CHESS SA

South African School Team Championship 2026

30 MAY 2026

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1. INVITATION

1.1 The CHESS SA Schools Team Championship 2026 is a national schools' team competition conducted across all nine provinces. The top three teams will earn the right to represent South Africa at the African Schools Teams Chess Championship 2026, scheduled to take place in Cape Town. The winning team will have their accommodation costs covered.

1.2 Chess South Africa is responsible for promotion.

2. REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Any South African school may register to participate.

2.2 All players must have fully paid their Chess South Africa subscription fees for the 2026 year as a prerequisite for participation in this event.

CHESSA Membership Portal: https://payments.chessa.co.za

2.3 Eligible players: born between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2018.

2.4 Entry fee **R800** per team

2.5 Registration and payment will be handled through the ChessWorks platform.

2.6 Registration must be completed using the official registration link below:

https://chessworks.co.za/tournament/south-african-school-team-championship-2026

2.7 The registration deadline is **Thursday 28 May** at midnight.

3. TEAM COMPOSITION

3.1 Teams will consist of 4 players and 1 reserve.

3.2 Team board order cannot be changed once the tournament has begun.

3.3 Teams must include at least one boy and one girl.

3.3.1 Same sex schools are exempt from this requirement.

3.4 Online schools are not eligible to compete.

4. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

4.1 The tournament will be played via the Tornelo platform.

4.2 Seven (7) Round Team Swiss

4.3 Time control: 20/20 + 5 second increment per move from move one (Rapid)

5. RATING

5.1 The tournament will **not** be Chess SA or FIDE rated. It is an online event.

6. PLAYING SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Saturday 30 May	09h00	Round 1
	10h00	Round 2
	11h00	Round 3
	12h00	Round 4
	13h30	Round 5
	14h30	Round 6
	15h30	Round 7
	16h30	Prize Giving

7. TEAM SCORING

7.1 Teams will score points as follows:

7.1.1 Win = 2 points

7.1.2 Draw = 1 point

7.1.3 Loss = 0 points

8. TIE-BREAKS

8.1 Match Points

8.2 Game Points

8.3 Direct Encounter

8.4 Buchholz

8.5 Sonneborn-Berger

9. PRIZES

9.1 The top-performing school will be awarded full entry to the African Schools Teams Chess Championship 2026, including accommodation.

9.2 Schools placing second and third will be granted the opportunity to participate in the African Schools Teams Chess Championship 2026.

9.3 All players will receive a digital certificate of participation.

10. WITHDRAWALS AND REFUNDS

10.1 Teams withdrawing from the event will not be eiligble for a refund.

11. FAIR PLAY REGULATIONS

11.1 To ensure the integrity and spirit of the competition, all participants are required to adhere strictly to the following fair play rules:

11.1.1 **No Assistance Permitted:** Players may not receive any form of assistance whatsoever. This includes the use of computers, chess engines, or guidance from any person (e.g. parents, coaches, friends, or siblings).

11.1.2 **Zoom Monitoring (Team Requirement):** All team players must compete from a single approved hub (e.g. a school or designated venue). The venue must be monitored by a camera always covering all players. Each venue is required to appoint a responsible manager to supervise participants. Zoom links will be issued via the booking confirmation email and shared on WhatsApp.

11.1.3 **Pairings & Platform:** Pairings will be produced via SwissManager.

11.1.4 **Reporting Concerns:** If you suspect your opponent of breaching fair play, report the matter directly to the Chief Arbiter. Players must not contact the opponent or raise concerns in the tournament chat.

11.1.5 **Arbiter Oversight:** The arbiter team will randomly monitor games. Their findings on matters of fair play are final and binding.

11.1.6 **Connectivity Requirements:** Players/Teams are responsible for ensuring a stable internet connection throughout the tournament to avoid disruptions.

11.1.7 **Sanctions for Cheating:** Any player found guilty of cheating will forfeit their results and may be prohibited from participating in future events.

11.1.8 **System Usage:** Players may not have multiple tabs or external applications open while playing their games.

12. DISCLAIMER

12.1 Chess South Africa reserves the right to change any aspect of the tournament including but not limited to the format, time control, dates etc. Any changes will be communicated

to players through the tournament WhatsApp group and to the email addresses provided by players/teams upon registration.

13. USING TORNELO

13.1 All players are required to create an account on the Tornelo platform. Use the following link: https://tornelo.com/chess

13.2 Team managers will receive individual player codes via email once they have registered their team. Each player must use their player code in order to access the tournament and play their games.

14. COMMUNICATION

14.1 Pairings will be published on Chess-Results.

14.2 School administrators/managers must join the official tournament WhatsApp group to receive updates and communication related to the tournament.

https://chat.whatsapp.com/Ig0O9ibfGBtI44E2Epz1Jb

15. CONTACT DETAILS

Chief Arbiter Ricardo Minnaar	ricardo.minnaar@gmail.com
Technical & Support Ethan Higham	ethan@chessworks.co.za