CHESS SA

BLITZ — FINAL REPORT

Friday, 22 May 2026 • Blitz Championship Conclusion

South African Delegation • 17th African Youth Chess Championships • Entebbe, Uganda

BRONZE MEDAL

Dhiya Naidoo

Blitz Girls Section • **7.5 / 9 points** • Section Rank 3 • Rp 1852

TOP RSA BLITZ PERFORMANCES

Shaurya Singh — Blitz Open Rank 4 • 8.0 / 9 • Rp 2086 • +168.0 rating gain

Ettienne Van Meersbergen (AFM) — Blitz Open Rank 9 • 7.0 / 9 • Rp 1973 • +117.2

Jamie Dylan Segal — Blitz Open Rank 21 • 6.5 / 9 • Rp 1806 • +151.2

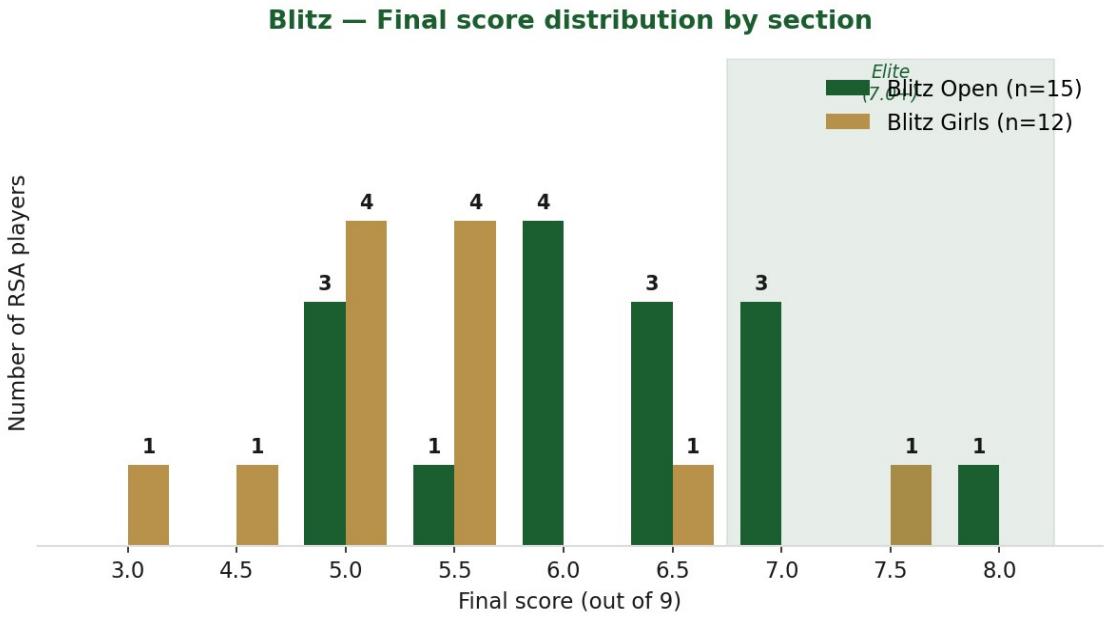
The Blitz championships concluded today after nine rounds of 3+2 play. South Africa entered 27 players across the two sections — 15 in the Blitz Open, 12 in the Blitz Girls. Combined delegation score: 156.5 of 243 player-game points (64.4%). Dhiya Naidoo claimed bronze in the Blitz Girls section with 7.5 / 9 — the second podium medal of the championship for South Africa, alongside Khethelo Mlaba's classical bronze in U08 Girls. Shaurya Singh's 8.0 / 9 in the Blitz Open at Rank 4 was the standout individual performance, delivering a +168 rating gain — the largest single-event rating gain across the entire championship. The Blitz Open delivered RSA's deepest finishing distribution: 73% of the squad scored 6.0 or higher.

