

## **SELECTION CRITERIA & PROCESS FOR YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES 2026**

### **Introduction**

1. In principle, Ghana Badminton Association (GBA) believes that for such Major Games, representing Ghana is a privilege and shall be accorded to the best in the country, subject to eligibility criteria being met. Ghana Olympic Committee (GOC) has also set stringent selection criteria for the Games.
2. Youth Olympic Games (YOG) is scheduled to be held in Dakar, Senegal from 31 October to 13 November 2026.

### **Mandatory Requirements**

3. There are certain mandatory requirements required by the Organising Committee and the Badminton World Federation (BWF) which must be fulfilled. These mandatory requirements are:
  - a) Ghana Citizenship;
  - b) Maximum age of participants should be 17 years old at the time of the Games, including up to the Closing Ceremony (23:59 Dakar local time), with no minimum age requirements;
  - c) Has not represented any other country for three years immediately preceding the date of the fixture or last represented Ghana<sup>1</sup>.
  - d) Fulfil the criteria described in the GBA Player Selection and Participation Policy

### **Youth Olympic Games 2026**

4. The following event will be held at the upcoming YOG and there shall not be more than one (1) quota per event: Boys and Women's Singles

### **Selection Panel**

5. GBA's Selection Panel will evaluate and recommend the athletes to the National Selection Committee for approval for nomination to GOC to represent Ghana at the Youth Olympic Games 2026.
6. The GBA Selection Panel comprises:
  - a. Technical Committee of the Board
7. The YOG Selection Committee comprises, members of International Games Committee

<sup>1</sup> Representing is defined as accepting a nomination to be a member in any badminton event where the competition is being teams, or as specified by BWF (i.e., World Championship, individual event in Olympic Games, African Games, Commonwealth Games, and Africa Badminton Championship).

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### **Selection Process for YOG**

8. Athletes who have achieved standards according to the Qualification Principles of the sport for the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games,
  - a. Have participated in at least one (1) or more BWF Sanctioned tournaments; OR
  - b. Appear in Highest of ranking in the BWF World Junior Ranking prior to the Sport Entries Deadline (25 September 2026).
9. Pursuant to the Olympic Charter (By laws to Rules 27 and 28, paragraph 2.1), "Selection shall be based not only on the sports performance of an athlete, but also on his ability to serve as an example to the sporting youth of his country."
10. GBA will select the athletes after considering and assessing the following in totality:
  - a. Competition results from 1 May 2025 to 15 August 2026.
  - b. Identified competitions will be communicated separately and a scoring matrix will be used to track progression.
  - b. Selections trials may be conducted in the event there is a tie
  - c. Progress and commitment to training requirements;
  - d. Coaches' recommendations;
11. GBA reserves the right to review and change any selection criteria should the final rules and regulations published by the Organising Committee for the Games substantially affect previously published criteria or team selection decisions.
12. Based on the selection process above, GBA Selection Committee will announce the selected athlete for nomination to GOC.

### **Other Considerations**

13. In addition to the above selection criteria, the following "qualities" of the athletes will be taken into consideration:
  1. Attitude and behavior towards coaches, teammates, fellow athletes, officials and sports administrators, whether in relation to sporting matters or otherwise.
  2. General conduct and character which may affect the reputation, image, values or best interests of the athlete or the sport.
  3. Past disciplinary record;
  4. Current skill level and fitness; and character
  5. Level of team commitment and attendance.
  6. Potential for future development:
  7. Ability to demonstrate team spirit and work well with teammates and officials; and
  8. Such other non-performance related qualities as the selectors may consider to be relevant.

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### **Extenuating Circumstances**

14. In consideration of the performance and “qualities” of athletes, the selectors may at their discretion give consideration to extenuating circumstances. For this purpose, “extenuating circumstances” mean an inability of the athlete to compete in and/or attend event, training camps or other required attendances arising from:
- Injury or illness
  - Equipment failure
  - Travel delays
  - Bereavement; and
  - Such other circumstances as the selectors may be considered relevant.

### **Appeal Process**

15. The GBA Appeal Panel comprises of the following members:
- Chairman – Mr. Ernest Danso
  - Member – Dr. George Owusu
  - Member – Mr. Horen Quashigah
16. An appeal against the non-selection may be made in writing to the Events Director of GBA within 72 hours of the announcement of the athletes nominated for the Youth Olympic Games 2026 to [bkondau@ghanabadminton.org](mailto:bkondau@ghanabadminton.org)
17. The sole ground for any appeal is that the selection policy and criteria was not properly followed.
18. An appeal must be made in writing with appropriate and sufficient supporting documentation and must be accompanied by a deposit of GHC 1,500.00, payable to the GBA. If the appeal is upheld, the deposit will be refunded in full.
19. Within two (2) working days of receiving the appeal, the Events Director of GBA with the Appeals Committee (comprising of members not involved in the actual selection process) will investigate the issues of the appeal with all parties involved.
20. GBA will, in writing, inform all parties about the Appeals Committee’s decision to either uphold or reject the appeal. The decision of the Appeals Committee will be final.

### **Deselection**

21. An athlete selected for the Youth Olympic Games 2026 may be deselected at any point if the athlete:
- Due to illness or injury becomes unable to perform to the required standard in the opinion of the GBA Athlete Selection Panel (after receiving medical advice or
  - Demonstrates a lack of commitment to training requirements and/or tournament preparations or

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- c. Breaches or fails to fulfil a requirement of the Anti-Doping Policies of the GBA, the BWF, the Anti-Doping Ghana or other approved agencies, if applicable; or
- d. Any other reason not stated above, but where deselection is deemed appropriate and approved by the GBA Athlete Selection Panel.

### **GOC Entry by Name Deadline**

22. GBA will submit the final list of selected players to GOC. Final approval and confirmation of players for the YOG resides with the GOC

### **Late Athlete Replacement Policy**

23. If an athlete is unable to participate after the final selection due to injury, illness or other extenuating circumstances, the GBA Athlete Selection Panel, in consultation with the GBA Selection Committee, may select the replacement athlete from the final nomination list approved by GOC based on the following criteria:
- a. Results of the selection trial
  - b. Competition results between 1 May 2025 to 15 August 2026
  - c. Coaches' recommendations

### **Planned Milestones**

24. The list of tentative milestones as follows:

Longlist Phase Begins	1 June 2025
GBA Selection Committee Approval and Submission of GBA's nomination to GOC	10 July 2026
Release of YOG 2026 Nomination Results	20 August 2025
Appeal Process Starts	21 August 2025
GBA Appeal Committee Approval	23 - 31 August 2026
GOC Appeal Deadline	1 September 2026
GOC Entry by Name deadline	18 September 2026
Youth Olympic Games 2026	31 October – 13 September 2026