ATHLETE ROLE MODELS (ARM)

The Athlete Role Models programme is a way to connect Olympians with young aspiring athletes and local community. The Athlete Role Models (ARMs) provide mentorship, education, and inspiration to help enhance the value and experience of the YOG and to ensure the success of the International Federation (IF) and Athlete365 activities.

Each IF with a sport on the sport competition and engagement programme of the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026 is asked to nominate an Olympian(s) to work closely with each IF to represent each sport and connect with the young athletes and local community through various activities.

- One (1) ARM per sport
- IFs can nominate as many Olympians as they desire
- IOC will confirm a selection of ARMs based on programme development
- Deadline to nominate Olympians is **27 February 2026**

The appointed ARM must be available to attend the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026, taking place from 31 October to 13 November 2026, for a minimum of five days.

An ARM is a passionate believer in the power of sport and the Olympic values. An ARM is willing to give back to sport and to inspire young athletes.

An ARM is:

- an Olympian or elite athlete (active or recently retired)
- a confident communicator and a comfortable public speaker with young audiences
- relevant to a young audience and known within the youth athletes' community
- positive, pro-active, and enthusiastic
- an active social media user
- an athlete who has never received any sanction in relation to the World Anti-Doping Code.

Pre-Games

- Spread the YOG Spirit
- Be active on social media

During Games (activities can include)

- Engage with young athletes
- Engage with IOC President
- IF Inside Sports Sessions
- Athlete365 Activities
- Visit Sport Competitions
- Victory Ceremonies

Post-Games

- Continue to be part of the IOC athlete engagement-related programmes

Ideally, ARMs should have the willingness to continue to be involved in the IOC athlete engagement programmes to inspire the young athletes and youth in general beyond the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026.

*** Number of ARMs to be decided early 2026, based on confirmed sports programme. The IOC can nominate Olympians to support the IF decision.*