CHESS SA

ROUND 5 REPORT

Sunday, 17 May 2026 (afternoon round)

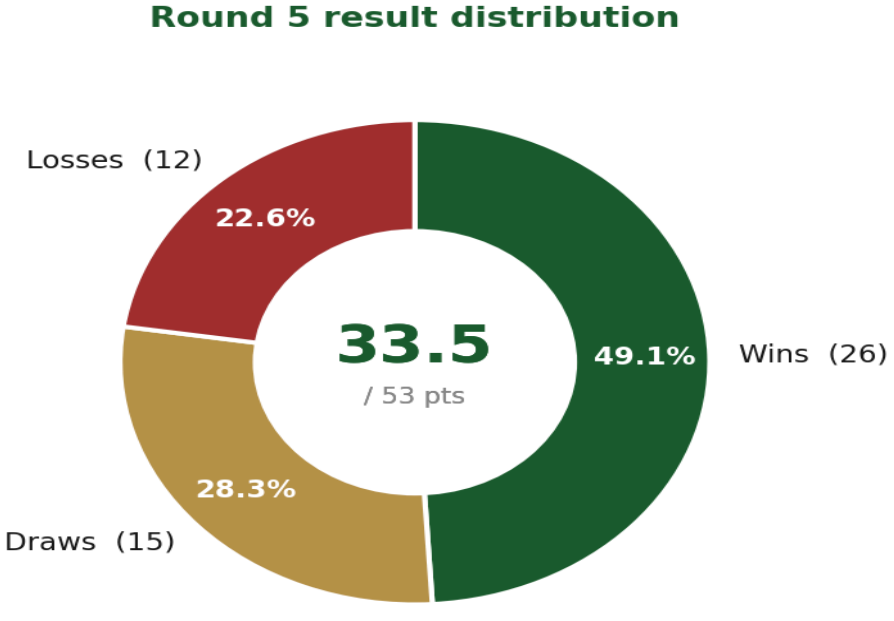
South African Delegation • 17th African Youth Chess Championships • Entebbe, Uganda

DELEGATION RESULT — ROUND 5

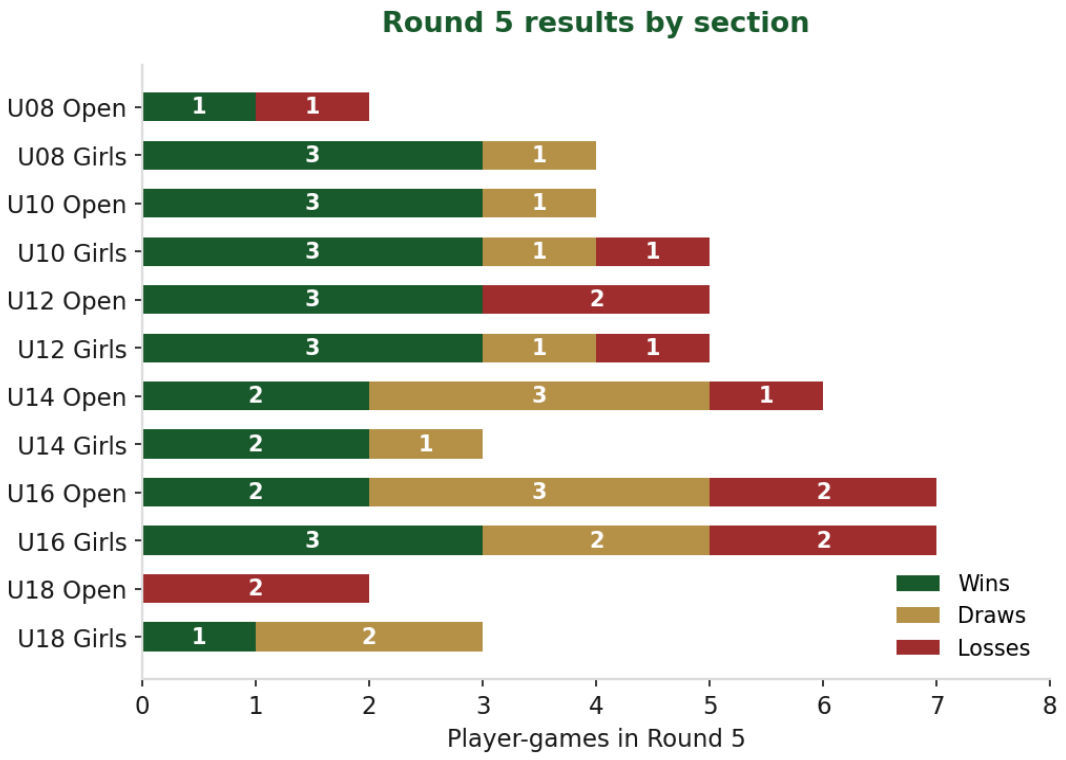
WINS	DRAWS	LOSSES	POINTS
26	15	12	33.5 / 53