BLITZ DELEGATION RESULT

PLAYERS	ROUNDS	POINTS	SCORE %
27	9	156.5	64.4%

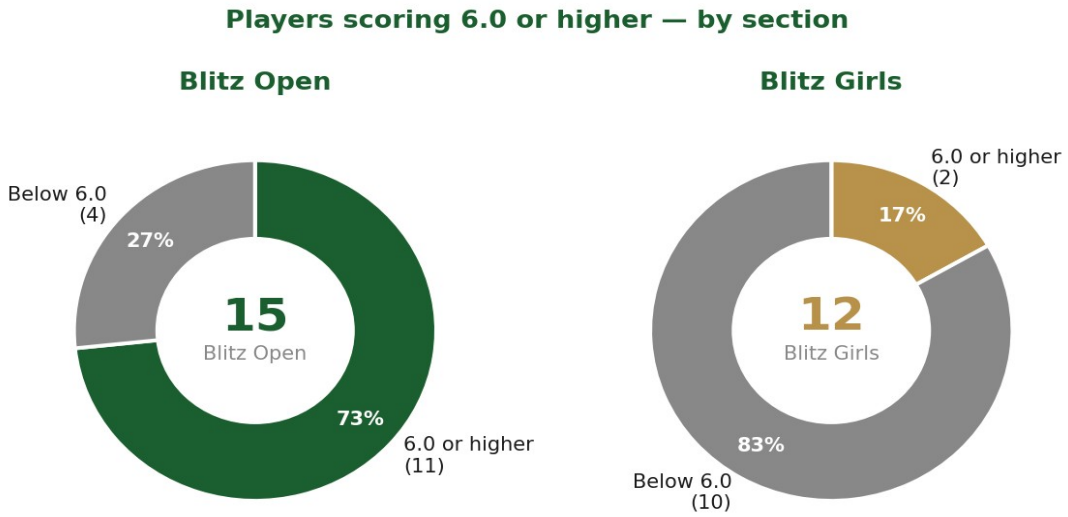
FINAL SCORE DISTRIBUTION — OPEN VS GIRLS

11 of 15 Blitz Open players (73%) finished on 6.0 or higher. 2 of 12 Blitz Girls players (17%) cleared 6.0; 10 of 12 (83%) cleared 5.0. The Open section delivered better top-end density; the Girls section finished tightly bunched at 5.0–5.5 with two strong outliers at the top.



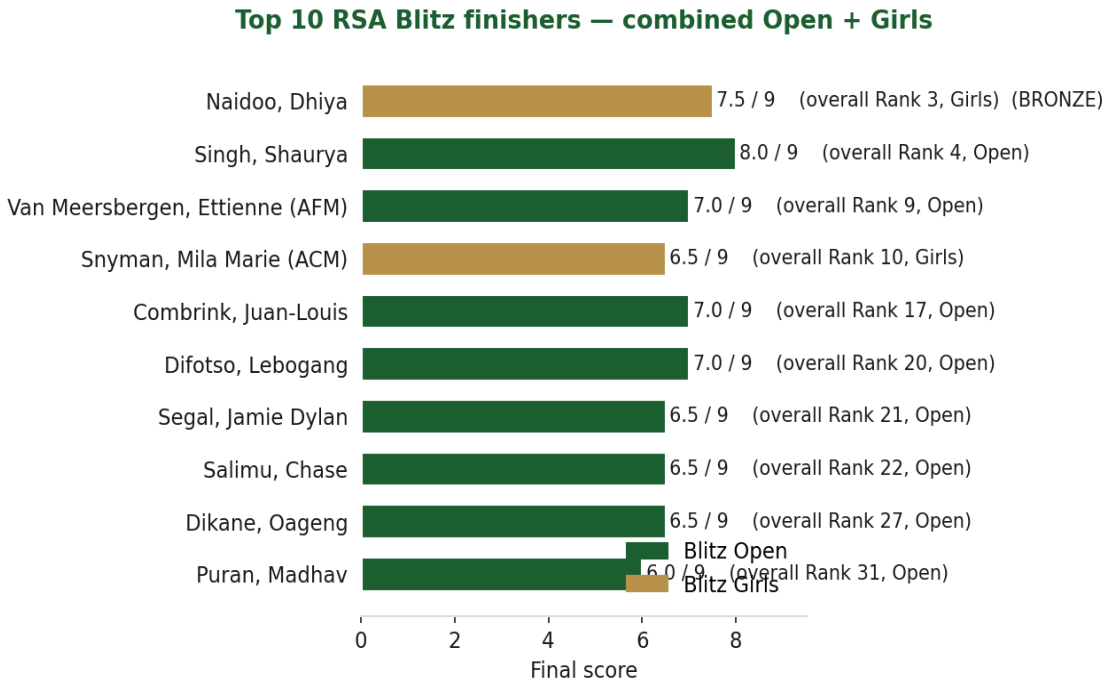
SECTION PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

