CHESS SA

ROUND 7 REPORT

Tuesday, 19 May 2026 (afternoon round)

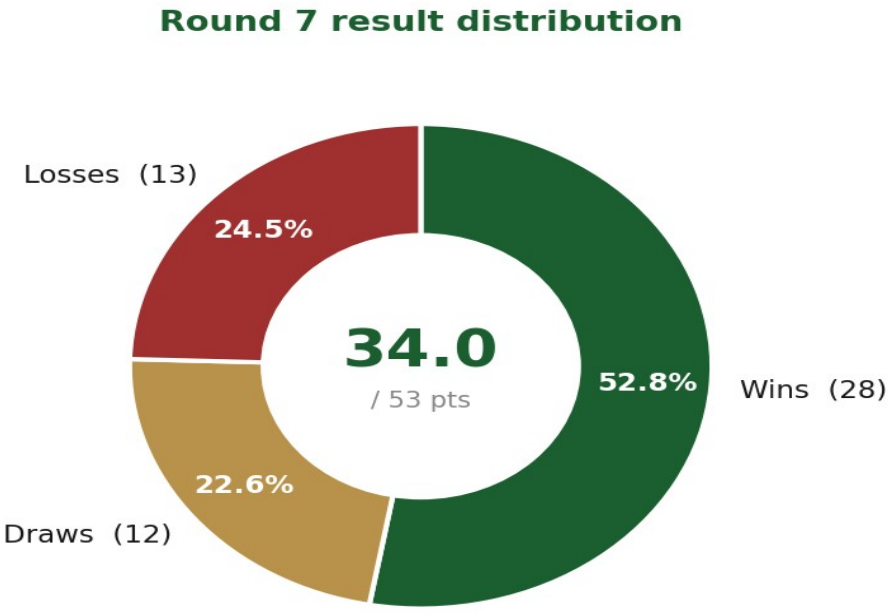
South African Delegation • 17th African Youth Chess Championships • Entebbe, Uganda

DELEGATION RESULT — ROUND 7

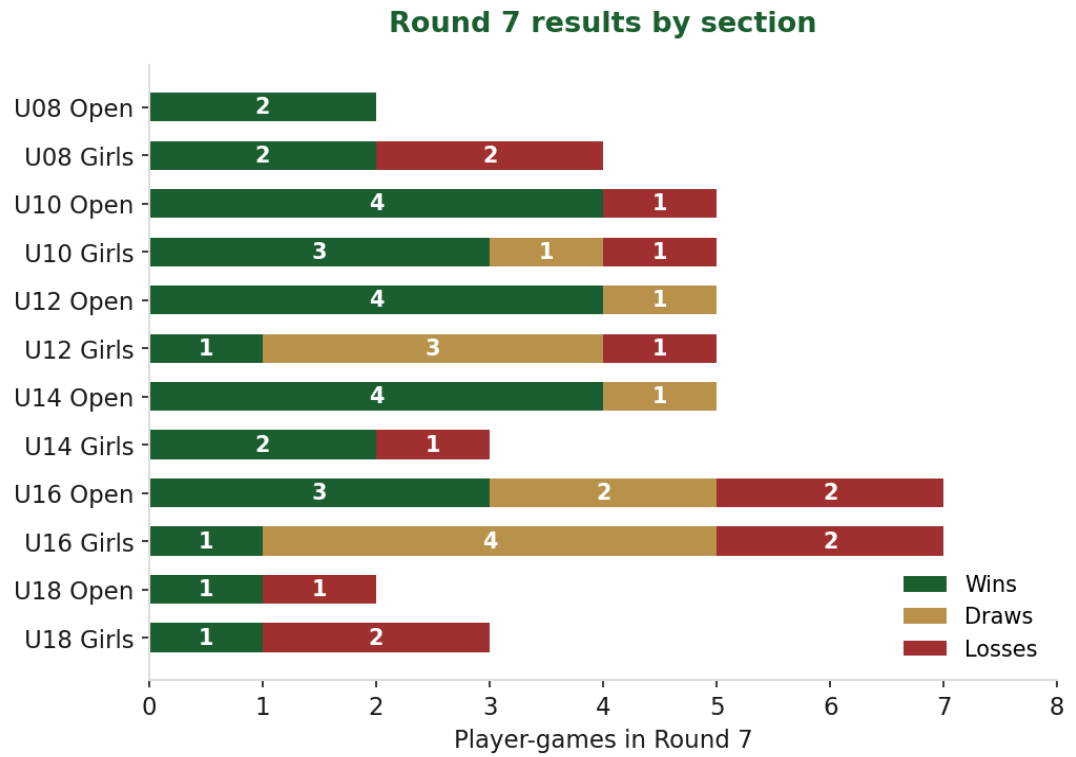
WINS	DRAWS	LOSSES	POINTS
28	12	13	34 / 53