Round 5 produced 26 wins, 15 draws and 12 losses across 53 RSA games — a 63.2% score and the strongest collective day for the Girls' sections (10 wins, 5 draws, 3 losses combined across all girls' age groups). The Open sections were mixed: the U14 Open's two top RSA seeds neutralised each other in an internal White-Black draw, the U12 Open contributed three wins on top boards, and the U18 Open went winless. Cumulative score across the first five rounds stands at 193 points from 265 player-games (72.8%), with leaderboard positions still in play across ten of the twelve active sections. Momentum into Round 6 is positive in U08 Girls, U10 Open, U10 Girls, U12 Open, U12 Girls, U14 Open and U16 Open, where multiple RSA players sit at 4/5 or above.

ROUND 5 AT A GLANCE



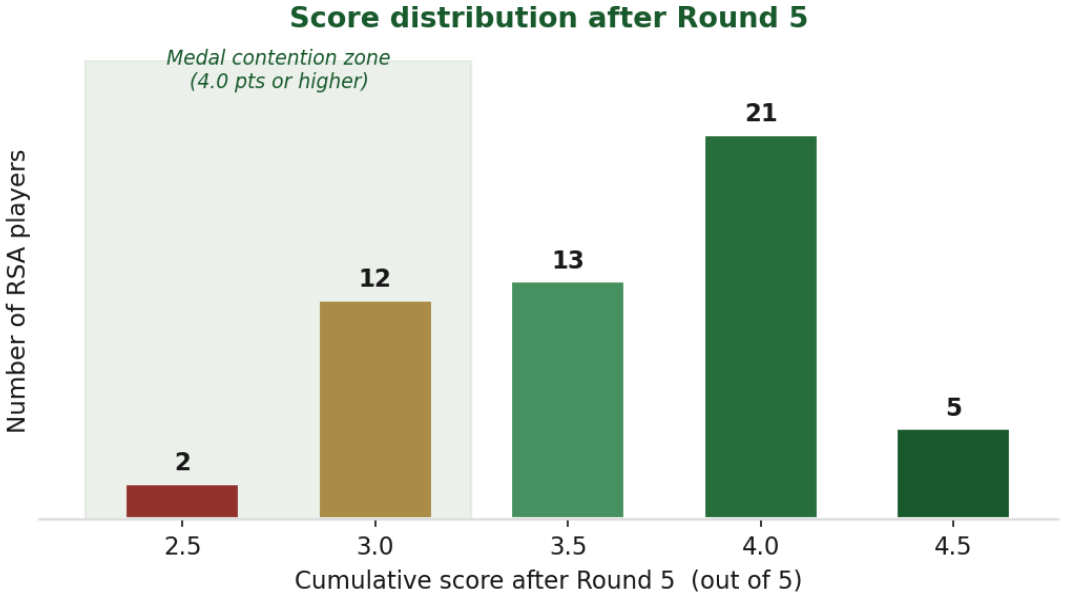
33.5 of 53 player-game points — 63.2% score across the round.



U16 Girls produced the largest single-section haul. U18 Open was the only section without a win.

