

OPEN MASTERS GAMES

ABU DHABI 2026

BADMINTON



Updated: January 30, 2025

**UNITED BY SPORTS,
ACTIVE FOR LIFE**

1. General Information

1.1. Governance

The Badminton competition will be conducted under the Laws of Badminton and Competition Regulations of the Badminton UAE Federation and the BWF. The competition will also conform to the requirements of the International Masters Games Association, or as otherwise specified in this document.

1.2. Eligibility

Sport Specific Eligibility

In line with the sport-specific rules, an athlete must compete in their designated age group, with your age determined as of 31 December 2026. For example, if you turn 40 by 31 December 2026, you will compete in the 40-44 age category. In the case of doubles the age of the youngest player will determine the age category and the level of the higher ranked player will determine the category i.e., recreational or competitive level.

Accreditation

All participants must have approved accreditation to access the fields of play and to compete. This accreditation can be collected for the Uniform Distribution and Accreditation Centre (U.D.A.C) located in Zayed Sports City.

Team captains, coaches/managers and assistant managers **cannot** collect accreditation on behalf of teammates. Each participant must personally present themselves and their ID at the point of collection. It is at this point that participants will also receive their welcome kit.

The operating dates and hours of the UDAC will be announced in due course. Please subscribe to the OMGAD newsletter and or download our app for the latest push updates.

Health Insurance

All participants **MUST** have a medical insurance policy while in the UAE. This is a legal requirement.

Residents and citizens must ensure their respective health insurance covers sports injuries.

The Ziyarah Plan is being offered specifically for Open Masters Games participants (athletes, coaches, supporters, family).

Ziyarah Plan (Open Masters Games)
Ensuring your peace of mind for the upcoming event

Coverage Period: 15 days

Scope of Coverage:

- Upto AED 250,000, comprehensive coverage for medical emergencies and sports-related injuries incurred during the event period.
- Direct billing at network providers.
- Consultations through Pura App (Maximum up to 3 consultations).

Eligibility Requirements:

- Registered players and their accompanying family members.
- Health Insurance plan to be purchased before participants travel to UAE.

Premium details:

- Upto 60 years: AED 86 (VAT extra)
- 61years & above: AED 215 (VAT extra)

Important Note for Residents and UAE Nationals
UAE residents (Expats) & UAE nationals will need to ensure their respective health insurance plans cover sports injuries, as they will not be eligible for this plan

damaninsurance.ae

1.3. Dates

Disciplines	Feb 7 Saturday	Feb 8 Sunday	Feb 9 Monday	Feb 10 Tuesday	Feb 11 Wednesday	Feb 12 Thursday	Feb 13 Friday	Feb 14 Saturday
Singles								
Doubles								
Mixed Doubles								

1.4. Venue

Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC)

2. Competition Specific Information

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2.1. Disciplines, Events & Grading

Discipline	Event	Grade	Categories			
			Classification ¹	Gender	Age	
Para	Singles	Competitive	N/A	Male		
				Female		
				Male	35+, 40+,	
	Doubles	Competitive		Female	45+, 50+,	
				Mixed	55+, 60+,	
				Male	65+, 70+,	
	Singles	Recreational		Female	75+, 80+	
				Male		
				Female		
	Doubles	Recreational		Mixed		
Para	Singles	Open	Sitting: WH2 Standing: SL3, SL4, SL5 and SL6	Male		
				Female		
				Male	35+, 55+	
	Doubles	Open		Female		
				Mixed		
	Mixed Doubles	Open				

*Mixed Doubles means a male and female in one team. Teams entering mixed doubles with same gender pairings will be considered ineligible. There will be no guarantee that the team can be placed in a single gender doubles event after the deadline.

- **Competitive** – For elite players who have competed at an international or national team/individual level and for national, state or provincial master's champions.
- **Recreational** - For players who play in non-competitive or lower-grade club leagues, as well as social and casual players.

¹ Added para classifications on 17/11

Para Classification

The OMGAD2026 will offer national classification opportunities in the days prior to the start of the competition. International Classifiers will be available for the following impairment:

- PI: Physical Impairment
- Athletes will need to present themselves for classification at the date and time designated by the sport. As a result, the classification outcomes will not be officially recognized by the respective International Federations.

Eligible Sport Class:

- Wheelchair Sport Classes – WH 1 and WH 2
- Standing Sport Classes – SL 3, SL 4 and SU 5
- Short Stature Sport Class – SH 6

Sport Class Status:

Eligible sport class status to participate in the Games are as follows:

- R = Review
- FRD = Fixed Review Date
- C = Confirmed

2.2. Format

- The format of the competition is dependent on the number of registrations.
- Round robin (group play) preliminary rounds will be held where there are enough teams to do so.
- Where there is more than one group, these groups will determine the placings for knockout rounds for medals.
- Players can expect to compete in a minimum of two matches per event.
- Individuals and pairs will be allocated to the division entered; however, the OMGAD reserves the right to re-grade participants. Players who are re-graded will be advised by OMGAD prior to draws being done.
- Participants do not have to play in the same age group for all events (i.e. can play in 40+ singles, 35+ doubles as they have a younger partner and 40+ doubles with a different partner).

