



# **NATIONAL YOUTH GAMES**

## **General Rules and Regulations**

**2021**

**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND  
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT**

## **Definitions of Terms**

FMYSD:	Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development
NYG:	National Youth Games
MOC:	Main Organising Committee
LOC:	Local Organising Committee
DRM:	Delegates Registration Meeting
NSF:	National Sports Federations
IFs:	International Federations
CEP:	Culture and Education Programme

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## **INTRODUCTION:**

The National Youth Games (NYG) is a concept of the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development (FMYSB) to ensure that the objectives of talent discovery and provision of a level playing ground for Junior Athletes is guaranteed according to best International practices.

The NYG is an annual event that balances sports, culture and education, where athletes aged 15 years and below compete in sports and participate in Culture and Education Programmes (CEP).

## **OBJECTIVES:**

- a) To build a robust talent pool of athletes
- b) To enhance and elevate sports at grassroots level
- c) To establish a standard programme for athletes' succession
- d) To curb age cheating in Sports
- e) To encourage early participation in Sports
- f) To engage young athletes in the Olympic Movement, skill development and social responsibility
- g) To enhance cultural and educational development
- h) To promote National unity

## **RULE 1**

### *AWARD OF HOSTING RIGHTS*

- (i) The Federal Ministry of Youth & Sports Development (FMYSD) is the owner of the National Youth Games (NYG).
- (ii) It is the prerogative of the FMYSD to award the **HOSTING RIGHTS** of the NYG to any State or Institution that meets the criteria set by the FMYSD.
- (iii) The NYG shall be held annually.
- (iv) The time of the year at which the NYG is to be held shall be determined by the FMYSD;
- (v) The Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development shall ensure that no major Under-15 sporting event, takes place within the country during the period.

## **RULE 2**

### *ORGANISING COMMITTEES*

- (i) There shall be a Main Organising Committee (MOC), to be constituted by the FMYSD.
- (ii) The FMYSD is at liberty to review the composition of the membership of the MOC.
- (iii) The MOC shall be inaugurated by the Hon. Minister of Youth and Sports Development.
- (iv) There shall be a Local Organising Committee (LOC) to be constituted by the Host.
- (v) The composition of the LOC is at the instance of the Host.
- (vi) The LOC may constitute Sub Committees as it deems fit to assist in the hosting of the Games.

### **RULE 3**

#### **VENUES/FACILITIES**

The Main Organizing Committee (MOC) for the respective NYG shall ensure that adequate standard facilities are provided for the Games. The athletes shall have access to such facilities at least 3 days before the Games.

### **RULE 4**

#### **LIABILITIES**

The FMYSD and/or the Host of the NYG shall be liable for all commitments entered into in respect of the organisation and hosting of the NYG in accordance with best events management practices.

### **RULE 5**

#### **GAMES VILLAGE**

- (i) There shall be a Games Village/s which shall serve as official accommodation for all accredited athletes and team officials to promote friendship, social integration and unity.
- (ii) The LOC shall provide a befitting Games Village/s with beds and beddings for all competitors and team officials.
- (iii) The Games Village/s shall open at least two (2) days before the Opening Ceremony and shall close two (2) days after the Closing Ceremony, except otherwise directed by the MOC.
- (iv) For the purpose of accommodation in the Games Village/s, 15% of the total number of accredited athletes shall be allocated bed spaces as team officials. Team officials shall include Coaches, Team Secretaries, Medical Personnel and Team Administrative Personnel.

## **RULE 6**

### **A) ELIGIBILITY**

The following conditions shall apply to all competitors participating at the NYG:

- (i) The National Youth Games shall be open to all Nigerians who are not more than 15 years of age in the year of the Games.
- (ii) A competitor must have resided or been in the scholarship of the State which he/she is to represent for not less than one year to the commencement of the Games.
- (iii) An athlete participating in the Games must be registered by a State.
- (iv) For an athlete to be registered to participate at the Games, he/she must present a duly signed Parental/Guardian Consent Form.
- (v) An athlete can register and compete in only one Sport;
- (vi) Dual registration shall attract the following sanctions:
  - a) automatic disqualification of the concerned athlete from the Games;
  - b) the Coach shall be suspended from participating in the Games and their accreditation withdrawn; and
  - c) the State shall pay a fine of N250,000.00 (Two Hundred and fifty Thousand Naira) only per athlete.
- (vii) Registration of over-aged athletes shall attract the following sanctions:
  - a) disqualification of the over-aged athlete/s from the Games;
  - b) exclusion of the disqualified athlete's Coach from all activities of the concerned Federation for a period of one (01) year from the date of the offence; and



- c) a fine of the sum of N250,000.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) only per athlete on any State which registers an over-aged athlete.
- (viii) Any person under suspension by a National Sports Federation shall not participate in the NYG.
- (ix) Any athlete that changes his/her identity and/or falsifies his/her age for the purpose of participating in the Games shall be banned from the NYG.