CUMULATIVE POSITION AFTER ROUND 5

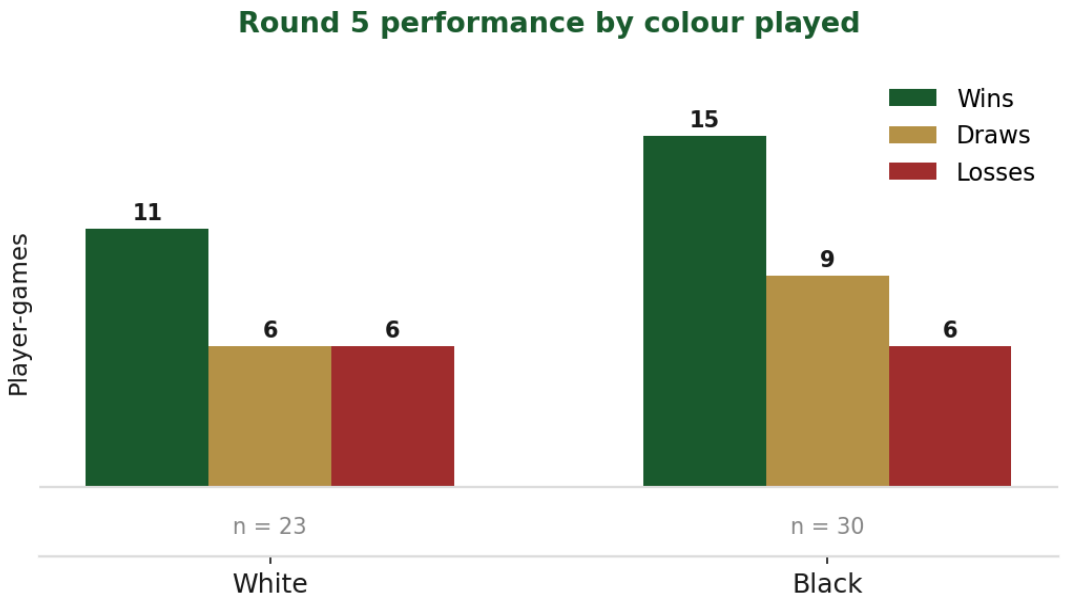
193 of 265 cumulative points (72.8%). 5 players on 4.5/5 lead the delegation; 21 players sit one win away from joining them at 4/5. The medal-contention shape of the next four rounds is set by this distribution.



Number of RSA players at each cumulative score level. Bar colour darkens with score.

ROUND 5 — PERFORMANCE BY COLOUR PLAYED

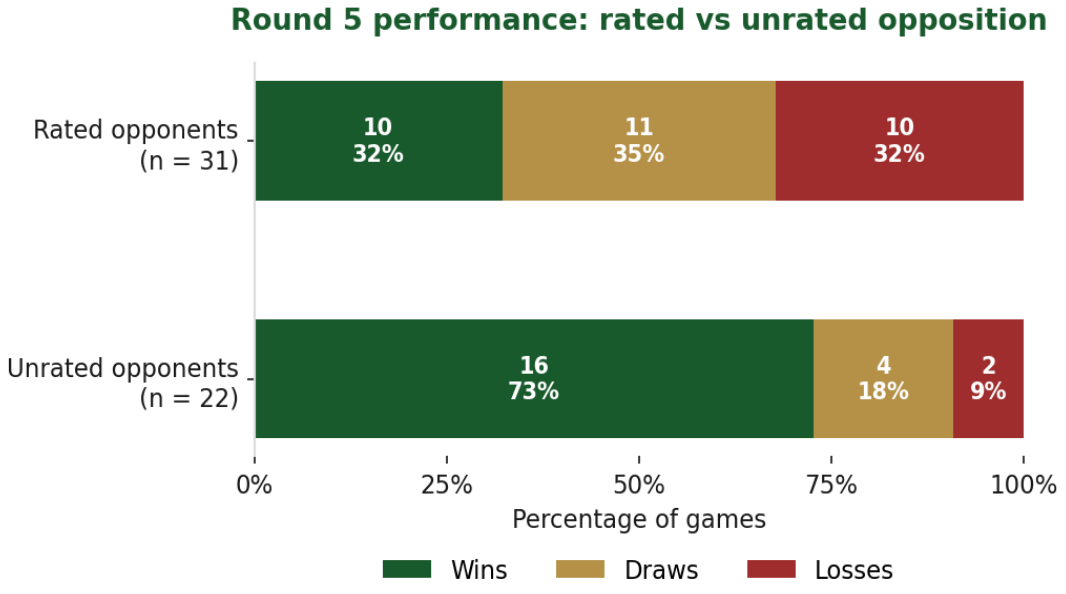
RSA played Black 30 times in Round 5 and won 15 of those games — a stronger conversion as Black than as White this round. 15 wins from 30 Black games (50%) compared with 11 from 23 (47.8%) as White. The collective Black-side wins in U08 Girls, U10 Open, U10 Girls and U16 Girls drove the imbalance.



Counts of wins, draws, losses by colour played. Black-side games outnumbered White by 30 to 23.

ROUND 5 — OPPOSITION QUALITY

Against rated opposition (31 games), RSA balanced at 10W / 11D / 10L — a near-perfect 50% score, which is what would be expected if the delegation's rating-average matches the rated opponent pool. Against unrated opposition (22 games), RSA went 16W / 4D / 2L, an 82% score. The split shows the delegation is converting against expected-result opponents and holding its own against rated opposition.