2.3. Rules

- Participants may enter a maximum of three events. The three events can be any combination of singles, doubles and mixed doubles.
- Participants playing in singles in more than one age group must play at the same grade level
- A maximum of two players can be named in a doubles pairing. Only two medals will be awarded.
- If the players in a doubles pair are in different age categories, the pair must play in the younger age category.
- Players entering doubles or mixed doubles events must enter the division of the higher-level player in the pair.

2.4. Determining Places

The following process will be used to determine pool placings:

- Match difference
- Head-to-head
- Points difference
- Coin Toss

2.5. The Draw

The draw will take place on February 3rd at 6pm (UAE Time). The results will be published on the Open Masters Games Website on the February 4th by 6pm (UAE Time).

2.4. Schedule

- It will be the responsibility of all participants to ensure they have checked the draws and are available to play at the scheduled time and location.
- It is anticipated that the competition will start at 9am and continue to approximately 9pm each weekend competition day. Midweek competition days will start later and finish at 9pm.
- There will be a prayer break on Friday the 13th from 12pm to 2pm.

2.5. Rules

- Players who are not present when called upon to play any match shall forfeit the match and a walkover shall be awarded to the opposing players/pairs.
- Matches may be called up to 10 minutes prior to the scheduled match time.
- Players are entitled to a minimum rest time of 30 minutes between matches.

2.6 Scoring

- All matches will be played as per the current Badminton World Federation (B.W.F) scoring system.
- All matches will be the best of three games to 15 points, with extension until 21, when the winner shall be the side winning the 21st point.

2.7. Substitutions and Withdrawals

- A player may participate in an Individual event of the Badminton competition only if the player enters by the closing date for registrations. After the closing date for registrations, a player who has entered and is then unable to take part through illness, injury or any other unavoidable cause, may be substituted by another registered player providing that the rules for age category and grade are followed, and that it is in line with the OMGAD participation terms and conditions.
- All results of any player/pair that has been disqualified or withdraws before completing the group matches shall be entirely deleted.
- A 'no-show' for a match will be treated as a withdrawal.
- The BWF GCR regulations 25 regarding player withdrawals do not apply to this event. I.e. If a player withdraws from one event they may still participate in another event.

2.8. Appeals and Protests

- There will be no field-of-play appeals. The decision of the Referee on all interpretations of the Laws of Badminton shall be final.
- Any appeals, protests and disputes regarding the Tournament Rules must be lodged in writing to the Tournament Organiser prior to the commencement of the competition.
- The Referee in conjunction with the Disputes Committee shall determine all appeals, protests and disputes in relation to the Tournament Rules.
- The Disputes Committee shall consist of the Referee (or his/her deputy), the Competition Manager (or his/her nominee) and one independent player.

3. Technical Details

3.1. Technical Delegate

The Technical Delegate will be Mr. Siraj Choori. Mr. Choori will oversee the implementation of all sport specific rules and requirements at the Games.

3.2. Technical Meeting

The participant technical meeting will be held on the 6th of February at 10am at the competition venue. The precise location will be shared in due course.

3.2. Competition Management

The competition management team is as follows:

#	Name	Position	Email	
1	Siraj Choori	Technical Delegate	sirajucmk@gmail.com	+971556998697
2	Mathew Midhun Mammen	Competition Manager	badminton@omgad2026.ae	+971507793463

4. Equipment & Uniform

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4.1. Equipment

- Participants are to provide their own racquets.
- OMGAD will provide courts and associated equipment to competition standard.
- It is the responsibility of everyone to bring training/warm up shuttlecocks.
- BG65 Titanium restringing will cost AED 45+Vat
- Performance String will cost AED 50+Vat will

4.2. Uniform

- Acceptable Badminton sports clothing must be worn while playing.
- It is not mandatory for partners to wear the same design/colour clothing during individual events, although it is preferable.
- All Badminton participants, officials and volunteers must wear shoes with non-marking soles whilst on the competition area of the venue (field of play).

5. Awarding

5.1. Medals

The top 3 athletes or pairs will be awarded the gold medal, silver medal and bronze medal respectively.

5.2. Ceremonies

- In OMGAD 2026, athletes are individuals and represent themselves. National flags and anthems will not be included in medal ceremonies.
- The medal ceremony will be held after each final.
- The medal ceremony will be conducted in Arabic and English.

6. Protests and Appeals

6.1. Protests

- Competition-related disputes and protests shall be handled according to rules and related regulations of the international association of the sport. If there are no rules regarding such disputes and protests in place, the competitor may first make verbal protest and submit written protest to OMGAD within 30 minutes after the end of a contest.
- No protest can be lodged by any team members or staff against a judging (scoring) decision during the competition period.

6.2. Appeals

- Based on the principle of trust, the Organizer will not take the initiative to review the grade of athletes upon registration. Matters regarding athlete qualifications and grades should be submitted to the Organizer with relevant supporting materials before the Games or when the fact occurs. The complaint will be handled in accordance with the rules and relevant regulations of international sports federations and relevant regulations.
- Applications that are not submitted within the stipulated time or with incomplete materials will not be accepted.