

DAKAR 2026



ONLY ONE YEAR BEFORE THE GAMES!
**ONE YEAR
TO GO!**

PRESS KIT

WORLDWIDE OLYMPIC PARTNERS



PREMIUM PARTNER



1. ONE YEAR BEFORE THE GAMES: A HISTORIC TURNING POINT

31 October 2025 will mark a significant milestone in the preparations for the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games, which will be the first Olympic sporting event ever to take place on the African continent.

To celebrate this symbolic countdown, the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee (YOGOC) is hosting a series of major events:

- the unveiling of the official mascot by the President of Senegal;
- the launch of the countdown by Omega;
- the fourth and final Dakar en Jeux festival, which will take place from 4 to 9 November;
- and open days for National Olympic Committees (NOCs).



2. 31 OCTOBER 2025: THREE A KEY MOMENT



2.1. Unveiling of the Official Mascot

The official mascot of the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games (YOG) will be unveiled by His Excellency Mr. Bassirou Diomaye Faye, President of the Republic of Senegal, at 9:30 a.m. at the Presidential Palace. Also in attendance will be Mr. Mamadou Diagna Ndiaye, President of the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee (YOGOC), and IOC representatives.

2.2. Mascot welcome by children

At 12:00, children who have completed the Olympic Civic and Sports Certificate (BOCS) programme will gather at the Museum of Black Civilisations to welcome the mascot and take part in educational activities based on Olympic values.

2.3. OMEGA launches the “ONE YEAR TO GO” countdown campaign

A launch ceremony will take place at 5:00 p.m., at Dakar Train Station. OMEGA, the official timekeeper of the Olympic Games, will unveil the countdown clock for the event.

3. DAKAR EN JEUX - 4TH AND FINAL EDITION

From 4 to 9 November 2025

A flagship event in the (2022-2026) Youth Commitment and Mobilisation Plan, Dakar en Jeux is back for its latest edition. This multi-disciplinary festival combines sport, culture and education, providing a unique opportunity to share Olympic values.

3.1. Play Programme

From 6 to 9 November 2025: 9 am to 11 am

Sports education will be at the heart of this final edition of Dakar en Jeux. Demonstration and discovery sessions will be organised, allowing children to try out a variety of disciplines. These sessions will conclude with an anti-doping awareness session. During an interactive discussion, children will learn about the rules of high-level sport, the dangers involved, non-compliant products, medicines, ethics, and the definition of doping.

The ten (10) disciplines selected for the programme are **Basketball, Baseball, Futsal, Judo, Boxing, Fencing, Badminton, Table tennis, Archery and Athletics**.

3.2. Music and culture: A major open-air festival

Throughout the week, music and the arts will set the tone in Dakar, Saly and Diamniadio, the future host cities of the YOG:

- **4 November** – Concert (Dakar TER station, 6pm-7pm)
- **5 November** – Concert (Dakar TER station, 6pm-7pm)
- **6 November** – Ballet (morning), Senegal Concert (6pm-7pm)
- **7 November** – Fashion Show (6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- **8 November** – Peul Fouladou Acrobats (morning), Casamance Masks (afternoon), A big concert at Saly Beach West (7pm-midnight)
- **9 November** – Lébou Troupe (morning), Faux Lions (afternoon)

3.3. An international futsal tournament

For this final edition, two international U16 boys' and girls' futsal tournaments will gather four (4) prestigious nations. On the men's side, Brazil, France, Morocco, and Senegal will be the four teams competing. On the women's side, Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea and Namibia will compete.

The futsal tournament will be held at the Dakar Arena in Diamniadio, giving the YOGOC an opportunity to test its organisational arrangements one year ahead of the Games.

Le tournoi de Futsal se tiendra à la Dakar Arena de Diamniadio, offrant au COJOJ une opportunité d'expérimenter ses dispositifs organisationnels à un an des Jeux.

3.4. Impact spark: Youth at the heart of well-being

Following its success in 2024, the Impact Spark programme returns this year to Place du Souvenir. It will combine physical activities and awareness workshops to promote health and well-being. Young people aged 14 to 18 will learn about behaviours that promote healthy living.

3.5. «Young Geniuses « and «Spelling bee» contest at Dakar Arena

After completing training for the **Olympic Civic and Sports Certificate (BOCS)**, children will be tested in these competitions to demonstrate their knowledge of Olympic values.

- **6 November** - Quarter-finals (9am-10.45am and 3pm-4.45pm)
- **7 November** - Quarter-finals and semi-finals (9am-10.45am and 3pm-4.45pm)
- **8 November** - Finals and discussion panel (9am-10.45am and 3pm-4.45pm)



4. NOC OPEN DAYS: OLYMPIC COMMITTEES IN DAKAR



From 5 to 7 November

The **NOC Relations and Services (NCS)** department will welcome more than 50 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) from five continents.

The objectives of the NOC Open Days are:

- Showcase the atmosphere and outline the planned activities for the Games.
- Share the progress of the preparations.
- Visit the competition and training venues and the Olympic Village.
- Strengthening ties between the NOCs and the NCS team.

5. PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR THE MEDIA

5.1. Accreditation

Registration is open from 1 to 15 October 2025 at www.dakar2026.org.

Badges can be collected from the YOGOC (VDN) offices and The Ground (Diamniadio). The exact date will be announced later.