Percentage W/D/L split by opposition type. Rated games (n=31) were balanced; unrated games (n=22) were dominated.

SECTIONAL LEADERS — TOP RSA AFTER ROUND 5

Top RSA performer in each age category. Where multiple South African players are tied on score, the player listed is the one with the highest section rank or, for unrated ties, the one named first in the round-5 results.

Section	Leading player	Score	Section rank	Notes
U08 Open	Conradie, David	4 / 5	Rank 5	Held R5 result and stays in medal zone

Section	Leading player	Score	Section rank	Notes
U08 Girls	Three RSA tied — Gabriels / Mlaba / Naidoo N.	4 / 5	~3–7	Deepest section by score-density
U10 Open	Ntshakala, Hlelolwenkosi	4.5 / 5	~3–6	Drew 1556-rated ACM — top RSA score
U10 Girls	Three RSA tied — Armstrong / Morgan / Ramonyaluoe	4 / 5	~3–6	Conradie M. drew 1480-rated
U12 Open	Thorulsley, Kairaav	4.5 / 5	Rank 10	Beat 1487 KEN as White — top RSA score
U12 Girls	Temmers, Isabella	4 / 5	~Rank 3	Beat 1444 ZIM as Black
U14 Open	Singh & Puran tied	4.5 / 5	~3–6	Internal RSA derby ended in draw
U14 Girls	Hagen, Gina Sophia	4 / 5	~4–8	Strong R5 win
U16 Open	Three RSA tied — Combrink / Dharampall / Dikane	4 / 5	~3–14	Section wide open
U16 Girls	Naidoo, Dhiya	4.5 / 5	~2–4	Top-board medal contender
U18 Open	Levitan & Difotso tied	3 / 5	~7–11	Two losses — rebuild phase
U18 Girls	Mojaki, Tshegofatso	3.5 / 5	~2–4	Held 1646-rated as White

GAME OF THE ROUND

Selected by largest rating differential among RSA wins in Round 5 where the RSA player was the lower-rated player (an upset win), excluding games where either rating is unrated and excluding forfeit wins.

> **Atlegang Monchosi** (RSA, 1658) vs **WCM Maya Otimile** (BOT, 1853)
>
> *U18 Girls • Colour: Black • Result: 0–1 (Black wins) • Rating differential: 195 points*
>
> Monchosi came into Round 5 on 1/4 and was paired down to the Black side against a titled, higher-rated Botswana player. She converted the upset, moving to 3/5 and resetting her tournament. This is the cleanest rated-vs-rated upset by an RSA player in Round 5 and the only win against a titled opponent.

Note. Aditi Maharaj (U14 Girls, unrated) beat Esther Aine Atubet (UGA 1446) in a notionally larger gap, but "0 rating" means unrated rather than rating-zero, so the differential cannot be compared on the same scale. Her win is featured in Notable Performances.

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

- U16 Girls section sweep at the top boards. Three RSA wins (Naidoo Kajol, Snyman Mila Marie, Williams Anika) and one draw (Naidoo Dhiya) against rated opposition — by far the biggest collective RSA output in Round 5.
- U10 Open — Ntshakala Hlelolwenkosi (RSA, unrated) drew Hathi Yug (UGA, 1556 ACM), sitting at 4.5/5 — the joint-top RSA score in the section.

- Upset wins. Aditi Maharaj (U14 Girls, unrated RSA) over Esther Aine Atubet (UGA 1446) — largest notional rating gap. Snyman Mila Marie (1543) over Namukobe Suzan (UGA 1692) — 149-point upset.
- Comeback win. Steel Lujain (U12 Girls, unrated) lost in Round 4 and bounced back with a Black win over Ariella Njeri (KEN) in Round 5 to reach 3/5.
- Girls' section sweep. U10 Girls went 3W-1D-1L (Armstrong, Morgan, Kapp won; Conradie Minka drew). U08 Girls went 3W-1D-0L. Strongest collective Black wins of the day came from these two sections.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

U08 Open. RSA holds one player firmly in the top-five (Conradie at Rank 5 on 4/5) and one in the lower half (Klopper on 3/5). Conradie has lost his Round 6 advantage but remains mathematically alive for a medal at 4 points and four to play.

U08 Girls. Three RSA players at 4/5 and a fourth on 3.5/5 — the deepest collective RSA position in any section. The three winners stay in striking distance of the two Kenyan/Ugandan leaders at 5/5. Tiebreaks will matter.