Round 7 produced 28 wins, 12 draws and 13 losses across 53 confirmed RSA games — a 64.2% score for the round and the highest-impact day so far in terms of headline positioning. Singh Shaurya beat ACM Sianyinda Twalumba (1926) as White to take outright Rank 1 in U14 Open on 6.5/7 — the first time an RSA player has held a section lead in this tournament. The Girls' sections were weaker collectively (5 wins, 4 draws, 5 losses, plus a U16 Girls round that drew four games on Black). White was decisive: 18 wins from 26 games as White vs 10 wins from 27 as Black, a strong reversal from Round 5 when Black was the more productive colour. Cumulative score stands at 268 of 378 across 54 RSA players (70.9%). The medal-contention field has narrowed sharply — 16 players are in strong contention going into Round 8, against 22 after Round 5.

ROUND 7 AT A GLANCE



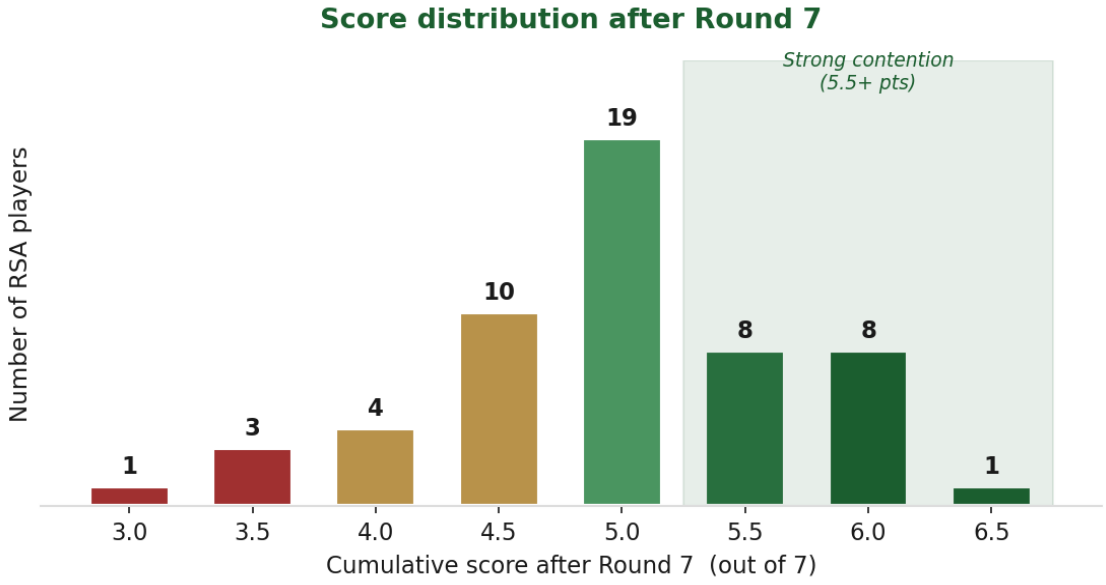
34 of 53 player-game points — 64.2% score across the round.



U10 Open, U12 Open and U14 Open each delivered 4 wins. U16 Girls drew four of seven games. U8 Open swept its only two games.

