



SA Show Jumping

Youth Olympics 2026 Selection Policy

DAKAR 2026

31st October – 13th November 2026

1. OVERVIEW

The following document outlines the selection policy, processes and timelines that will be followed in order that SA Show Jumping will fairly and transparently select the athlete that is able to achieve the best possible results at the 2026 Youth Olympics in both team and individual capacities.

2. DEFINITIONS

Athlete	Refers to the rider; however, it may also indicate the combination of horse and rider or the rider individually as context requires.
SASJ	South African Show Jumping South Africa.
SASJ Squad	Those athletes remaining in the successive steps of the Selection Process after the announcement of the Long List.
FEI	Federation Equestre Internationale.
SASCOC	South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee – RSA NOC
NOC	National Olympic Committee
SAEF	South African Equestrian Federation.
Selectors	The appointed Selectors of SA Show Jumping.
Selection Process	The Selection Process will commence from the 1 st February 2026 and continue until selection from the FEI and IOC has been received.
YOG 2026	Youth Olympic Games 2026 – Dakar.
Certificate of Capability -COC	FEI Certificate of Capability for YOG 2026
IOC	International Olympic Committee.
Nominated Event	Events listed in the SASJ Squad short list process.
WADA	World Anti-Doping Agency.

3. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Selectors is to choose the athlete who is worthy of representing South Africa and who will strive to win the competition. This must be achieved whilst ensuring that, at all times, athletes conduct themselves with propriety, dignity, and fair play, in strict conformity with the code of conduct and code of welfare for their horse, whilst fostering a positive team environment.

4. NOC & IOC TIMELINE (As received 7th July 2025)

- Deadline for NOC's (SASCOC) to send Intention of participation to IOC by **31st July 2025**.
(Submission of intention of participation by NOC does not guarantee that the quotas requested will be allocated)
- Period for Athletes to obtain a Certificate of Capability – **1 April 2025 – 15th May 2026**.
- 2025 Competition 3 of the FEI Jumping World Challenge Cat A – Africa – **1st April 2025 – 31 December 2025**.
- IOC Timeline for NOCs' – 15th December 2025 IOC shares with NOC Confirmation of Authority Form
- Deadline for NOCs' to send Confirmation of Authority to IOC – 30th January 2026.
- Quota allocation process managed by IOC – March 2026.
- Quota allocation including any reallocations resulting from NOC rejections or changes – **1st April to 23rd May 2026**.

5. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for selection to represent South Africa in Show Jumping at the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026, each athlete must meet the following requirements by 15th May 2026.

1/ Mandatory Submissions:

- A completed Expression of Interest (EOI) Form.
- A valid RSA Passport (With submission of the EOI)

Once the EOI and RSA Passport copy has been received – SASJ, in coordination with SAEF, will apply to the FEI for a Certificate of Capability confirming the athlete's eligibility. Athletes must meet all FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs) by 15 May 2026, as per FEI YOG qualification standards.

6. TIMELINE:

The selection process will follow a reducing format, where:

- 1/ All athletes who meet the age eligibility criteria for participation in the 2026 Youth Olympic Games are required to formally declare their intent to compete by submitting a duly signed Expression of Interest (EOI) together with a valid copy of their RSA passport.
- 2/ Compete in the following selection events.

The Selection Process will follow a reducing participation format, where:

Selection Events

A. First Selection Event

Event: 2026 Presidents Cup – 11th – 15th March 2026

- - Eligibility: Riders must compete in Junior Presidents Cup Classes or Adult Open classes. (1.30m or above)
 - All Long List Athletes
- Outcome: Selectors will identify the top 8 athletes to form the short list.

B. Second Selection Event

- Event: 2026 Easter Festival 1st – 6th April 2026
- Eligibility: Riders must compete in Junior SA Outdoor Grand Prix or Junior 1.30m Classes or Adult Open classes. (1.30m or above)
- Outcome: Selectors will identify the top 4 athletes for final consideration for the Top 4 Shortlist to compete at the Final Top 4 Selection event.

C. Final Selection Event

Date & Venue: To be confirmed May/June 2026 – after confirmation of a RSA Slot received from FEI/IOC/SASCOC.

All Athletes must have obtained their COC by the FEI Deadline 15th May 2026

- Trigger Condition: Event will proceed only once SASCOC/SAEF receives confirmation from the IOC that RSA has secured a slot in Team Africa for the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026.
- Participants: The Final 4 Athletes to ride off with swapping of horses to reach the overall winner.
- Outcome: Final team selection for YOG 2026.

SASJ will then nominate the name of the winning athlete to SAEF as the athlete for YOG 2026 as well as the name of the 2nd placed athlete as the reserve athlete.