Proportion of each section's RSA delegation that finished on 6.0 / 9 or higher. The Blitz Open delegation cleared the 6.0 bar at 73%; the Blitz Girls delegation at 17%. This is RSA's strongest Open-section depth in any of the three formats.



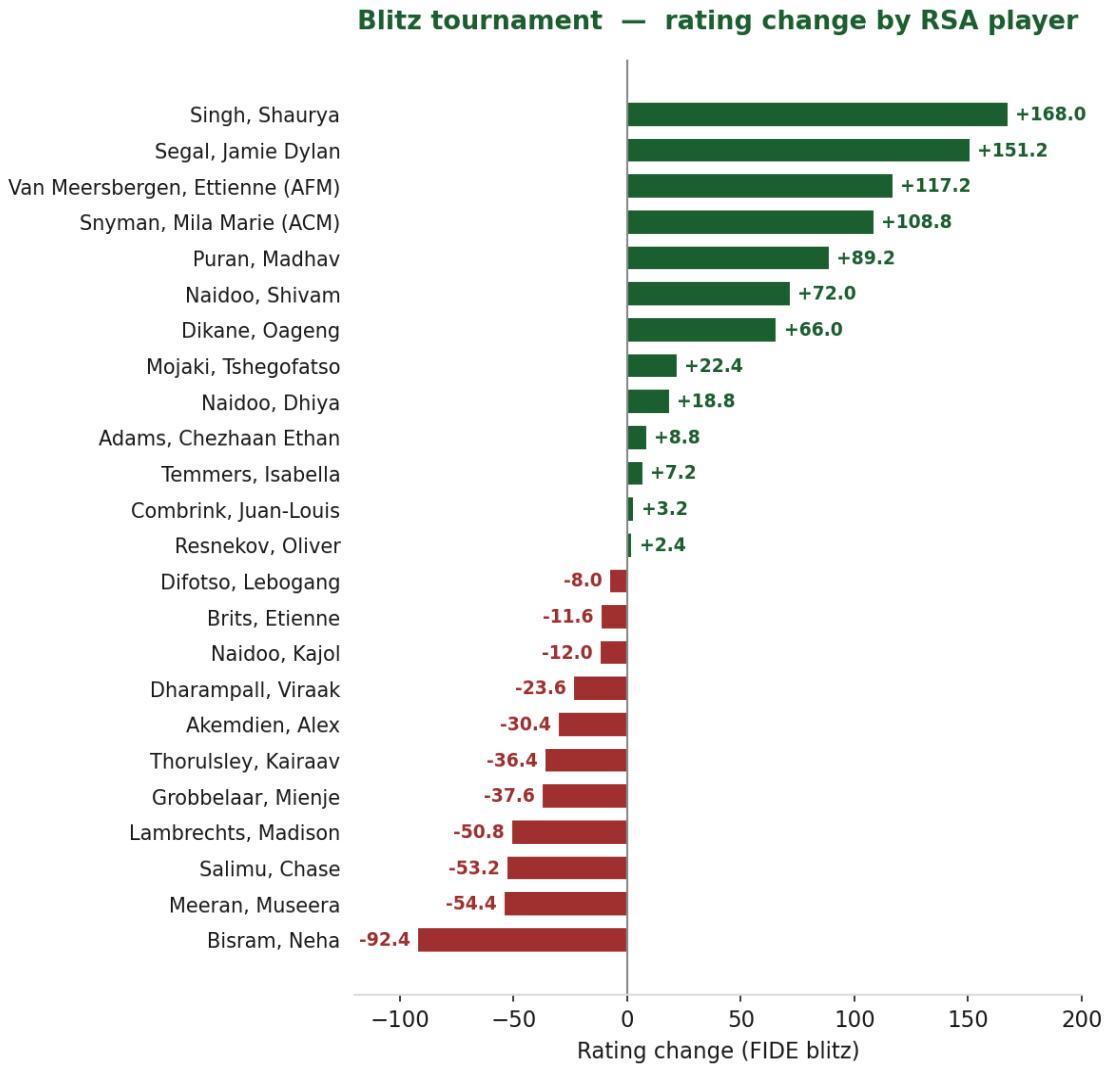
TOP 10 RSA FINISHERS — COMBINED RANKING

Across both Blitz sections, these are the top 10 RSA finishers by overall section rank. Naidoo Dhiya's bronze in the Blitz Girls is the headline. Singh's 8.0 / 9 in Blitz Open at Rank 4 is the highest cumulative score by any RSA player across the entire championship. Three RSA players in the top 20 of the Blitz Open field.



