



SA CLOSED CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

21 February – 1 March 2026

Sandton, Johannesburg

Hosted By

CHESS SOUTH AFRICA

Supported by: [GAUTENG PROVINCE CHESS](#)

1 DATES & VENUE

The 2026 South African Closed Chess Championship will be hosted by Chess SA in Sandton, Johannesburg from **21 February – 1 March 2026**.

The playing venue will be:

- Venue: Alex Forbes, Sandton
- Address: 115 West Street Sandown, 2196
- Venue Link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/bWjekf3o7aQJL2Wu5>

2 LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The appointed Local Organizing Committee comprise of:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 2.1 Tournament Director | Vicky Magu |
| 2.2 Logistics | Lelethu Dubasi |
| 2.3 Chief Arbiter | TBC |
| 2.4 CHESS SA Representative | Lindo Ngubane (VP 1) |

3 ACCOMMODATION & TRANSPORT

Each participant is responsible for his/her own transport & accommodation arrangements and the costs thereof.

4 EVENT FORMAT

4.1 The event will consist of the following sections:

- 4.1.1 Open
- 4.1.2 Women

4.2 All sections will consist of 12 invited players and will be played as an 11-round Single Round-Robin.



5 EVENT REGULATIONS

5.1 The latest approved FIDE Laws of Chess will apply.

5.2 The time control for all sections will be 90 minutes per player for the first 40 moves, followed with an additional 30 minutes, with an increment of 30 seconds per move starting from move 1.

5.3 Because of the 30 seconds increment per move, Guidelines III of the FIDE Laws of Chess will not be applicable.

5.4 Players must notate every move, regardless of the times displayed on their clocks.

5.5 All electronic equipment (e.g. mobile phones, tablets, smart watches, etc. but excluding those items used exclusively for the running of the Event) are banned from being brought into the playing hall. Any player who is found to have such a device in his/her possession will immediately be forfeited (loss of game).

5.6 Default Time:

The “late arrival time” for all rounds will be 30 minutes. Any player who arrives more than 30 minutes late after the actual start of a round will immediately be forfeited, unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise.

6 APPEALS

A player wishing to appeal against a ruling made by an arbiter, must do so in writing and submit the appeal, together with a R500 fee, to either the Chief Arbiter or Tournament Director, no later than 30 minutes after the game has ended. The fee will be refunded to the player if the appeal is successful.



7 TIEBREAKS

The following tiebreak systems, in the order given below, will be used to rank the players (who finish the tournament on the same scores) to determine the final standings.

7.1 Direct encounter

7.2 Sonneborn-Berger

7.3 Number of won games (excluding forfeit games)

7.4 Koya

7.5 Blitz play-off

The Blitz play-off will consist of 2 games (players alternating colours for each game) played at a rate of 5 minutes per player with an increment of 3 seconds per move starting from move 1. The winner will be the first player to score 1½ or 2 points. If the scores are tied after these two games, a final Armageddon game will be played at a rate of 5 minutes for White and 4 minutes for Black, with an increment of 2 seconds per move starting from move 1, with Black being declared the winner if this game ends in a draw.

8 ENTRY FEES AND PRIZE MONIES

There are no entry fees applicable to participate in any of the sections for this event. Prize Money will be communicated before the start of the event. **Prize money will only be paid to players who are at the Prize Giving.**

9 SELECTION FOR THE 2026 SOUTH AFRICAN OLYMPIAD TEAMS

The South African Olympiad Team shall be composed of:

- The Top 3 (Three) finishers at the South African Closed Chess Championship.
- The Top player on the Grand Prix Score for most recent cycle that has concluded
- The Top player on rating for most recent cycle that has concluded
- All the players who qualified on GPX and Rating must participate in the SA Closed Chess Championship in all 11 Rounds (This is mandatory)

If the top player on Grand Prix Score and/or Rating finish in the top 5 then the player finishing 4th and/or 5th will qualify for Olympiad Team. Replacements for players not taking up an Olympiad Position will be offered to the next highest finisher from the SA Closed.

10 SA CLOSED TITLE AND INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

For all sections: In the event of a tie for first place, the title will be shared, however, the player with the highest tiebreak score(s) (Gold medallist) shall be declared the “official” player for selection to participate in International Individual events. Junior Players who participate will automatically qualify to be selected for International tournaments during the 2026 calendar year.



11 SCHEDULE

Open, Women

Date	Time	Activity
Saturday 21 February 2026	08:45 - 09:00	Opening and Welcome
Saturday 21 February 2026	09:00	Round 1
Saturday 21 February 2026	16:00	Round 2
Sunday 22 February 2026	09:00	Round 3
Sunday 22 February 2026	16:00	Round 4
Monday 23 February 2026	09:00	Round 5
Tuesday 24 February 2026	16:00	Round 6
Wednesday 25 February 2026	16:00	Round 7
Thursday 26 February 2026	09:00	Round 8
Friday 27 February 2026	16:00	Round 9
Saturday 28 February 2026	16:00	Round 10
Sunday 1 March 2026	10:00	Round 11
Sunday 1 March 2026	14:00	Prize Giving / Team Announcement

12 DRAWING OF NUMBERS

The drawing of numbers will be done randomly by the Chief Arbiter for all sections.

Round-robin pairings will be published by no later than 1 February 2026 on the Chessresults.com website.



13 WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EVENT

13.1 The LOC reserves the right to replace a player should a player withdraw before the Event commences.

13.2 If a player withdraws during the event, the LOC reserves the right to take disciplinary action against this player if the player provides no valid and acceptable reasons.

14 DRESSCODE

Players must always be dressed neatly and look presentable. Dress code is formal or smart casual. Players must always wear shoes inside the playing hall.

The Organisers and/or the Chief Arbiter may refuse a player to play a game if the player does not adhere to the dress code.

15 PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

Photographs and videos will be taken during the event and the award ceremony. All players are deemed to allow publication of photographs and videos of them taken at the event by the organizers for publicity purposes unless they inform the organizers otherwise.

16 SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Businesses or other entities that are interested in brand marketing and other sponsorship opportunities relating to this event or otherwise wish to collaborate with Gauteng Province for future chess events are welcome to contact the Tournament Director.

