CHESS SA

ROUND 9 — FINAL REPORT

Thursday, 21 May 2026 • Tournament Conclusion

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

🥉 **BRONZE MEDAL**

Khethelo Mlaba

U08 Girls • **7 / 9 points** • Section Rank 3

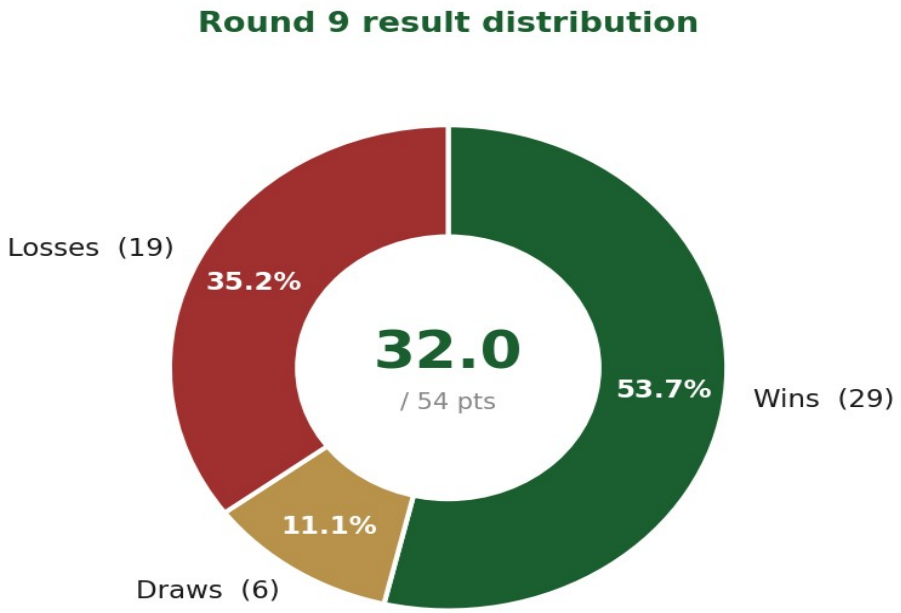
Final-round Black-side win • Continental podium finish at the 17th African Youth Chess Championships

The 17th African Youth Chess Championships concluded today in Entebbe. South Africa fielded 54 players across 12 sections and finished with one continental podium medal: Khethelo Mlaba's bronze in U08 Girls. Six further RSA players finished in the top 5 of their sections (one rank shy of the podium), and 25 of 54 — nearly half the delegation — finished inside the top 10 of their respective fields. Round 9 itself was a strong final shift: 29 wins, 6 draws, 19 losses for a 59.3% round score, recovering from Round 8's 49.1% low. U16 Open posted the cleanest section recovery, going 5W-1D-1L after Round 8's collapse. U12 Open delivered the best final-round record (4W-1D-0L). Final cumulative score: 326 of 485 player-game points (67.2%) across the seven-day event.

