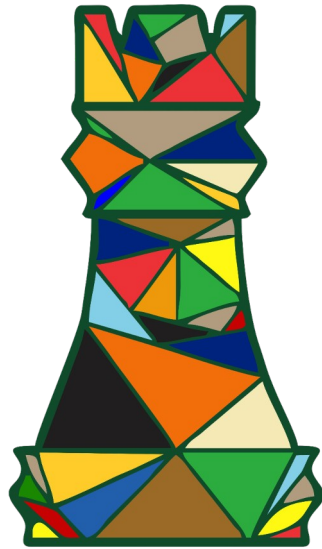




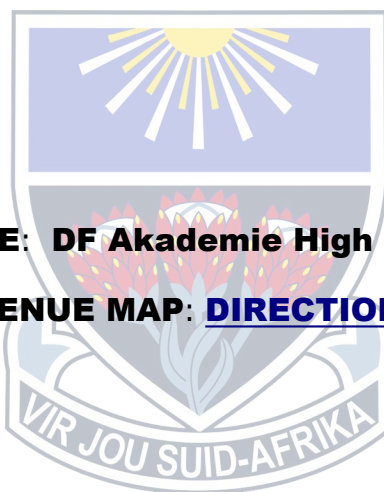
CHESS SA

South African Open Chess Championship 2026

27 JUNE – 5 JULY

VENUE: DF Akademie High School

VENUE MAP: [DIRECTIONS](#)



Hosted by Western Cape Chess Association
under the aegis of Chess South Africa

CONTENTS

1. Invitation.....	3
2. Sections & Criteria.....	3
3. Format & Time Control.....	4
4. Registration & Payment.....	5
5. Tournament Schedule.....	6
6. Prizes.....	7
7. Venue, Transport & Accommodation.....	8
8. Communication.....	8
9. Tournament Rules & Regulations.....	8
9.1 Consent.....	8
9.2 Registration & Criteria.....	9
9.3 Prizes.....	9
9.4 Tie-Breaks.....	10
9.5 Appeals.....	10
9.6 Default Time.....	12
9.7 General Rules.....	12
9.8 Safeguarding Policy Statement.....	12
9.9 Disclaimer.....	13
10. Local Organising Committee.....	13

1. INVITATION

Under the aegis of Chess South Africa, the Western Cape Chess Association is honoured to invite all chess players to participate in the 2026 South African Open Chess Championships.

This prestigious event will take place from 27 June to 5 July 2026 (eight days of chess) and will be hosted at **DF Akademie, Frans Conradie Dr, Bellville, Cape Town, 7530**

The event will consist of the South African Open Chess Championships and the South African Blitz Chess Championships.

2. SECTIONS & CRITERIA

SECTION	CRITERIA	ENTRY FEE
Championship	Rating $\geq$ 1800	R600
Advanced	Rating < 1800	R500
Ladies	Female players only	R500
Intermediate	Rating < 1550	R450
U17 Boys & Girls	Born 2009 & Later	R300
U15 Boys & Girls	Born 2011 - 2012	
U13 Boys & Girls	Born 2013 - 2014	
U11 Boys & Girls	Born 2015 - 2016	
U9 Boys & Girls	Born 2017- 2018	
U7 Boys & Girls	Born 2019 and later	
Blitz Event	-	R200

3. FORMAT & TIME CONTROL

Section	Format	Rounds	Time Control
Championship	Individual Swiss	9	90/90 + 30sipm
Advanced			
Ladies			
Intermediate			
U17 Boys & Girls		7	
U15 Boys & Girls			
U13 Boys & Girls			
U11 Boys & Girls			
U9 Boys & Girls			
U7 Boys & Girls			
Blitz		9	3/3 + 2sipm

QUALIFICATION CRITERIA – AGE GROUP SECTIONS

Please note the following qualification criteria for the Age Group Sections:

- ▶ Top 3 players in each section will qualify for the next edition of the **World Individual Schools Championship**.
- ▶ Top 5 players in each section will qualify for the next edition of the **African Individual Schools Championship**.

4. REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

4.1 Right of admission is reserved.

4.2 Players must complete their registration and payment via the ChessWorks platform using the official registration links:

REGISTRATION LINK

https://chessworks.co.za/southafricanopen2026

4.3 Registration deadlines:

	Main Sections	Junior Sections	Blitz
Deadline	Sunday 21 June @ 23h00	Thursday 25 June @ 23h00	Friday 26 June @ 15h00
Late Entry Deadline	Wednesday 24 June @ 23h00	Sunday 28 June @ 23h00	-

4.4 Late entries will incur an additional penalty charge of **R150** for all sections.

4.5 Players holding the titles of **GM, IM, WGM, or WIM** are required to pay the registration fee; however, this fee will be fully reimbursed upon completion of all nine rounds of the event.

4.6 For any assistance or queries regarding the registration and payment process, contact Mr. Ethan Higham (ethan@chessworks.co.za)

5. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	EVENT	
SATURDAY 27 JUNE	15h00	Blitz Event	
	17h30	Blitz Prize Giving	
		MAIN EVENT	JUNIOR EVENT
SUNDAY 28 JUNE	15h00	Round 1	-
MONDAY 29 JUNE	09h00	Round 2	-
	15h00	Round 3	-
TUESDAY 30 JUNE	15h00	Round 4	-
WEDNESDAY 1 JULY	15h00	Round 5	-
THURSDAY 2 JULY	09h00	-	Round 1
	15h00	Round 6	Round 2
FRIDAY 3 JULY	09h00	-	Round 3
	15h00	Round 7	Round 4
SATURDAY 4 JULY	09h00	-	Round 5
	15h00	Round 8	Round 6
SUNDAY 5 JULY	09h00	Round 9	Round 7
	15h00	Awards Ceremony	

6. PRIZES

CHAMPIONSHIP	
1 st	R20 000
2 nd	R15 000
3 rd	R10 000
4 th	R5 000
5 th	R3 000
Best Junior	R2 500
Best Senior	R2 500
Best Veteran	R2 500

ADVANCED	
1 st	R10 000
2 nd	R8 000
3 rd	R6 000
4 th	R5 000
5 th	R4 000
Best Junior	R2 000

LADIES	
1 st	R10 000
2 nd	R8 000
3 rd	R6 000
4 th	R5 000
5 th	R4 000
Best Junior	R2 000

INTERMEDIATE	
1 st	R5 000
2 nd	R4 000
3 rd	R3 000
4 th	R2 000
5 th	R1 000
Best Junior	R800

BLITZ	
1 st	R5 000
2 nd	R3 000
3 rd	R2 000
4 th	R1 000
5 th	R1 000
Best Junior	R800

JUNIOR SECTIONS

No monetary prizes.
The Top 5 in each section will receive a medal.
The winner of each section will receive a trophy.
The Best Female in each section will receive a medal.

7. VENUE, TRANSPORT & ACCOMMODATION

- 7.1 The tournament will be held at **DF Akademie High School**.
- 7.2 Participants are required to arrange their own travel and accommodation for the duration of the event.
- 7.3 There will be first aid facilities on site at the playing venue. Hospitals are also in close proximity.
- 7.4 Food and beverage vendors will be operational at the playing venue for the duration of the event.

8. COMMUNICATION

- 8.1 It is highly advisable that all players (and parents of junior players) join the event WhatsApp group to receive updates and communication regarding the event. Pairings will be published to Chess-Results as well as the WhatsApp group on the day of the tournament



<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LcM2Yn0JxDgBjijDyiU8US>

9. TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

9.1 CONSENT

- 9.1.1 The player/parent/guardian gives consent for the player's name, surname, gender, date of birth, Chess SA ID and or FIDE ID to be submitted to the rating agencies (Chess SA and/or FIDE) for the purposes of rating the tournament and the rating agencies displaying it on their respective websites.
- 9.1.2 The player/parent/guardian gives consent for the publication of the player's details name, surname, gender, date of birth, Chess SA ID and/ or FIDE ID on the website chess-results.com for the purpose of tournament pairings and administration.