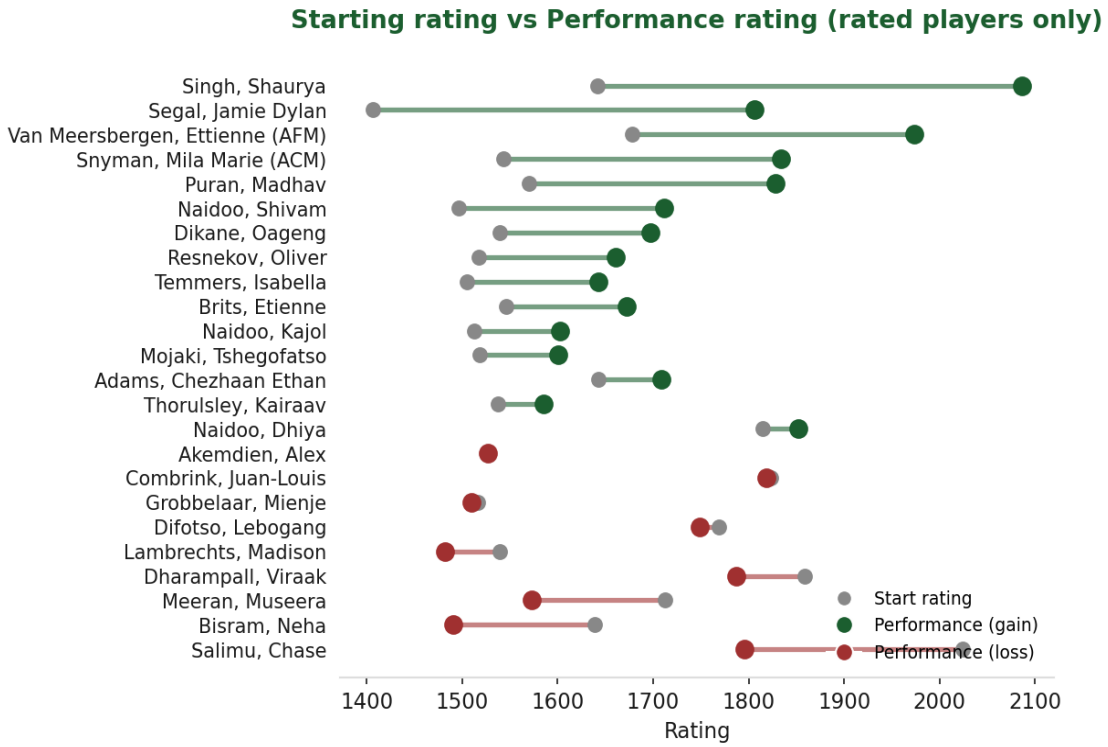
RATING CHANGE — THE STANDOUT CHART

FIDE-blitz rating change for every RSA player with a published rating. 13 players gained rating, 11 lost rating. Net delegation rating change: +424.8 — the largest net positive across the three formats this tournament. Singh’s +168.0 dominates the chart visually; Segal’s +151.2 (on top of +119.6 in Rapid) takes his combined rapid+blitz gain to +270.8 across the week.



PERFORMANCE RATING VS STARTING RATING

For every RSA player with both a starting rating and a calculated blitz performance rating, the chart below shows the gap. Lines extending rightward in green indicate overperformance against rating; lines extending leftward in red indicate underperformance.



STAR HIGHLIGHTS — BLITZ OPEN

- Singh Shaurya (U14) — Blitz Open Rank 4 on 8 / 9. Standout RSA performance of the entire AYCC blitz event. Performance rating 2086 against an 1642 starting rating. +168 rating gain — the largest single-event gain across all formats this championship.
- Van Meersbergen Ettienne (AFM, U16) — Blitz Open Rank 9 on 7 / 9. Tournament-wide recovery: after a difficult Rapid (-65.6), he bounced back to a near-2000 performance (Rp 1973) and +117.2 rating gain.
- Segal Jamie Dylan (U14) — Blitz Open Rank 21 on 6.5 / 9. +151.2 rating gain on top of +119.6 in Rapid — a combined +270.8 across both formats. The standout under-rated improver of the championship.
- Combrink Juan-Louis (U16) — Blitz Open Rank 17 on 7 / 9. Strong top-20 finish.
- Difotso Lebogang (U18) — Blitz Open Rank 20 on 7 / 9. Best RSA U18 result in blitz.