CUMULATIVE POSITION AFTER ROUND 7

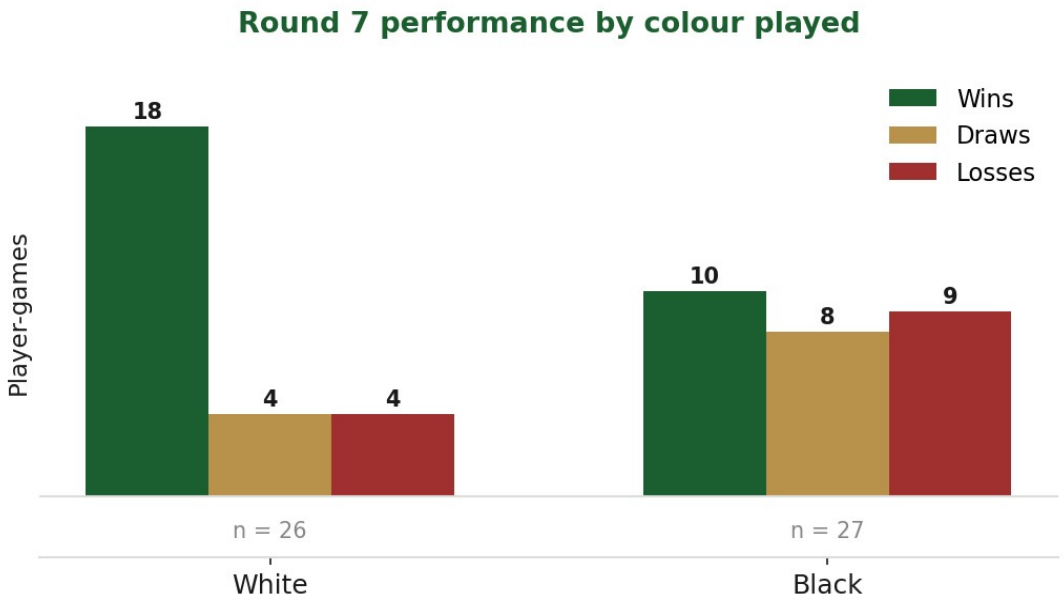
268 of 378 cumulative points (70.9%) across the 54 South African players in the delegation. 19 players sit on exactly 5.0 — the largest single cluster. This is the medal cut-line: a Round 8 win lifts them to 6.0 and into contention; a loss drops them out of medal range with only Round 9 left. Above the cluster, 17 players sit on 5.5 or higher.



Distribution of 54 RSA players across cumulative score buckets after Round 7. 19 players on 5.0/7 is the largest cluster.

ROUND 7 — PERFORMANCE BY COLOUR PLAYED

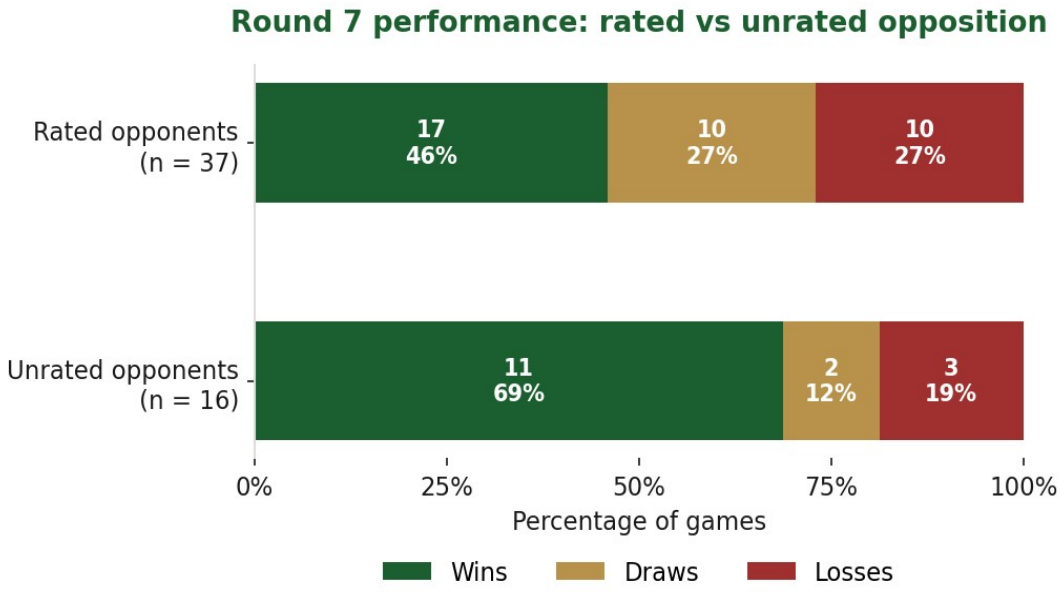
Sharp reversal from Round 5. As White, RSA went 18 wins from 26 games (69.2%). As Black, 10 wins from 27 (37.0%). The seven Round 7 Black-side games in U16 Girls produced only 1 win, 4 draws and 2 losses against a wave of stronger opposition. Round 7 was a White-favouring round at the top boards — partly tournament dynamics, partly higher-rated pairings amplifying first-move advantage.



