, 16 boys and 16 girls competed, representing 16 nations.

Over the three editions, only China managed to win two gold medals in the women's event.

The winners of the three editions were:

- Igor Liaschenko of Ukraine and Anna Clemente of Italy in 2010
- Minoru Onogawa of Japan and Ma Zhenxia of China in Nanjing 2014
- Oscar Patin of Ecuador and Xi Ricou of China in Buenos Aires 2018.