- 9.1.3 The above processing of information is required for the running of this event. Should consent for either of the above be refused, the player will not be able to participate in this event.
- 9.1.4 The player/parent/guardian gives consent for photo's and/or videos to be taken of the players during the tournament and to be published on social media pages and/or the internet. Should consent not be given, please notify the organisers before the tournament so that the event photographers can be notified.

9.2 REGISTRATION & CRITERIA

- 9.2.1 The Chief Arbiter or Tournament Director reserves the right to move players to a different section based on their discretion.
- 9.2.2 Eligibility for a section will be determined using a player's Chess SA Standard rating and their FIDE rating.
- 9.2.2.1 Players must use the higher of the two ratings to determine their eligibility for a specific section
- 9.2.3 A player is eligible to enter a section if their published rating meets the minimum entry requirement in any official rating list (FIDE or Chess SA) released during the registration period, from the date of publication up to the registration deadline.
- 9.2.4 Players withdrawing from the event will forfeit their entry fees.
- 9.2.5 If a player withdraws during the event, rating penalties will be applied as per the Chess SA Rating Regulations if no valid and acceptable reason(s) are provided by the player.

9.3 PRIZES

- 9.3.1 Prize money, trophies and medals will be awarded strictly based on the final standings determined by the tie-break system. There will be no splitting of prize funds among participants.
- 9.3.2 Players born 2011 or later will be eligible to win the best junior prize in their relevant section.
- 9.3.3 Players aged 50 years and older will be eligible to win the best senior prize for their relevant section.
- 9.3.4 Players aged 65 years and older will be eligible to win the best veteran prize for their relevant section.
- 9.3.5 Players can win more than one prize.

9.3.5.1 For example: If a top-performing junior player in a section finishes 1st overall, he/she will also be awarded the Best Junior prize.

9.3.6 Players must attend the awards ceremony to receive their prizes and/or awards.

9.3.7 All prizes will be paid in the South African currency via EFT to a designated South African bank account within 72 hours after the conclusion of the event.

9.4 TIE-BREAKS

9.4.1 If two or more players score the same points, the tie shall be decided by the following criteria, in order of priority.

9.4.1.1 Direct-Encounter

9.4.1.2 Buchholz Cut-1

9.4.1.3 Buchholz

9.4.1.4 Sonneborn-Berger

9.4.1.5 Average Rating of Opponents

9.5 APPEALS

9.5.1 The Appeals Committee (AC) shall be appointed by the LOC and shall consist of:

9.5.1.1 The Chief Arbiter (Chairman)

9.5.1.2 an LOC Member

9.5.1.3 A licensed FIDE or International Arbiter

9.5.2 Where the Chief Arbiter is involved in the dispute, the Deputy Chief Arbiter shall be appointed in their place.

9.5.3 If a player is under 18, then the appeal must be submitted by the player's parent/ guardian/teacher or coach.

9.5.4 If the appellant is unable to write their appeal for medical reasons, or because of a disability, then the appeal may be written by an assistant.

9.5.5 An appeal must be made by a party directly impacted by the situation in which the dispute occurred.

9.5.6 Appeals must be submitted to the AC Chairman in writing within the following time frames, either after the round or the particular infringement:

9.5.6.120 minutes in a standard event.

9.5.6.210 minutes in a blitz event.

9.5.7 The appeal must be written in English.

9.5.8 The appeal fee of R500 must also be paid within the time frames specified in article 9.5.6. If the appeal is upheld, then the fee will be returned. If the appeal is rejected, then AC may decide to reimburse the fee.