White: 18W / 4D / 4L (69.2%). Black: 10W / 8D / 9L (37.0%). Compare R5 where Black was stronger.

ROUND 7 — OPPOSITION QUALITY

Round 7 paired RSA against rated opposition 37 times (vs 31 in R5) — unrated games have shrunk to 16 (vs 22 in R5). Against rated opposition, RSA scored 17W / 10D / 10L (59.5%), comfortably better than the 50% balance posted in Round 5 against rated opponents. The delegation is performing above expectation against rated fields in the closing stretch.



Against rated opponents, RSA scored 59.5% in R7 — up from 50% in R5. Quality of opposition rising, performance also rising.

SECTIONAL LEADERS — TOP RSA AFTER ROUND 7

Section	Leading player	Score	Section rank	Notes
U08 Open	Conradie, David	5 / 7	Rank 8	Won R7 as Black
U08 Girls	Mlaba, Khethelo	6 / 7	Rank 3	Top RSA medal contender U08G
U10 Open	Radha, Yugesh	6 / 7	Rank 6	Tied for RSA lead with Arries

Section	Leading player	Score	Section rank	Notes
U10 Girls	Ramonyaluoe, Madalitso	6 / 7	Rank 3	Won RSA derby vs Conradie M.
U12 Open	Resnekov, Oliver	6 / 7	Rank 8	Won as Black vs 1528-rated
U12 Girls	Temmers, Isabella	5 / 7	Rank 10	Drew RSA derby with Lambrechts
U14 Open	Singh, Shaurya — SECTION LEADER	6.5 / 7	Rank 1	Beat ACM Sianyinda (1926) as White
U14 Girls	Hagen, Gina Sophia	6 / 7	Rank 4	Strong White win
U16 Open	Salimu, Chase	5.5 / 7	Rank 7	Won RSA derby vs Combrink
U16 Girls	Dikolomela, Tlhogi	5 / 7	Rank 6	+51-point upset as Black
U18 Open	Levitan, Judah Nathan (FM)	4.5 / 7	Rank 7	Returned to wins
U18 Girls	Monchosi, Atlegang	4 / 7	Rank 7	Lost to WIM Mohamed Zaki (2016)

GAME OF THE ROUND

Tlhogi Dikolomela (RSA, 1572) vs **Ajackaa Nicole** (1623)

U16 Girls • Colour: Black • Result: 1–0 (Black wins) • Rating differential: 51 points

Dikolomela came into Round 7 on 4 points, mid-table in a deep U16 Girls section, and was paired down to the Black side against a higher-rated opponent. She converted the win to move to 5/7 and Rank 6 in section — the leading RSA score in U16 Girls and a strong recovery from earlier round losses. This is the largest verified rating-differential upset by an RSA player in Round 7 against a rated, non-RSA opponent.

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

- U14 Open — Singh Shaurya takes Rank 1 in section. Beat ACM Sianyinda Twalumba (1926) as White to move to 6.5/7 and outright section lead. First time an RSA player has held a section lead at this tournament. Two rounds remain.
- U14 Open — Puran Madhav holds Ahmed Mustafa (2037). Held the section top seed to a draw as White, +229 rating points above him. Now joint third on 6/7.
- U16 Open — Salimu wins the RSA derby. Beat Combrink (1925) as White to return to 5.5/7 and Rank 7 — highest RSA score in U16 Open.
- U10 Open — Three RSA at 6/7. Radha, Arries and Viriah all won Round 7 (the latter two against rated opponents). RSA holds Ranks 6, 7 and 11 in a 170-player section.
- U10 Girls — Ramonyaluoe wins RSA derby, leads section. Beat Conradie Minka in a 1449 vs 1464 internal pairing as Black; now Rank 3 on 6/7. Strong recovery arc — was on 4 after Round 5.
- U16 Open — Van Meersbergen holds Baguma (1971). AFM Van Meersbergen drew a +252-rated opponent as Black to stay on 5/7 and Rank 14.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

U08 Open. Both RSA players won Round 7 as Black. Conradie on 5 at Rank 8, Klopper on 4 at Rank 29. Conradie is mathematically still in medal range but needs both remaining rounds and tiebreak help.