5.2. Transportation

Accredited journalists will have free access to the TER and shuttles connecting Diamniadio station to the Dakar Arena.

5.3. Catering

A press area will offer Free snacks and beverages. Hot meals will be available upon presentation of a meal ticket, which can be purchased online.



6. GET YOUR TICKET TO FOLLOW THE COMPETITION



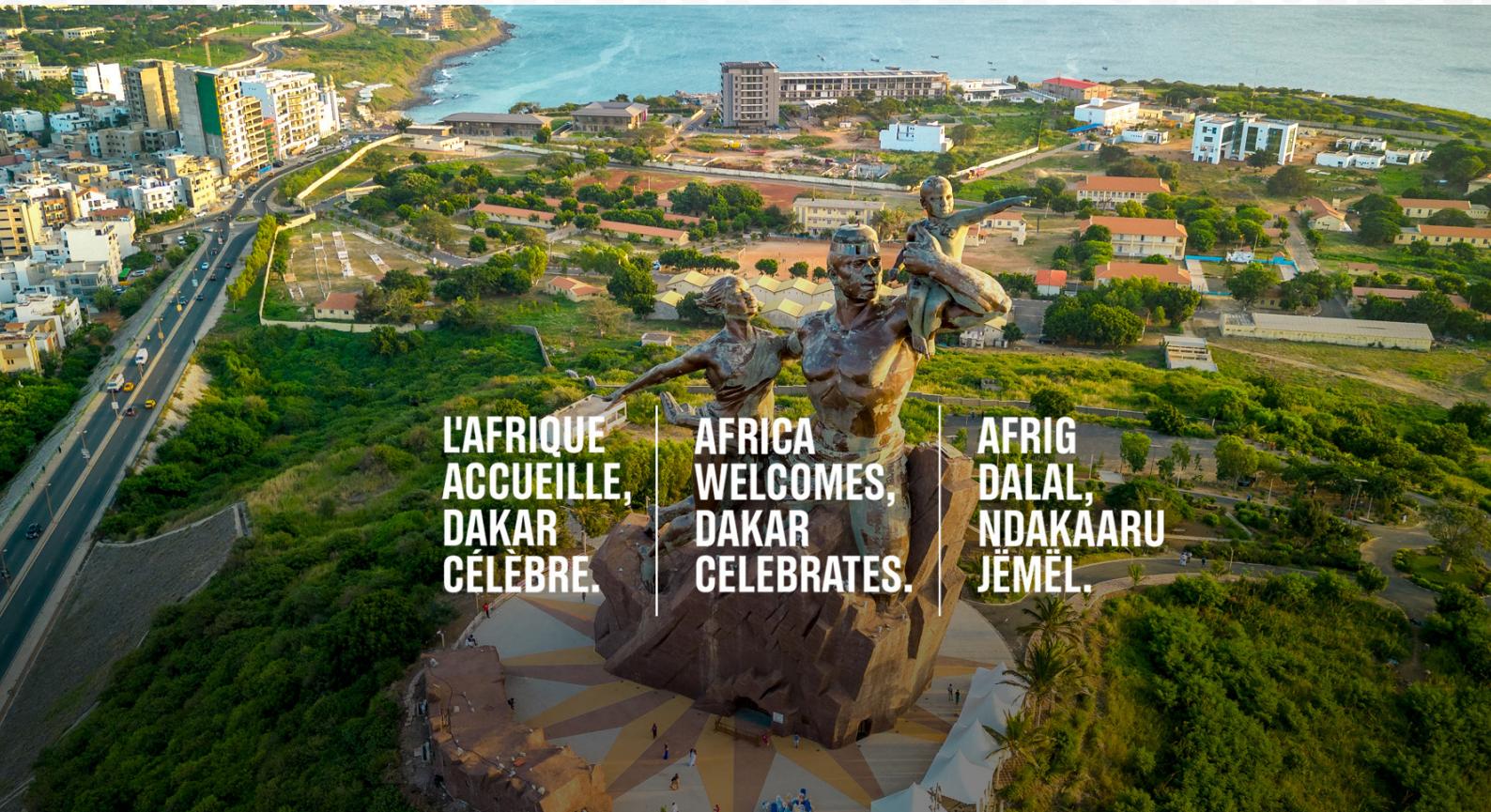
Admission will be free for the public, but tickets must be reserved via our website: www.dakar2026.org

Here is the link where spectators can register and reserve their tickets
<https://www.olympics.com/fr/dakar-2026/dakar-en-jeux/>

7. THE DAKAR 2026 YOUTH OLYMPICS - IMPORTANT TO KNOW

On 4 October 2018, the IOC selected Senegal to host the fourth edition of the Youth Olympic Games.

- This will be the first Olympic sporting event to be held in Africa.
- The Games will take place from 31 October to 13 November 2026.
- They will gather 2,700 athletes must be aged 17 or under during the Olympic Games. competing in 35 disciplines (25 competitive and 10 non-competitive), divided into 153 events, including 73 women's events, 73 men's events and 7 mixed events.
- Two historic firsts:
 - Total gender parity.
 - A refugee team made up of African athletes
- The Games will take place at three venues: Dakar, Diamniadio and Saly.
- The official slogan is 'Africa welcomes, Dakar celebrates'.



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