9.5.9 An appeal may only be made to AC once the appellant has received a decision from the Chief Arbiter. The topics of the appeal may include, but are not limited to:

9.5.9.1 The arbiter incorrectly applying the FIDE Laws of Chess

9.5.9.2 The arbiter incorrectly applying the Tournament Regulations

9.5.9.3 The behaviour of a player

9.5.10 Upon receipt of an appeal, the AC Chairman is empowered to ask for written statements within a specific time frame from other people, including but not limited to:

9.5.10.1 The opponent

9.5.10.2 The Chief Arbiter

9.5.10.3 The arbiter who made the original decision

9.5.11 The Appeals Committee endeavours to communicate its decision in writing as soon as possible after receipt of the appeal. If the appeal procedure causes a delay to the tournament schedule, the next round shall be played as originally planned if $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total number of rounds or fewer have been played. The pairings for the next round shall be done with the result of the disputed game being the result as decided by the Chief Arbiter. If more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total number of rounds have been played, the Chief Arbiter shall decide whether or not the next round shall be delayed until the decision of the Appeals Committee has been made

9.5.12 The written verdict will be communicated by e-mail or WhatsApp to the appellant and any parties involved in the dispute.

9.6 DEFAULT TIME

9.6.1 Classical Event – Thirty (30) minutes for all rounds.

9.6.2 Blitz Event – no default time. Opponents clock will run until flag fall.

9.7 GENERAL RULES

- 9.7.1 The latest FIDE Laws of Chess will apply.
- 9.7.2 For the blitz tournament, Article B.3 of the Blitz Chess rules will apply for the entire tournament.
- 9.7.3 No electronic equipment (e.g. mobile phones, tablets, hearing aids, vapes etc.) or any watch will be allowed in the playing hall. Any player who is found to have such a device in his/her possession will immediately be forfeited (loss of game). If a player requires a device for medical reasons, the Chief Arbiter and Tournament Director needs to be informed 24 hours before the event.
- 9.7.4 Players must always be dressed neatly and look presentable. Casual wear/clothing will be allowed. Players must wear shoes or sandals.
- 9.7.5 Chess SA and FIDE Standard ratings will be used for the classical event. FIDE Blitz and Chess SA Main ratings will be used for the Blitz event.
- 9.7.6 The winner of the Championship Section will be awarded the title of “2026 SA Open Champion”.

9.8 SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

- 9.8.1 Chess South Africa is deeply committed to creating and maintaining a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all its members, players, coaches, officials, and stakeholders.
- 9.8.2 Everyone associated with Chess South Africa has the right to participate in an environment free from any form of discrimination, harassment, abuse, or misconduct.
- 9.8.3 As such Chess South Africa adopts a zero-tolerance stance towards all forms of abuse, including but not limited to physical, sexual, emotional, and bullying.
- 9.8.4 Any allegations of misconduct will be taken seriously, thoroughly investigated, and dealt with swiftly and appropriately. For this reason, it will be compulsory for all administrators and arbiters involved in the 2026 SA Open to have a Level 1 or Level 2 safeguarding certificate to be involved in the tournament.

9.9 DISCLAIMER

- 9.9.1 The organisers reserve the right to change any aspect of the tournament including but not limited to the venue, sections, format, time control, dates, number of players and prize funds. Any

changes will be communicated to players through the tournament WhatsApp group and to the email addresses provided by players upon registration.

10. LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

POSITION	NAME	CONTACT
Convenor	Reuben Salimu	president@wc-chess-assoc.co.za
Tournament Director	Ricardo Minnaar	events@wc-chess-assoc.co.za
Finance	Leigh-Ann Viljoen	treasurer@wc-chess-assoc.co.za
Chief Arbiter	TBA	
Chess SA Representative	TBA	
Safeguarding Officer	TBA	
Media	Kim Meissenheimer	081 279 8857
Technical	Ethan Higham	ethan@chessworks.co.za