



Recommendations for Youth Olympic Games submitted by ENGSO Youth

Introduction

ENGSO Youth is the youth organisation of ENGSO (European Non-Governmental Sport Organisation). ENGSO Youth is the youth sport-for-all organisation at European level. It has 40 member organisations, which are national umbrella organisations for sport from across Europe.

ENGSO Youth is a non profit organisation and has the aim:

- to represent the interest of people under the age of 35 dealing with sport in Europe.

The main activities of ENGSO Youth are

- networking;
- offering a discussion platform for current sport political issues in the field of youth;
- exchange of ideas on national sports developments in the field of youth;
- seeking common positions on sport issues in the field of youth and publicising these positions;
- strengthening the cooperation with other bodies dealing with children and youth matters.

ENGSO Youth welcomes the implementation of Youth Olympic Games. The following recommendations are to be seen as ideas developed and submitted by young people to be taken into account while planning the Youth Olympic Games.

A. Suggested activities included within the event and event legacy

1. International Youth Olympic Academy (IYOA)

The International Youth Olympic Academy is an open and free offer for people that want to gain knowledge about youth sport in its broadest sense. The IYOA offers workshops, activities and presentations open for different target groups (athletes, administrators, coaches, volunteers and the public). This includes e.g. workshops for young athletes on Doping, coaches on prevention of dropouts, volunteers on life-skill education and the public on the meaning of physical activity for a healthy lifestyle. The 1-4h workshops and presentations are offered occasionally in an extra building to reach a wide range of people (participation on a subscription and/or first come first serve basis).

Programme for coaches and sports administrators

- Conflict resolution and International development topics and the meaning of sport in this context;
- Child welfare;
- Athlete development;
- The value of youth leadership and youth committees;
- Policy discussion and networking opportunities.

Programme for athletes

- Prevention of doping;
- Inter-cultural programme – to provide an opportunity for all young people to experience each others cultures for example Night of Nations where all athletes swap cultural food, dance, art etc.

Programme for volunteers

- Training opportunities in life skills for volunteers before and during the Games;
- Target of 25% of all volunteers in the Games under 25 years.

Workshops and presentations for the public

- Health;
- Child welfare;
- The value of volunteering and active citizenship – examples of how it can work.

2. International Youth and Sport Forum (IYSF)

Our recommendation for the IYSF is based on the experience ENGSO Youth has gained with the European Youth and Sport Forum. We see the purpose of the Forum being an opportunity for people responsible for youth sport in the Olympic Sports Movement to discuss future developments in youth sport in its broadest sense. The Conference could be prior or parallel to the Games.

Topics that could be included are:

- Olympic Values;
- Education in and through sport;
- Nutrition and health;
- Fair play;
- Prevention of doping;
- Youth Co-determination;
- Diversity and inclusion.

3. Centre of activity

The centre of activity has two target groups.

a) For athletes

On the one hand it should be an offer for athletes to be physically active in sports they not usually doing. Furthermore it is recommended to offer computers to play, chat and give information about youth sport in its broadest sense. It offers athletes the possibility to try different sports, and it also gives the opportunity to use computers to play with their friends as well as being educated online.

- Computer games – quiz's for athletes about anti doping;
- Come and try other sports e.g. table tennis, tennis etc.

b) For the Public

In certain areas near the Olympic facilities the Federations of different sports (Olympic and Non-Olympic) could offer the public, and especially young people the opportunity to come and try their sport.

B. Suggested format of the Competition

The emphasis needs to be on the word GAMES in Youth Olympic Games. The Games should be organized in a non-traditional way, for example events could include mixed teams for boys and girls with participants from different countries. This will be an effective way of representing the Olympic Values and will provide the opportunity for learning between cultures, team building and also support the importance of working as a team rather than focus on winning. Disabled athletes should also be included within competition. Furthermore teams that are built out of different nations must practise their own sport whilst also trying a new sport and they must take part in a minimum number of activities of

the International Youth Olympic Academy. The winning team must have successfully taken part in all three kinds of activities.

- Mixed teams (gender, nationality, disabled, different sports)
- Ranking comprises of the athletes own sports, another sports, and participation in the International Youth Olympic Academy

C. Awards during the Games

The Games can be used to highlight individuals or organisations that have been successfully developing youth sport in their field, region or country. The award system also applies to the participating athletes and officials.

- For Youth Olympic fair play;
- For Youth Olympic young volunteer;
- Organisations that have been outstandingly engaged in youth sport.

D. Organising Committee

It is recommended that all the organising committees and working groups have representation from people under 25 years within them or a Youth Committee is established that can advise all of the working groups about any decisions made that will impact upon young people.

Conclusion

Thank you very much for your consideration. ENGSO Youth would be willing to follow up any suggestions included within this paper and actively support the implementation of Youth Olympic Games.

ENGSO Youth Committee
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