7. FEI CRITERIA

The FEI has the following minimum Athlete eligibility criteria:

- Athletes must respect and comply with the provisions of the Olympic Charter currently in force, including but not limited to Rule 41 (nationality of competitors) and Rule 43 (World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on Prevention of Manipulations of Competitions).
- Be eligible to compete for South Africa as per FEI regulations Art 119.
- Be registered to compete for South Africa.
- To be eligible to participate in the Youth Olympic Games in Jumping, athletes must have been born between **14th November 2008 and 31 December 2011**.
- Athletes who achieve a combined score of not more than 8 (eight) penalties in the first and second rounds of an FEI Jumping World Challenge Cat A Competition (Certificates of capability may only be earned in Competition 3 of the FEI Jumping World Challenge Category A in any country).
- **Certificates of Capability must be obtained between 1 April 2025 and 15 May 2026.**
- The total Quota for Equestrian Jumping is 24 Athletes (men and women) including one Host Country Place. As per the Dakar Youth Olympic Games 2026 IOC principles the maximum quota per NOC is one (1).

The qualification system will be that the 2025 FEI World Jumping Challenge shall obtain a place for the Nation (RSA) not for the individual.

- **ANNEX A = YOG 2026 – EQUESTRIAN ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR COC**
- **ANNEX B = FEI INVITATION PROPOSED PATHWAY YOG DAKAR 2026**
- **ANNEX C = YOG CERTIFICATE OF CAPABILITY**

8. SAEF & SASCOC CRITERIA.

- The athlete must be a current member of the South African Equestrian Federation.
- The athlete must be a South African citizen and hold a valid South African Passport.
- The athlete must not have had any disciplinary action pending against him at the time of selection or during the selection process.
- Colours as per SAEF Colours Policy.

9. SA SHOW JUMPING CRITERIA

For athletes to be eligible for selection to compete at YOG 2026, all athletes will be required to:

- be a current member of Show Jumping South Africa in good standing;
- have completed the 'Expression of Interest' forms for selection for YOG 2026 and such forms must have been received by the SA Show Jumping National Office;
- have signed the 'Code of Conduct' agreement which must have been received by the SA Show Jumping National Office;
- in the last 24 months not have used, administered, or allowed to be administered any substance that, if it had been detected as being present in the Athlete's body tissue or fluids, would have constituted a positive drug violation as defined by the South African Institute for Drug-free Sport ("SAIDS") and/or the World Anti-Doping Agency ("WADA");
- Have demonstrated to the satisfaction of SA Show Jumping that they are not suffering any physical or mental impairment that would prevent them from competing at YOG 2026 to the highest possible standard.
- Not have any criminal convictions or pending charges of criminal wrongdoing.
- Not have acted in such a manner so as to bring the athlete, the discipline of Show Jumping, SA Show Jumping, SAEF, SASCOC, or South Africa into public disrepute or censure since beginning 2025.
- Be available to attend any required clinics, presentations, or functions.

10. SQUAD LONG LIST INDIVIDUAL – 7th March 2026

Eligible Athletes will have to meet the following requirements to progress to the SA Show Jumping Squad.

Athletes will be required to have:

- Athletes who achieve a combined score of not more than 8 (eight) penalties in the first and second rounds of an FEI Jumping World Challenge Cat A Competition (Certificates of capability may only be earned in Competition 3 of the FEI Jumping World Challenge Category A in any country).
- Athletes who intend to compete in the following events listed in the FEI Invitation Proposal Pathway:
 - 2025 FEI Jumping European Junior Championship;
 - 2025 FEI Jumping North American Junior Championship;
 - 2025 FEI Jumping South American Junior Championship;
 - CSI 1* Grand Prix Competition;
 - CSI2* Grand Prix Competition;
 - CSIJ or CSI Y or CSIU25 Grand Prix Competition.

(Who achieve a score of not more than eight penalties in the first round of any of the above competitions)

SA Show Jumping Squad Long List selection will be published by **10th March 2026**

11. SQUAD TOP 8

All athletes wishing to remain on the Squad will have to meet the following requirements:

- All athletes must meet the criteria as set out by the Dakar 2026 YOG, IOC, NOC, FEI, SAEF and SASJ.
- Athletes to have performed consistently well at Open level and are prepared to continue in the selection process.