- Puran Madhav (U14) — Blitz Open Rank 31 on 6 / 9. Continued strong week (+89.2 rating gain in blitz).
- Naidoo Shivam (U14) — Blitz Open Rank 63 on 5.5 / 9, +72.0 rating gain — strong blitz-only debut (did not play Rapid).
- Dikane Oageng (U16) — Blitz Open Rank 27 on 6.5 / 9, +66.0 gain after a flat Rapid.

STAR HIGHLIGHTS — BLITZ GIRLS

- Naidoo Dhiya (U18G) — BRONZE MEDAL. Blitz Girls Rank 3 on 7.5 / 9. Performance rating 1852. South Africa's second podium of the championship.
- Snyman Mila Marie (ACM, U18G) — Blitz Girls Rank 10 on 6.5 / 9. +108.8 rating gain — the biggest gain in the RSA Girls Blitz squad. Performance rating 1834 against 1543 starting.

BEST RSA FINISHER PER AGE CATEGORY — BLITZ OPEN

Age band	Best RSA player	Score	Overall rank
U10	Akemdien, Alex	5.0 / 9	Rank 86

Age band	Best RSA player	Score	Overall rank
U12	Resnekov, Oliver	6.0 / 9	Rank 57
U14	Singh, Shaurya	8.0 / 9	Rank 4
U16	Van Meersbergen (AFM)	7.0 / 9	Rank 9
U18	Difotso, Lebogang	7.0 / 9	Rank 20

PLAYERS WHO UNDERPERFORMED — FOR COACHING REVIEW

- Bisram, Neha (Blitz Girls) — 5.0 / 9 • Rp 1491 • rating Δ -92.4. Largest rating loss in the RSA Blitz Girls squad.
- Meeran, Museera (Blitz Girls) — 5.5 / 9 • Rp 1573 • rating Δ -54.4. Significant drop after a strong Rapid showing.
- Salimu, Chase (Blitz Open, U16) — 6.5 / 9 • Rp 1796 • rating Δ -53.2. Rating loss despite a 6.5 score — reflects high expectations against a 2024 starting rating.
- Lambrechts, Madison (Blitz Girls) — 4.5 / 9 • Rp 1482 • rating Δ -50.8. Below-par result.
- Grobbelaar, Mienje (Blitz Girls) — 5.5 / 9 • Rp 1510 • rating Δ -37.6.