U10 Open. Ntshakala at 4.5/5 is the standout, sharing fourth-best score in a 170-player section. Akemdien, Arries and Radha all on 4/5 give RSA strong depth.

U10 Girls. Five RSA players, four on 3.5–4 points. Conradie Minka's draw with the 1480-rated Imora is the most impressive board-quality result. RSA continues to occupy multiple top-ten spots.

U12 Open. Five RSA players, three of them winning Round 5. Thorulsley Kairaav at 4.5/5 (Rank 10) is the standout, paired up and converting. Stern and Resnekov at 4/5 give RSA depth in the top 20 of a ~200-player section.

U12 Girls. Temmers and Loots on 4/5 are credible podium contenders. Grobbelaar and Lambrechts on 3.5/5 sit in the second tier. Steel's bounce-back win keeps her in the development arc.

U14 Open. Internal pairing between Singh and Puran ended in a draw — efficient half-point each but cost RSA the chance to project either into the leading group alone. Both joint-leading on 4.5/5.

U14 Girls. Hagen on 4/5 is the brightest result. Maharaj's upset win is a genuine bright spot from the unrated bracket. Bisram remains in recovery mode at 2.5/5.

U16 Open. Three players on 4/5 (Combrink, Dharampall, Dikane) plus three on 3.5/5. Section is wide open. Salimu's Round 5 win positions him to push back into contention.

U16 Girls. RSA's deepest top-end performance of the day: four players on 3.5–4.5 points. Naidoo Dhiya at 4.5/5 is the leading RSA score and in clear medal contention.

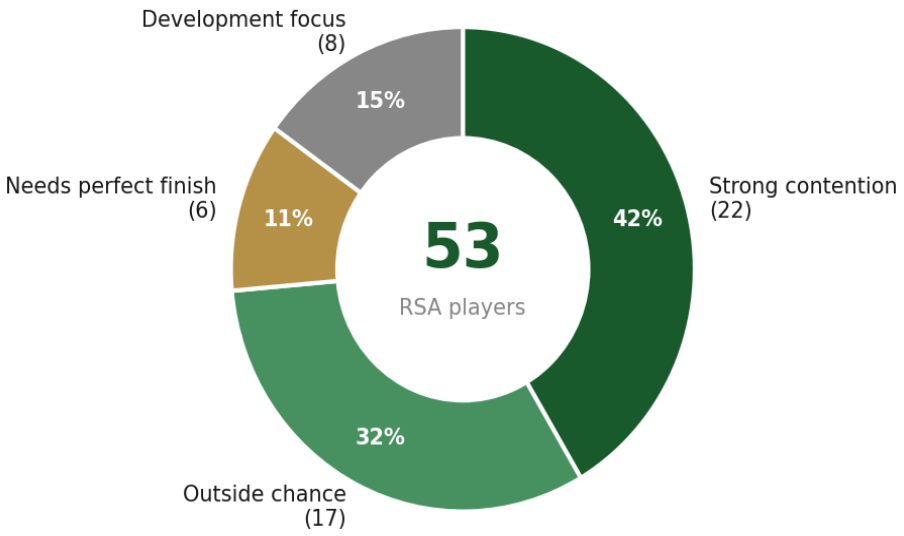
U18 Open. Difficult round — no RSA wins, two losses. Levitan and Difotso both on 3/5; the section is now likely beyond gold contention for either player. Focus should shift to securing rating points and individual standings.

U18 Girls. Mojaki at 3.5/5 leads the RSA contingent. Monchosi's upset over the WCM-titled Botswana player is the most valuable scalp of Round 5 for the section.

MEDAL CONTENTION WATCH — DELEGATION SNAPSHOT

Across all 53 South African players, the delegation now splits four ways heading into Round 6. Twenty-two players are in strong medal contention (Rank 1–6 in their section with a full or near-full score). Seventeen sit on outside chances. Six need a perfect finish from here. Eight are in development mode.

Medal contention status (after Round 5)



Strong contention (Rank 1–6, 4+ pts) covers 42% of the delegation entering Round 6.

STRONG-CONTENTION BOARDS ENTERING ROUND 6

All RSA players currently on 4 points or higher, grouped by score.