12. GENERAL SELECTION PROCESS CONDITIONS.

At all times throughout the Selection Process, all athletes must:

- be able and willing to undertake any training and competition programs recommended by the Selectors and or coach after consultation with the athlete, unless a written exemption has been granted by SA Show Jumping or the Selectors, in response to a timely written request from the athlete for an exemption;
- agree to provide accurate and up-to-date whereabouts information on a regular basis to SA Show Jumping, including residence, stabling, and all competition participation;
- Satisfy any additional preconditions advised in writing to the athlete by SA Show Jumping prior to or at the time of selection for the SA Show Jumping;
- notify SA Show Jumping that they are suffering any physical or mental impairment that would prevent them from competing at YOG 2026 to the highest possible standard;
- act in such a manner so as to not bring the athlete, the discipline of Show Jumping, SA Show Jumping, SAEF, SASCOC, or South Africa into public disrepute or censures since beginning 2025.
- Comply with the regulations and policies of SASJ, SAEF, SASCOC, FEI and the IOC.
- Exhibit sportsmanship, consistency, and team player potential.
- Accept that Selectors reserve the right to amend or change selection policies as necessary, provided the IOC, NOC or FEI have amended any information or timelines.

13. SELECTORS EVALUATION PROCESS.

In evaluating the performances of Athletes, the Selectors will consider, and have the discretion to place a greater emphasis on one or more of the following in considering athletes and horses for selection:

- The Selectors will primarily consider performances of the athletes at CSN and higher events from 1st January 2025. Performances prior to 2025 may also be considered but will generally have lesser weight;
- The Selectors may, in their sole discretion, place greater emphasis on results achieved at higher rated shows;
- Placing in any head-to-head performances will be considered but will not automatically position one athlete above another for selection;
- Competition-based factors will be taken into consideration when assessing each athlete's performance, these include, but are not restricted to:
 - The performance Athletes in relation to the quality and number of competitors;
 - The technical features of the competition.
 - The quality of the riding by an athlete;
 - The general conditions under which the performance is achieved, such as the weather and footing; and
 - The suitability of the Athlete for YOG 2026, taking into account the objective of the team and individual competition and the type of Athlete required to achieving the best possible results in the expected conditions.

- The ability, and experience of the athlete to compete successfully at high-level international competition on different horses. Consideration will be given to:
 1. The ability, or potential ability, of athletes to perform under the stress and pressure of a World Championship;
 2. The ability of athletes to prepare to peak condition for a major campaign;
 3. The demonstrated ability of athletes that they are suitable representatives of South Africa.
- Consistency of performance and the likelihood of a suitable performance to contribute towards a team score may be considered.
- All meetings, discussions and decisions will be documented, with the convenor present at every meeting.
- The selection process is a confidential process. Selectors must not discuss the process or decisions with any persons outside of the Selection Committee. All discussions, communications, minutes of meetings, documents, decisions and other information exchanged by or produced by any of the selectors during the course of the selection process will remain confidential and will not be disclosed to any third party, including but not limited to athletes, their coaches and parents.
- The Selection Committee's decision will be final and binding and not subject to appeal.

14. SUBSTITUTION/REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES.

Following selection of the SA Show Jumping Individual positions if:

- In the opinion of the Selectors (in consultation with the Executive Committee of SA Show Jumping), there has been a loss of form or fitness by an Athlete. The loss of form must be assessed to be likely to be sustained and affect performance at YOG; or
- an Athlete contravenes their athlete agreement, FEI Veterinary Regulations, SA Show Jumping Rules and Regulations, Policies or Constitution; or
- an Athlete does not meet the requirements outlined in the Athletes Agreement then the athlete may be replaced by the athletes according to the placings of the ride off competition as mentioned in the timeline above.
- The Athlete is not available for Team South Africa/ACES training camps.

15. SELECTION COMMITTEE

- The appointment of the 2026 Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Selection Committee shall be determined by the SASJ Executive Committee.
- Requirements: Members must be of high repute with the requisite knowledge and experience, be unbiased and exercise their responsibilities independently and transparently.
- Composition: The committee will consist of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) selectors, plus a convenor. All members of the committee must be available to discuss the selection process as needed.

The Selection Committee will be made up of the following members;

- Lisa Williams - Chairperson of the Selection Committee and Selector
- Tracey Carney
- Shaun Neill
- Kate Launder - Convenor

16. APPEALS

- An Athlete may appeal their non-selection only on the grounds that this Selection Policy was not properly applied.
- No appeal shall be permitted against the merits of the selection decision.
- Any appeal must be lodged in writing with the SA Show Jumping National Office within three (3) working days of the announcement of the SASJ Team.
- Appeals shall be dealt with in accordance with the SASJ Constitution and applicable SAEF procedures.

17. IMPORTANT NOTE

- Selection and participation is conditional upon and subject to South Africa securing a slot at the 2026 Dakar YOG allocated by the IOC and athlete allocations made by SASCOC.