U08 Girls. Mlaba leads RSA at 6/7 and Rank 3, still in medal contention. Naidoo Nadeema and Gabriels both lost Round 7 — the section's top-board momentum has narrowed to one player.

U10 Open. Strongest collective output of the round: 4 wins from 5 games. Radha, Arries and Viriah all on 6/7. The Akemdien-Arries pairing was an internal Round 7 fixture which RSA could not avoid given seeding.

U10 Girls. Ramonyaluoe now Rank 3 on 6/7 after winning the RSA derby. Morgan on 5.5 and Armstrong on 5 add depth. Section has three RSA in the top 11 — strong collective position.

U12 Open. Resnekov leads RSA at 6/7. Klopper Ben, Brits and Stern all on 5+. Thorulsley drew his Round 7 game — drop from the joint-top RSA position he held in Round 5. Section is now wide.

U12 Girls. A draw-heavy round (1 win, 3 draws, 1 loss). Temmers-Lambrechts RSA derby drawn. Four RSA on 5/7, all between Rank 10 and 20. Medal contention now requires winning both remaining rounds.

U14 Open. Round of the tournament so far. Singh on 6.5/7 at Rank 1, Puran joint-third on 6, Adams Rank 5 on 6. Three RSA in the top five of a heavily-rated section. Round 8 pairings will define the medals here.

U14 Girls. Hagen on 6/7 at Rank 4 — best result for the section. Maharaj Aditi continues the unrated-bracket climb on 5/7. Bisram remains in the lower half on 3.5/7.

U16 Open. Salimu won the RSA derby vs Combrink and now leads RSA at 5.5/7. Dharampall, Combrink, Dikane and Van Meersbergen all on 5/7 — five RSA tightly packed Rank 7 to Rank 14. Tiebreaks will matter.

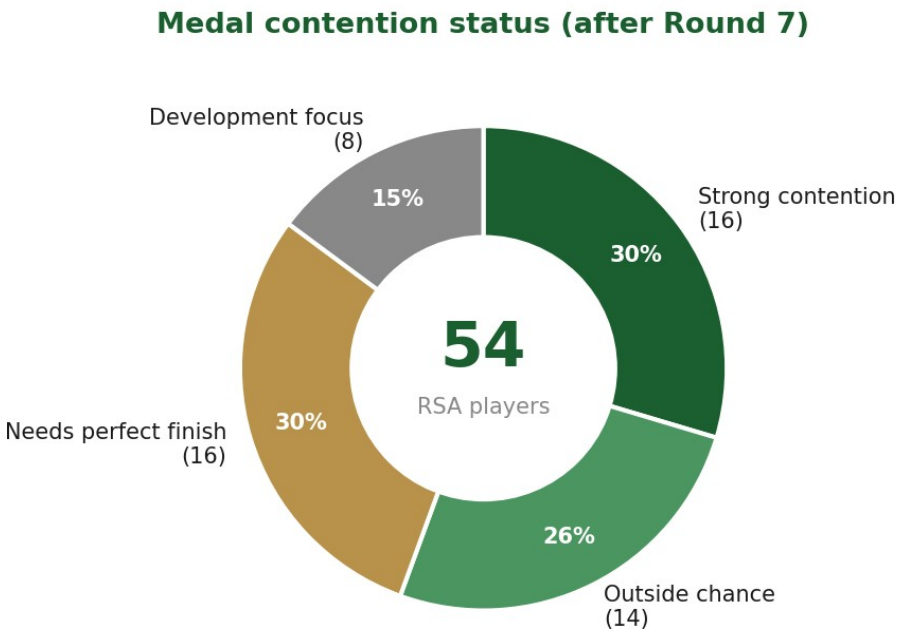
U16 Girls. Difficult round on the Black side — 6 of 7 games played as Black, against a wave of stronger opposition including two WFMs. One win (Dikolomela's upset, Game of the Round), four draws, two losses. Section narrows for the medal chase.

