

Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games Athlete & Family FAQ

USA Archery recognizes that the environment may not be conducive to all athletes. Any athlete who wishes to be removed from the 2026 Youth Olympic Games U.S. Team Trials must email highperformance@usarchery.org prior to July 7, 2026 to receive a full refund for the U.S. Team Trials, less processing fees.

Event Overview

What are the dates of the Youth Olympic Games?

The Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games will take place from October 31 through November 13, 2026. Athlete arrivals are expected approximately one day prior to the start of official training, with departures scheduled within 24 hours after competition concludes.

For Archery, this would be a tentative arrival of: Nov 4th or 5th and a departure date of Nov 14th

What are the eligibility requirements?

Athletes must meet World Archery eligibility requirements and abide by the rules in the [Olympic Charter](#) (Rule 41), including nationality/citizenship requirements.

Athletes must have a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

Athletes must have been born between including an age limit of 17 years old at the time of the Games.

To be eligible, athletes must have been born between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2011, and they must have met the Minimum Qualification Score at a National or World Archery sanctioned event between 1 January 2025 and 7 August 2026.

Men	60m Round	615
Women	60m Round	605

It is imperative to review in detail the Youth Olympic Games Athlete Selection Procedures listed on [USA Archery's website](#).

Understanding the Nature of the Event

How do these Games compare to the Olympic Games?

The Youth Olympic Games are not equivalent to the Olympic Games in terms of scale, infrastructure, or services. These Games are designed to be a developmental and cultural experience, offering athletes international exposure and personal growth opportunities.

What should athletes and families expect overall?

The Games will be hosted in Senegal, a developing country. As such:

- Infrastructure and amenities may be limited or inconsistent
- Venues and athlete village accommodations are expected to be basic
- Services typically seen at major events may not be available outside the official Games system
 - There will be minimal USOPC support staff (9 total, and 5 located in the Athlete Village)

Flexibility and realistic expectations will be key to a positive experience.

Athlete Village & Housing

What will athlete accommodations be like?

Athletes will stay in the Youth Olympic Village with simple, shared living arrangements. The facilities have been described as “sub-par”:

- Up to four athletes per room
- Room assignments may include athletes from different sports. Athletes will not be able to choose roommates
- No air conditioning: The hope is that fans will be provided in rooms but outlets are limited and not equipped to handle a lot of electrical output
 - Low temperature at night is around 75-80 degrees
- Furnishings and space will be minimal and functional
 - Small Vertical closets, Twin Beds with no room to extend
 - Firm mattresses that are small and thin.

These accommodations should be viewed as dormitory-style housing rather than hotel-style lodging.

Village Room #1



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Village Room #2



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Village Room #2



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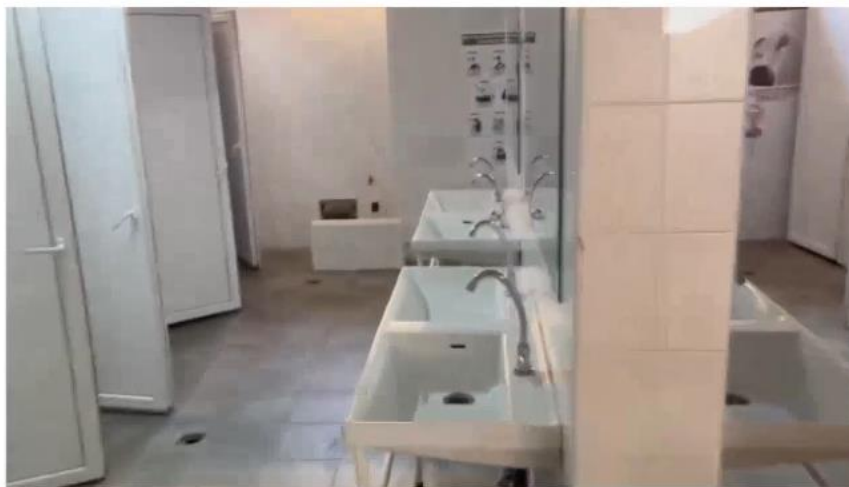
Bathroom & Hygiene Facilities

What are the bathroom conditions?

Bathroom facilities will be shared and basic:

- Communal bathroom setups: Up to 12 people per 1 toilet
- Non-Western toilet styles (including squat toilets)
 - The organizing committee is hoping to install sitting toilets in the bathrooms but they are not guaranteed and will be limited
- Limited or inconsistent hot water

Village Bathroom



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Village Bathroom



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Village Bathroom

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Food & Daily Living

What will meals and dining look like?

Meals will be provided within the Games system; however:

- Options may be more limited in variety
- Food may reflect local cuisine and available resources
- Additional food may require local currency

Will there be access to recovery amenities?

Certain resources will be limited. For example, ice will be restricted for medical use only.

Transportation & Communication

How will athletes get around?

Athletes will primarily use official Games transportation:

- Leaving the Games environment is not permitted
- Public transportation is unreliable
- Rideshare services are not widely available- NO UBER

What about phone service and communication?

Athletes and attendees should expect to:

- Purchase a local SIM card upon arrival
- Encounter limited English; French and Wolof are most common

Family & Spectator Considerations

Will parents or families be housed with athletes?

No. Housing is limited to accredited individuals:

- No official housing for families
- Independent booking required
- Options may be limited- there is no housing near the venue for friends/family, closest housing is about 1 hour away

How easy is it for families to attend?

Families are welcome; however:

- Travel logistics may be more complex
- Transportation may require private arrangements
- Travel times to venues may exceed 70 minutes

Safety & Environment

Is it safe to move around freely?

Athletes will remain within a secured Games environment. Outside of it:

- Walking is generally safe
- Petty theft and pickpocketing can occur
- Situational awareness is recommended
- Cash is used 99% of the time
- 1 USOPC Security contact, no additional security staff
- Area outside village is not “unsafe” just very different than the U.S. perspective and can be considered unfamiliar and very overwhelming

Medical Recommendations

- Recommended Vaccinations (not mandatory but HIGHLY recommended):
 - **Malaria** high rates of Malaria in the area**
 - **MMR (Measles)**
 - **DPT or Tdap (Diphtheria Pertussis and Tetanus)**
 - **Chickenpox**
 - **Flu**
 - **Polio**
 - **Shingles (in those >50 y/o)**
 - **COVID**
 - **Hep A**
 - **Hep B**
 - **Typhoid**
 - **Yellow fever**
- Small Medical team in place, Pediatric Sports Med Doctor, Chief Medical Officer and remote Mental Health Provider
- Biggest Challenges will be around: heat mitigation, water quality, air quality
- Anti-doping will be in place and all athletes are subject to potential drug testing.
 - If an athlete is on medications, utilize the World Anti-Doping Administration’s [Global DRO](#) site to confirm the medication is not on the prohibited list. Some medications are prohibited unless a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) has been granted. TUE applications can take up to 21 days and should be filed ASAP.

Final Considerations

What is the overall takeaway?

The Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games will be a unique and meaningful experience focused on growth, exposure, and development.

- Conditions will be basic and potentially detrimental to high performance
- Flexibility and adaptability are essential
- The experience emphasizes growth and perspective