BLITZ OPEN — FULL RSA FINAL STANDINGS

Rk	Player	Age	Rtg	Pts	Perf	Δ Rtg
4	Singh, Shaurya	U14	1642	8	2086	+168.0
9	Van Meersbergen, Ettienne (AFM)	U16	1678	7	1973	+117.2
17	Combrink, Juan-Louis	U16	1823	7	1819	+3.2
20	Difotso, Lebogang	U18	1769	7	1749	-8.0
21	Segal, Jamie Dylan	U14	1406	6.5	1806	+151.2
22	Salimu, Chase	U16	2024	6.5	1796	-53.2
27	Dikane, Oageng	U16	1539	6.5	1697	+66.0
31	Puran, Madhav	U14	1570	6	1828	+89.2
38	Adams, Chezhaan Ethan	U14	1643	6	1709	+8.8
39	Dharampall, Viraak	U16	1859	6	1787	-23.6
57	Resnekov, Oliver	U12	1517	6	1661	+2.4
63	Naidoo, Shivam	U14	1496	5.5	1711	+72.0
76	Brits, Etienne	U12	1546	5	1672	-11.6
86	Akemdien, Alex	U10	1527	5	1527	-30.4
98	Thorulsley, Kairaav	U12	1537	5	1585	-36.4

BLITZ GIRLS — FULL RSA FINAL STANDINGS

Rk	Player	Rtg	Pts	Perf	Δ Rtg
3	Naidoo, Dhiya	1815	7.5	1852	+18.8
10	Snyman, Mila Marie (ACM)	1543	6.5	1834	+108.8
33	Naidoo, Kajol	1513	5.5	1602	-12.0
34	Meeran, Museera	1712	5.5	1573	-54.4
37	Temmers, Isabella	1505	5.5	1643	+7.2
40	Grobbelaar, Mienje	1516	5.5	1510	-37.6
41	Mojaki, Tshegofatso	1518	5	1601	+22.4
42	Maharaj, Aditi	—	5	1569	—
47	Steel, Lujain	—	5	1529	—
51	Bisram, Neha	1639	5	1491	-92.4
66	Lambrechts, Madison	1539	4.5	1482	-50.8
111	Naidoo, Nadeema	—	3	—	—

BLITZ-ONLY RSA PLAYERS — DID NOT APPEAR IN THE RAPID ROSTER

- Singh, Shaurya (Blitz Open U14) — 8.0 / 9 • Rp 2086 • +168
- Naidoo, Shivam (Blitz Open U14) — 5.5 / 9 • Rp 1711 • +72
- Naidoo, Dhiya (Blitz Girls) — 7.5 / 9 • Rp 1852 • +18.8 (Bronze)
- Snyman, Mila Marie (Blitz Girls) — 6.5 / 9 • Rp 1834 • +108.8
- Maharaj, Aditi (Blitz Girls) — 5.0 / 9 • Rp 1569 • unrated

BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP SUMMARY

27 South African players. Two sections. Nine rounds of blitz play. One bronze medal (Naidoo Dhiya, Blitz Girls Rank 3). Singh Shaurya 4th in the Blitz Open with the largest single-event rating gain of the championship (+168). Three RSA players inside the top 20 of the Blitz Open field. 73% of the Blitz Open squad scored 6+. Net delegation rating change: +424.8 — the largest net positive across all three formats this tournament.

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