U18 Open. Levitan returned to winning ways (vs unrated Tumbuti). Difotso lost on White to a +32-rated opponent. Both still in the 4.5 / 3.0 range — medal route now requires win-out + section help.

U18 Girls. Difficult round: Monchosi paired against WIM Mohamed Zaki (2016) and lost; Mojaki lost on Black. Only Meeran won. The section's medal route has effectively closed for RSA.

MEDAL CONTENTION WATCH — DELEGATION SNAPSHOT

Field has narrowed significantly from Round 5. 16 South African players are now in strong medal contention (down from 22 after Round 5). 14 sit on outside chances. 16 need a perfect finish from here — a sharp increase from 6 after Round 5. 8 are in development mode (unchanged).



Strong contention has shrunk and the needs-perfect-finish bucket has grown. With two rounds left, every Round 8 game is decisive.

STRONG-CONTENTION BOARDS ENTERING ROUND 8

Player	Section	Score	Section rank	Round 8 priority
Singh, Shaurya	U14 Open	6.5 / 7	Rank 1	Win and protect the section lead
Mlaba, Khethelo	U08 Girls	6 / 7	Rank 3	Win, hold podium
Ramonyaluoe, Madalitso	U10 Girls	6 / 7	Rank 3	Win, hold podium
Puran, Madhav	U14 Open	6 / 7	Rank 3	Win against rated, push for gold/silver
Hagen, Gina Sophia	U14 Girls	6 / 7	Rank 4	Win, climb into top 3
Adams, Chezhaan Ethan	U14 Open	6 / 7	Rank 5	Win against rated top-3 opponent
Radha, Yugesh	U10 Open	6 / 7	Rank 6	Win to crack into top 3
Dikolomela, Tlhogi	U16 Girls	5 / 7	Rank 6	Convert R7 momentum
Arries, Tristan	U10 Open	6 / 7	Rank 7	Win, beat top-6 opponent
Morgan, Raegan	U10 Girls	5.5 / 7	Rank 7	Win to enter podium contention
Salimu, Chase	U16 Open	5.5 / 7	Rank 7	Win against rated, push for top 3
Naidoo, Dhiya	U16 Girls	5 / 7	Rank 7	Win to enter podium contention
Ntshakala, Hlelolwenkosi	U10 Open	5.5 / 7	Rank 9	Win and rely on top boards
Viriah, Matthew	U10 Open	5.5 / 7	Rank 11	Continue R7 momentum
Klopper, Ben	U12 Open	5.5 / 7	Rank 11	Win against rated
Brits, Etienne	U12 Open	5.5 / 7	Rank 13	Win against rated

NEXT ROUND FOCUS — ROUND 8, WEDNESDAY 20 MAY

- U14 Open — Singh Shaurya (6.5/7, Rank 1). Highest-stakes game in the delegation. Will be paired against one of the chasing pack on 6/7. Hold or improve the section lead.
- U14 Open — Puran Madhav (6/7, Rank 3) and Adams Chezhaan Ethan (6/7, Rank 5). Both joint-second-tier RSA. Pairing risk: one or both may be paired up against the leaders. Convert against rated opposition.
- U10 Open — Three RSA on 6/7 (Radha, Arries, Viriah on 5.5). Internal pairing risk is real given the depth. Section is wide open — top 3 still attainable.
- U10 Girls — Ramonyaluoe (6/7, Rank 3) and Morgan (5.5/7, Rank 7). Ramonyaluoe will likely be paired against a 5.5 or 6 opponent — top-board game.
- U08 Girls — Mlaba (6/7, Rank 3). Top RSA medal candidate in U08G. The other three RSA players in the section dropped Round 7 results, so Mlaba is now carrying the section.
- U14 Girls — Hagen Gina Sophia (6/7, Rank 4). One win and good tiebreaks puts her on the podium.
- U16 Open — Salimu (5.5/7) plus four RSA tightly packed on 5/7 (Dharampall, Combrink, Dikane, Van Meersbergen). Internal pairings possible; section is wide.
- U16 Girls — Dikolomela (5/7, Rank 6) carries the section after Round 7 upset. Naidoo Dhiya also on 5/7. Both need a Round 8 win.

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