**B) AGE VERIFICATION**

To determine the age of the athletes, any of the following verifiable evidence MUST be provided:

- i) Birth Certificate from a recognised government institution.
- ii) International Passport.
- iii) Statutory Declaration of Age not earlier than 5 years from the year of Competition.
- iv) Primary School Testimonial.
- v) Facial/Structural appearance.
- vi) The athletes may be subjected to scientific investigation to verify his/her age.

**RULE 7**

**ENTRIES**

- (i) Only States Sports Councils/Commissions shall present competitors for the NYG. The right of final confirmation of entries rests with the MOC.
- (ii) Preliminary entries by number must be submitted to the MOC at least twelve (12) weeks to the commencement of the Games.

- (iii) Final entries shall be determined at the Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM) not later than two (2) weeks to the commencement of the Games.
- (iv) Entries by name shall be online on a designated Form approved by the MOC with evidence of the athletes' age. The deadline shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Games Timeline.
- (v) The MOC Secretariat shall acknowledge receipt of all preliminary entries.
- (vi) The number of team officials to be accommodated in the Games Village/s shall be in accordance with the provisions in Rule 5(iv). For States' Delegates who shall not be accommodated in the Games Village, the maximum entry shall be calculated thus: 5% of total athletes registered and 50% of number of sports entered by a State.
- (vii) The State that enters the competitors will ensure that the competitor is fully aware of and complies with the Games Rules, viz:
  - (a) The Entry Form must include the text of the eligibility conditions and the declaration to be signed by the competitor: *"I understand that as a competitor in the NYG, I am participating in an event which is of national and historic importance and in consideration of the acceptance of my participating therein, I agree to be filmed, televised, photographed, identified and otherwise recorded during the Games under the conditions and for the purpose now or thereafter authorised by the MOC in relation to the promotion of the Games. I also agree to comply with the Rules and Regulations currently in force and in particular, with the provision of the Rules regarding the eligibility for the Games. The relevant provisions and the rules have been brought to my attention by my State Sports Association and/or my National Sports Federation."*
  - (b) The Entry Form must also include the text of the eligibility conditions and the following declaration to be signed by the Coaches and Officials: *"I understand that as a Coach/Official in the Games, I am participating in an event which is of national and historic importance and in consideration of my participation therein, I agree to be filmed, televised, photographed, identified and otherwise recorded during the Games under the conditions and for the purpose now or thereafter authorised by the MOC in relation to the promotion of the Games. I also agree to comply with the Rules and Regulations currently in force and in particular with the provisions of the Rules regarding the eligibility for the Games. The relevant provisions and*

*the rules have been brought to my attention by my State Sports Association and/or my National Sports Federation.”*

- (ii) No entry shall be valid unless the above provisions have been observed

## **RULE 8**

### **INFRINGEMENT OF THE RULES**

- (i) The MOC may withdraw accreditation from any person who infringes on the Rules and Regulations of the Games.
- (ii) Any State whose athlete, team or official disrupts an event, shall pay a fine of N300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira only). Failure to comply shall attract a ban from the next Games.
- (iii) Any State that uses an ineligible athlete shall pay a fine of N100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira only) and in addition lose the benefit of any medal(s) won by the athlete. The medal so withdrawn shall be awarded to the next finisher. The State Secretary and the Head Coach of the Sport concerned shall also be suspended from participating in the next Games.
- (iv) Any State that withdraws from any team event after registering to participate shall pay a fine of N100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira only).
- (v) Any State that withdraws an athlete from participating in an event after accreditation shall pay a fine of N50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira).
- (vi) Without prejudice to Rule 8 (iv and v), withdrawal resulting from unforeseen circumstances shall be given due consideration by the MOC.
- (vii) Any State that fails to register to participate in the Games shall pay a fine of N2,500,000.00 (Two Million, Five Hundred Thousand Naira) only.
- (viii) Any State that registers and fails to participate in the Games shall pay a fine of N5,000,000.00 (Five Million Naira) only.
- (ix) Any State that defaults in the payment of any fine shall have its medals withdrawn from the Medals Table until such payment/s are made.

