

## IOC Young Reporters Programme

### Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026

#### Introduction

The IOC Young Reporters Programme is a long-standing initiative aimed at developing the next generation of sports journalists. The programme, organized and managed by IOC Media Operations, fosters international collaboration, cultural exchange and Olympic values, leaving a powerful legacy in the host countries of the Olympic Games.

The IOC Young Reporters Programme was first implemented at the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in 2010. Since its launch, 126 IOC Young Reporters from 67 countries have taken part in the programme.

The new edition of the programme will take place in 2026 during the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026 in Senegal.

Following the recommendations included in the independent review of the format of the programme conducted by Dr Jessie Wilkie (lecturer in Sports Media) published by the University of Canberra in June 2025, the format of the Young Reporters Programme has been redesigned to reflect the rapidly evolving landscape of the world sports media, whilst preserving its core mission of engaging young professionals and leaving a lasting legacy.

The 2026 programme will select 16 participants, equally split between 8 males and 8 females. Candidates will be submitted by the Organising Committees of future Olympic and Youth Olympic Games (Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026, Youth Olympic Winter Games Dolomiti Valtellina 2028, Los Angeles 2028, French Alps 2030, and Brisbane 2032). To ensure a diverse and broad participation, interested individuals from countries not listed among the future hosts may apply directly via a dedicated registration portal which will be available on Olympics.com.

The selected Young Reporters will be invited to participate in the programme in Dakar in November 2026. They will receive an 'E' press accreditation. They will work and train in the Main Press Centre with all the other accredited media and will receive specialised and intensive media training from Olympic experts and senior sports journalists and photographers working as their mentors.

#### Candidate Requirements

- Applicants must be aged between 21 to 25 years old (**as of 31 October 2026**)
- A student or a young professional in journalism / broadcasting and photography.
- Full proficiency in English (**written and spoken**)
- Portfolio and references to support their application.

## Course Outline

Young Reporters will receive both general and specialised training in various aspects of sports reporting and learn how to cover major events such as the Olympic Games.

Training will focus on crafting compelling sports stories, how to produce news stories under tight deadlines, when to look for background detail, and why accuracy, fairness and journalistic ethics still remain the cornerstones of sports reporting.

Photographers will learn first-hand about the art of sports imagery including what makes a great sports photo, covering colour and composition, how to create a sense of place, how to edit and file and how to use the latest professional equipment.

For broadcast training, the Young Reporters will learn the nuances between news stories, colour stories, live coverage and interviews. They will learn how to craft a script to enhance the video images captured, as well as the skills required for editing and creating stories.

The integration of social media, data analysis and dedicated reporting on social media platforms forms a core component of the Young Reporters training.

According to the Young Reporters specific interests, they will specialise in areas of media, such as print reporting (newspaper, magazine), sports photography, broadcast (television and radio) and social media. However, all participants will be required to take part and complete all modules in each of the disciplines: text, photo, broadcasting, and social media.

Stories, photographs, audio and video packages will be published on the Young Reporters Programme media platforms.

The programme will also feature interviews and presentations by guest speakers from the media industry, the IOC, and other key sporting organisations.

Training and course work will be conducted in English. Translation and interpretation services will not be available.

## Logistics

The IOC will cover the cost of economy airfares, all meals, twin-share accommodation and full tuition from experienced mentors and coaches. Participants will also receive a uniform from the IOC.

## Application

Applications for the Young Reporters Program are submitted through the online portal: [\[IOC Young Reporters Programme Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026\]](#). Applicants are required to complete the following on the online portal:

- CV (Resume)
- Motivation Letter (1 page, font size 12, double-spaced)

- Copy of Passport
- Certificate of Enrollment (**Only Applicable to Student**)
- Two Reference letters with contact details of the referee (**professional references only**)
- Portfolio
- Proof of Published Work (**Only if Applicable**)
- Photo of Applicant (**The photo should be of the applicant only, not with a group**)

**All documents, except Published work (for non-native English speakers, previous work in English is a plus) should be submitted in English only (ie. motivation letter, reference letter, etc.) Applicants missing the required documents will not be considered.**

The deadline for submission is **30 November 2025, 23:59 (CET)**. For any questions or inquiries, please contact [youngreporters@olympic.org](mailto:youngreporters@olympic.org).

### **Summary of the key features of the training programme**

- Young Reporters will be offered intensive class and field training in written, photographic, broadcasting and social media sports reporting throughout the Youth Olympic Games.
- Coursework will include key elements of event coverage such as writing, interviewing, broadcasting, photography and video, social media and new media platforms. Additionally participants will gain experience working in mixed zones, attending press conferences and covering all the educational activities organised during the YOG.
- Appropriate time will be allocated so that each Young Reporter's specific area of interest can be further developed.
- The course will be in English only. All Young Reporters must have proficient written and spoken English.
- Essential technology and equipment needed for the course will be provided by the IOC, such as photographic equipment and audio recorders.
- The Young Reporters training will be conducted in a dedicated working area which will be located in the Main Press Centre.
- Continuous assessments of their work will be provided throughout the programme and all participants will receive an IOC Certificate of Participation upon completion.
- At the end of the programme, the most outstanding Young Reporter will be recognized with the Steve Parry Award.

## Key Timelines

Date	Description
15 September 2025	Launch of the programme and application process open.
30 November 2025	Application process closed.
By end of February 2026	The IOC will notify the successful Young Reporters.
From March 2026	IOC will liaise with the selected Young Reporters for the logistical arrangements for Dakar 2026 (flights, accommodation, pre-training sessions online).
28 October 2026	Young Reporters arrival in Dakar.
30 October ~ 13 November 2026	YOG Dakar 2026
14 November 2026	Young Reporters depart Dakar