Player	Section	Score	Section rank	Round 6 priority
Ntshakala, Hlelolwenkosi	U10 Open	4.5 / 5	~3–6	Win Round 6
Naidoo, Dhiya	U16 Girls	4.5 / 5	~2–4	Hold top-board pairing
Singh, Shaurya	U14 Open	4.5 / 5	~3–6	Beat top-3 opponent
Puran, Madhav	U14 Open	4.5 / 5	~3–6	Convert vs rated opposition
Thorulsley, Kairaav	U12 Open	4.5 / 5	Rank 10	Win Round 6
Conradie, David	U08 Open	4 / 5	Rank 5	Reverse colour-fortune
Gabriels, Amrienta	U08 Girls	4 / 5	~3–7	Beat 4-pt opponent
Mlaba, Khethelo	U08 Girls	4 / 5	~3–7	Hold position vs leaders
Naidoo, Nadeema	U08 Girls	4 / 5	~3–7	Hold position vs leaders
Akemdien, Alex	U10 Open	4 / 5	~7–15	Maintain win streak
Arries, Tristan	U10 Open	4 / 5	~7–15	Continued wins
Radha, Yugesh	U10 Open	4 / 5	~7–15	Continued wins
Armstrong, Kristin	U10 Girls	4 / 5	~3–6	Beat rated opposition
Morgan, Raegan	U10 Girls	4 / 5	~3–6	Beat rated opposition
Ramonyaluoe, Madalitso	U10 Girls	4 / 5	~3–6	Recover from R5 loss
Stern, Mason Jesse	U12 Open	4 / 5	Rank 12	Beat top-15 player
Resnekov, Oliver	U12 Open	4 / 5	Rank 18	Beat rated opponent

Player	Section	Score	Section rank	Round 6 priority
Temmers, Isabella	U12 Girls	4 / 5	~Rank 3	Beat top KEN seed
Loots, Mia	U12 Girls	4 / 5	~4–6	Win against rated UGA/KEN
Adams, Chezhaan Ethan	U14 Open	4 / 5	~7–14	Beat top-5 player
Hagen, Gina Sophia	U14 Girls	4 / 5	~4–8	Beat rated UGA/KEN
Combrink, Juan-Louis	U16 Open	4 / 5	~3–6	Win as Black vs rated
Dharampall, Viraak	U16 Open	4 / 5	~3–6	Recover from FM loss
Dikane, Oageng	U16 Open	4 / 5	~7–14	Hold against UGA/EGY
Naidoo, Kajol	U16 Girls	4 / 5	~5–8	Stay on top boards
Snyman, Mila Marie	U16 Girls	4 / 5	~5–8	Convert upset momentum

NEXT ROUND FOCUS — ROUND 6, TUESDAY 19 MAY (REST DAY MONDAY)

Monday 18 May is the scheduled rest day. Round 6 plays Tuesday morning. The eight games below are the medal-defining boards for the delegation.

- U10 Open — Ntshakala Hlelolwenkosi (4.5/5). Expected against a 4-pt or 4.5-pt rated opponent. Decisive board for medal odds.
- U12 Open — Thorulsley Kairaav (4.5/5, Rank 10). Likely paired up against one of the leaders: Wabwire UGA 1833, Muli Faraja KEN 1837, or Manyeki KEN 1914. Medal-defining board.
- U14 Open — Singh Shaurya & Puran Madhav (both 4.5/5). Both joint-top among RSA. Watch which one gets paired vs the top seeds (Ahmed Mustafa 2037, Sianyinda 1926).
- U16 Girls — Naidoo Dhiya (4.5/5). Top RSA girl in the section. Likely paired against another 4–4.5 player; this is the medal-defining game.
- U16 Girls — Snyman Mila Marie & Naidoo Kajol (both 4/5). Both ride the Round 5 momentum. RSA collective strength visible if both win.
- U16 Open — Combrink, Dharampall, Dikane (all 4/5). Three RSA in the upper group. Section is wide open — Combrink's Black draw vs Mario (EGY 1859) suggests he is holding form.
- U08 Girls — Gabriels, Mlaba, Naidoo Nadeema (all 4/5). RSA holds three of the top boards. Internal pairing risk is non-zero given the depth at the top.
- U12 Girls — Temmers Isabella (4/5). Likely against top KEN seed Kaburo Winnie WCM, 1815. Highest-rated game of the day for RSA in this section.

Notes. Section ranks marked with "~" are estimates from points-after-Round-5 ordering. U08 Open and U12 Open ranks are exact (from ranking pages). Cumulative score (193/265, 72.8%) is the sum of all RSA player points after five rounds across 53 players in 12 sections. All game data sourced from chess-results.com last update 17 May 2026.

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