

USOPC Internally Managed Sports (IMS) - Badminton

PRELIMINARY NOTICE TO THE ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

2026 Youth Olympic Games

January 20, 2026

TO: Members of IMS – Badminton

FROM: USOPC Internally Managed Sports (IMS) - Badminton

RE: Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games

To provide information in a timely manner, IMS is releasing this Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games (Games). This document is being written as a complement, and not a substitute to the 2026 Youth Olympic Games Athlete Selection Procedures. Additional communication will be released by IMS once the Athlete Selection Procedures have been completed.

A. Anticipated Athlete Eligibility Criteria:

- Athletes cannot be older than 17 years old at the time of the closing ceremony of the Games.
- Athletes must comply with all Badminton World Federation (BWF) and International Olympic Committee (IOC) eligibility requirements.
- Athletes must be a national of the United States and hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.
- Athletes must adhere to all IMS, USADA, USOPC, WADA, BWF and IOC anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures including participation in Out-of-Competition Testing, if applicable.
- Athletes must comply with the [USOPC Background Check Policy](#) and [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).
- Athletes must meet the following Games eligibility requirements:
 - Have participated in at least one (1) BWF sanctioned tournament on or after September 24, 2025; or
 - Appear in the BWF World Junior Ranking
 - It is unknown at this time when the final date to appear in the rankings will be to meet this requirement. However, it is anticipated that athletes will need to appear on this ranking list in Summer 2026. Once more information is released by the Youth Olympic Games Organizing Committee, the final date to appear in the BWF World Junior Ranking will be shared by USOPC IMS.

B. BWF Qualification System Overview:

The Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games Qualification Systems Manual for Badminton has not been published by the BWF so the maximum Team size cannot be confirmed at this time.

C. Anticipated Evaluation Events:

It is intended that athletes being considered for nomination to the 2026 Youth Olympic Games will be evaluated on their performance at any of the below listed events. Participation in these events is not a requirement, however, ranking points from BWF-sanctioned tournaments and placement on the BWF World Junior Rankings is anticipated to be the basis for nomination to the Games. Ranking points will start accumulating on September 24, 2025.

EVENT NAME	DATES
BWF World Junior Sanctioned Tournaments	September 24, 2025 – August 2026
BWF Sanctioned Tournaments	September 24, 2025 – August 2026
BWF World Junior Championships	TBD 2026
Continental Junior Championships	TBD 2026

Please note that entries and selection criteria for BWF-sanctioned events will be managed by USA Badminton staff.

D. Disclaimer:

This preliminary notice is based on the BWF rules and regulations as presently known and understood for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games. The information in this notice is provided to assist athletes with their training and competition planning and is subject to change upon approval of the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games. Once complete, the approved Athlete Selection Procedures will be posted at: www.teamusa.com/badminton.

For questions about the 2026 Youth Olympic Games selection process, please contact Matt Cramer, Senior Director Internally Managed Sports, matt.r.cramer@usopc.org.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USOPC Senior Director Internally Managed Sports	Matt Cramer		1/7/2026
Team USA Athletes Commission Representative	Eva Lee		1/20/2026