

OPEN MASTERS GAMES

ABU DHABI 2026

CANOEING, KAYAKING & DRAGON BOAT



Updated: November 28th, 2025

1. General Information

Gliding across water with strength and rhythm, canoe and kayak test both stamina and technique. Athletes will navigate courses with speed and precision, battling the elements and the clock.

1.1. Governance

The OMGAD2026 Canoe/Kayak event will be conducted in line with the competition rules of the Emirates Canoeing and Rafting Federation, or as otherwise specified in the Guidelines.

1.2. Eligibility

- In line with the sport-specific rules, an athlete must compete in their designated age group, with their age determined as of 31 December 2026. For example, if you are 39 years old during the Games time but turn 40 by 31 December 2026, you would compete in the 40-44 age category.
- For teams to be confirmed, each C2/K2 requires two athletes to be registered. The age of the youngest registered team member determines which age category the team will compete in and for the Games, your age is determined as of 31 December 2026.
- The cut-off date for new teams (subject to available competition capacity) is 31 December 2025. New people joining existing teams is available up to and including 31 January 2026.
- If there are insufficient entries in an age category, categories may be combined to conduct a viable competition. The awarding of medals will not be affected, that is, individuals will still be awarded medals in the age category in which they originally entered.
- To enter in a Para-Sport event at the Games, you must be able to meet minimum disability criteria. Please review the Para-Sport Classification requirements in the Para-Sports Information Guide and where an athlete has an existing recognised national or international classification, please indicate this as part of the registration process. If an athlete cannot meet these requirements, registration will be transferred to the open section of the competition.

Health Declaration

Athletes should carefully evaluate whether their physical condition is suitable for participating in the competition. If they suffer from cardiovascular or other diseases that make them not suitable to engage strenuous exercise, seeking doctor's advice is recommended to evaluate whether they can safely participate in OMGAD events.

1.3. Dates¹

	Feb 7th Saturday	Feb 8th Sunday	Feb 9th Monday	Feb 10th Tuesday	Feb 11th Wednesday	Feb 12th Thursday	Feb 13th Friday	Feb 14th Saturday
200m – Male & Female								
K1, K2, C1, C2								
200m – Para Male & Female								
KL 1, KL2, KL3								
500m – Male & Female								
K1, K2, C1, C2								
1000m – Male & Female								
K1, K2, C1, C2								
DRAGON BOAT – Small (9m) and Standard (12m)								
200m – Male, Female & Mixed								
500m - Male, Female & Mixed								
2000m - Male, Female & Mixed ²								

1.4. Venue

[Abu Dhabi Marine Sports Club](#)

¹ Removed K4 from schedule and updated dragon boat offerings (19/11)

² Added in male and female events for dragon boat (28/11)

2. Competition Information

2.1. Disciplines & Events

Discipline	Categories			
	Event	Distance	Gender	Age
Canoe	C1	200m	Male	30+, 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+
	C2		Female	
	C1	500m	Male	
	C2		Female	
	C1	1000m	Male	
	C2		Female	
Kayak	K1	200m	Male	30+, 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+
	K2		Female	
	K1	500m	Male	
	K2		Female	
	K1	1000m	Male	
	K2		Female	
Para Kayak	KL 1	200m	Male	30+, 40+, 50+
			Female	
	KL 2		Male	
			Female	
	KL 3		Male	
			Female	
Dragon Boat	Small (9m)	200m	Male	30+, 40+, 50+, 60+, 70+
			Female	
	Standard (12m)		Mixed	
	Small (9m)	500m	Male	
			Female	
	Standard (12m)		Mixed	
	Small (9m)	2000m	Male	
			Female	
	Standard (12m)		Mixed	

Para Classification³

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

- Only Athletes with 'New' sport class status must undergo national classification on site and must bring all relevant medical documentation (In ENGLISH).
- 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:

- KL1
- KL2
- KL3

Sport Class Status:

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

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

2.2. Format

- There will be preliminaries, semi-finals and finals. OMGAD will determine the competition format and schedule according to the number of registered participants.
- Lanes used by each team will be determined by drawing lots.

³ Added para information 19/11

2.3. Schedule

- Canoe/Kayak competition for Open Masters Games Abu Dhabi 2026 (OMGAD2026) offers each participant the opportunity to compete in multiple disciplines at the Games. However, competition for some Canoe/Kayak disciplines may be held on the same day. Athletes seeking to compete in multiple Canoe/Kayak disciplines are reminded to check the Sports Competition Schedule prior to registering in multiple events.
- All dates and times are subject to change, pending final entries received. A detailed schedule of events for each discipline will be developed throughout 2025.
- In case of bad weather condition and force majeure, such as sandstorm and electrical storm, the OMGAD has the right to change the competition schedule and format and postpone or cancel the competition.

2.4. Rules

Canoe and Kayak

Boats must comply with the following:

- C 1 = Sprint: Maximum Length 520cm, Minimum weight 14kg
- K1 = Maximum Length 520cm, Minimum weight 12kg
- C2/K2 = Maximum Length 650cm, Minimum weight 18kg

Dragon Boat:

- For each team to be confirmed in the *small boat event*, a minimum of 12 athletes need to be registered, with a maximum of 22 athletes and three staff members (one team leader, one coach and one manager). In total, a crew can contain a maximum of 25 members. There **must be at least four female paddlers** actively racing at all times. The drummer and helm do not count towards this.
- For each team to be confirmed in the *standard boat event*, a minimum of 20 athletes need to be registered, with a maximum of 32 athletes and three staff members (one team leader, one coach and one manager). In total, a crew can contain a maximum of 35 crew members. There **must be at least eight female paddlers** actively racing at all times. The drummer and helm do not count towards this.

2.5. Course Details



3. Technical Details

3.1. Technical Delegate

The Technical Delegate, endorsed by Emirates Canoe and Rafting Federation, will oversee the implementation of all sport specific rules and requirements at the Games.

3.2. Other Technical Details

Safety Precaution:

- All boats for the competition shall be checked to see if they have sufficient buoyance beforehand.
- Floating bodies shall be installed on the boats.
- Participating athletes shall bear their risk of taking part in the competition and the WMG will be not responsible for any accidents during the competition.

4. Equipment & Uniform

4.1. Equipment

OMGAD2026 Canoe/Kayak will provide team boats for Dragon Boat. For all other disciplines and events, athletes will need to supply their own boat or hire a boat, including their own paddles and safety equipment (helmets, personal flotation devices) as appropriate to the discipline.

Limited availability exists for certain boat types and boats will be provided based on a first come, first served basis.

Boat hire is not guaranteed, and athletes are encouraged to register and request a boat early to avoid disappointment.

4.2. Uniform

Clothing worn by athletes in competition must comply with the rules of the ICF.

5. Awarding

5.1. Medals

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

5.2. Ceremonies

- In OMGAD2026, 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.

7. Doping Control

Regulations

- Doping Control should be conducted in accordance with WADA World Anti-Doping Code (<https://www.wada-ama.org/en>) and International Masters Games Association (IMGA) Anti-Doping Rules (<https://imga.ch/masterssports/anti-doping>).
- Participants are deemed to have agreed to be subject to doping control procedures in accordance with the International Masters Games Association Anti-Doping Rules upon entry to the competition. Participants must obey antidoping rules and conduct themselves in a considerate manner.

8. Updates

The final version of the competition guide will be released by December 15th. Important additional information, including the sports schedule, will be available at that time. In the meantime, please address all inquiries to: sports@omgad2026.ae