## **RULE 9**

### *DOPING*

- (i) There shall be in-competition Dope Test during the Games.
- (ii) Any athlete that fails a Dope Test shall be sanctioned in accordance with the Anti-Doping Code.

## **RULE 10**

### *PROTESTS*

- (i) All protests arising before, during or after an event shall be forwarded to the jury of the concerned NSF with a non-refundable Fee of N10,000.00 (Ten thousand Naira only).
- (ii) Where it borders on the outcome of an event such protest must be lodged not later than 2 hours after the event. The jury of the concerned NSF must decide on the protest within 12 hours of its lodgement.
- (iii) Any appeal against the decision of the NSF jury should be forwarded to the Secretary, Technical Sub-Committee within 4 hours from the time the decision is communicated to the appellant with a non-refundable Appeal Fee of N20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand Naira only). The Technical Sub-Committee must decide on an Appeal within 12 hours of its lodgement.
- (iv) Appeals against the decisions of the Technical Sub-Committee must should be forwarded to the Secretary, MOC within 4 hours from the time the decision is communicated to the appellant, with a non-refundable Appeal Fee of N50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira only). The decision of the MOC is final.

## **RULE 11**

### **SPORTS FOR THE GAMES**

(i) The following sports are eligible to feature at the NYG. The MOC shall decide the sports for each edition NYG.

- 1) Athletics
- 2) Badminton
- 3) Baseball/Softball
- 4) Basketball
- 5) Boxing
- 6) Chess
- 7) Cricket
- 8) Cycling
- 9) Darts
- 10) Deaf Sports
- 11) Fives
- 12) Football
- 13) Golf
- 14) Gymnastics
- 15) Handball
- 16) Hockey
- 17) Judo
- 18) Karate
- 19) Kickboxing
- 20) Kung-Fu
- 21) Amputee Football
- 22) Para Shooting
- 23) Para Swimming
- 24) Para-Athletics
- 25) Para-Powerlifting
- 26) Para-Soccer
- 27) Para-Table Tennis
- 28) Para-Tennis
- 29) Sitting Volleyball
- 30) Wheel Chair Basketball
- 31) Rowing/Yachting
- 32) Rugby
- 33) Scrabble
- 34) Shooting

- 35) Squash
  - 36) Swimming
  - 37) Table Tennis
  - 38) Taekwondo
  - 39) Tennis
  - 40) Traditional Sports:
    - i. Traditional Wrestling (Kokawa)
    - ii. Traditional Boxing (Dambe),
    - iii. Ayo,
    - iv. Abula and
    - v. Langa
  - 41) Volleyball
  - 42) Weightlifting
  - 43) Wrestling
- (ii) For a sport to score in a particular Games, a minimum of 9 (nine) states must enter and participate. For an event to score, a minimum of 5 (five) states must enter and participate. In the case of team sport where eliminations had taken place, a minimum of 4 (four) teams must enter and participate for the sport to score.
- (iii) The MOC has the right to review the Sports for the NSF as it deems fit.

## **RULE 12**

### *ENTRIES PER SPORT*

The entries per sport and list of events shall be decided by the MOC for each edition of the Games and communicated to all stakeholders accordingly.

## **RULE 13**

### *ZONAL ELIMINATION FOR TEAM SPORTS*

- (i) There shall be Zonal Eliminations for all team sports featuring in the Games, unless otherwise decided by the MOC. The Zonal Eliminations shall be organised at the six geo-political zones not later than 8 weeks to the commencement of the Games.

- (ii) The NSFs shall provide technical support for the Zonal Eliminations and shall ensure compliance with the Rules of the Sport.
- (iii) The reports of the Zonal Eliminations shall be submitted to the MOC not later than 1 (one) week after the Zonal Elimination.
- (iv) The teams that finished first at the Zonal Elimination shall qualify for the Games, unless otherwise decided by the MOC.
- (v) Protests arising from Zonal Eliminations shall be handled by a Jury constituted by the MOC. All protests shall be forwarded to the respective Zonal Eliminations Jury within 4 hours from the end of the competition with a non-refundable fee of N10,000.00. Appeals against the decision/s of the Jury shall be forwarded to the MOC within 48hours with a non-refundable fee of N20,000.00. The decision of the MOC shall be final.
- (vi) Competitions at the Zonal Eliminations are subject to the Rules and Regulations of the NYG.

## **RULE 14**

### *TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GAMES*

- (i) Each NSF shall be responsible for the technical control of its sport and ensure all equipment, competitions and training venues comply with its rules.
- (ii) Each NSF shall ensure that the conduct of its sport at the Games is in accordance with its International Federation's Rules and Regulations.
- (iii) Each NSF shall prepare the events schedule of its sport and forward same to the Technical Sub-Committee, at least 6 weeks, before the Commencement for compilation and harmonisation.
- (iv) Technical officials for each sport shall be appointed by the MOC on the recommendation of the NSFs and endorsement of the Technical Sub-Committee.
- (v) Each NSF shall appoint a Jury to handle protests arising from its sport.

- (vi) Without prejudice to Rule 14 (iv), Technical officials shall not officiate in events involving their State of origin/residence.

## **RULE 15**

### *ACCREDITATION*

- (i) All processes of the accreditation shall be handled by the MOC.
- (ii) The accreditation of athletes and officials is a condition for participation in the Games.
- (iii) The accreditation card gives, to the degree necessary in each case and as indicated thereon, access to the venues and events delimited on the card. The MOC determines the categorisation of each person and sets the conditions.
- (iv) Accreditation for athletes and accompanying officials commences immediately after the DRM and closes 12 noon on the day of the Opening Ceremony. No requests for accreditation shall be entertained after that date.

## **RULE 16**

### *PARTICIPATION FEE*

Each participating State shall pay a participating fee of N15,000.00 (Fifteen Thousand Naira only), per athlete and official, to augment the cost of accommodation and feeding at the Games Village. Payment of participation fee is a prerequisite for participation at the Games as well as admission into the Games Village.



## **RULE 17**

### **INSURANCE**

Each participating State **MUST** provide appropriate insurance cover for her athletes and accompanying officials, evidence of which will form part of the conditions for accreditation of athletes and accompanying officials and admittance into the Games Village.

## **RULE 18**

### **FLAGS**

- (i) A Games Flag (2.5m x 1.5m) must fly for the entire duration of the Games from a flagpole (12m high) placed in a prominent position in the Main Stadium, where it is hoisted during the Opening Ceremony and lowered at the Closing Ceremony.
- (ii) The National Flag, the Games Flag as well as Flags of participating States, must be flown at the Games Village, all Competition and Training Venues, as well as strategic places within the Host City.

## **RULE 19**

### **USE OF THE GAMES FLAME**

- (i) The MOC shall be responsible for all activities relating to the Games Flame.
- (ii) The Games Flame must be placed in a prominent position, and where the structure of the Stadium permits, visible from outside the Stadium.

## **RULE 20**

### **DURATION OF THE GAMES**

- (i) The National Youth Games shall be held within 11 days, Opening and Closing Ceremonies inclusive.

## **RULE 21**

### *OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES*

- (i) The Opening and Closing Ceremonies shall be organised by the Host State/institution in conjunction with the MOC.
- (ii) The Closing Ceremony shall take place on the last day of the competition of the Games, preferably on a weekend.

## **RULE 22**

### *PRIZES*

- (i) The victory prizes of the Games shall be provided by the MOC and shall consist of medals and certificates only.
- (ii) Certificates of Participation shall be awarded to all athletes and officials.
- (iii) For all events, the first prize shall be Gold medal, the second prize, Silver medal and third prize, Bronze medal.
- (iv) Double medals shall be awarded in those sports whose regulations allow such awards.

## **RULE 23**

### *TRANSPORT*

Each State shall be responsible for the transportation of its contingent to and from the Games venues and during the period of the Games.

## **RULE 24**

### **SUB-COMMITTEES**

The MOC shall constitute Sub-Committees as it deems fit.

## **RULE 25**

### **FORCE MAJEURE**

Baring force majeure, the MOC reserves the right to shift the venue and/or date of the NYG.