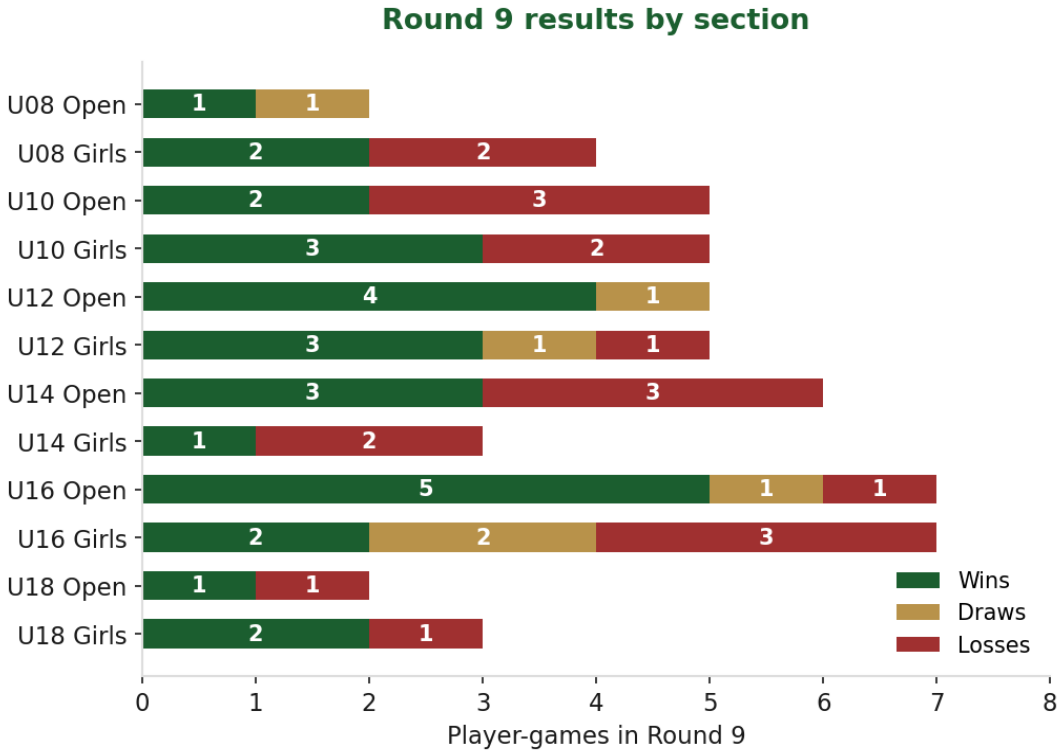
ROUND 9 RESULT — FINAL ROUND

WINS	DRAWS	LOSSES	POINTS
29	6	19	32 / 54

ROUND 9 AT A GLANCE



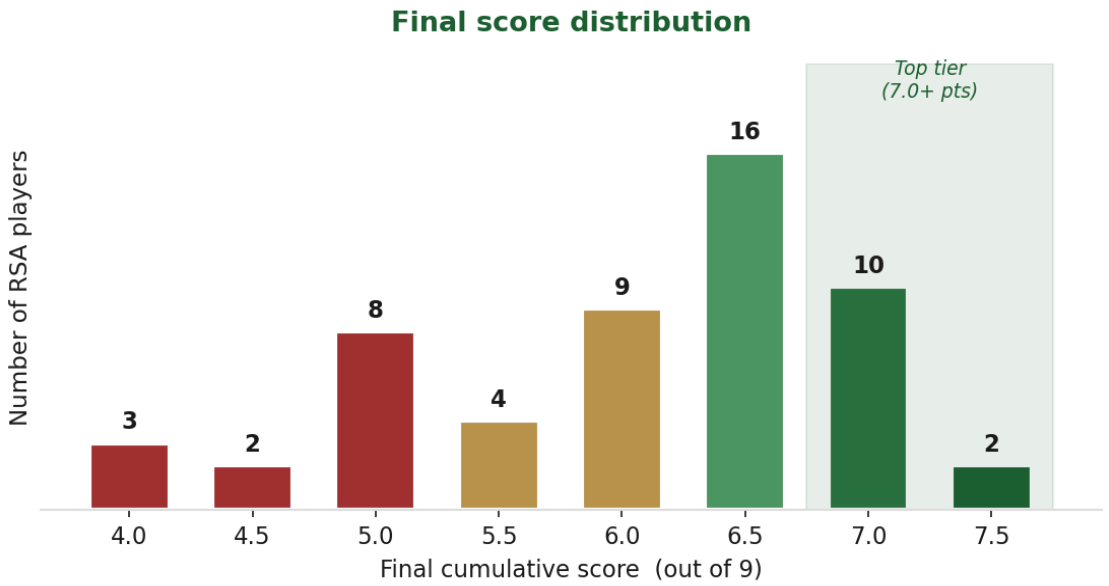
32 of 54 player-game points — 59.3% score, the strongest finishing round since Round 7.



U16 Open delivered the round's biggest single-section haul: 5W / 1D / 1L. U12 Open went unbeaten (4W / 1D / 0L).

FINAL SCORE DISTRIBUTION — ALL RSA PLAYERS

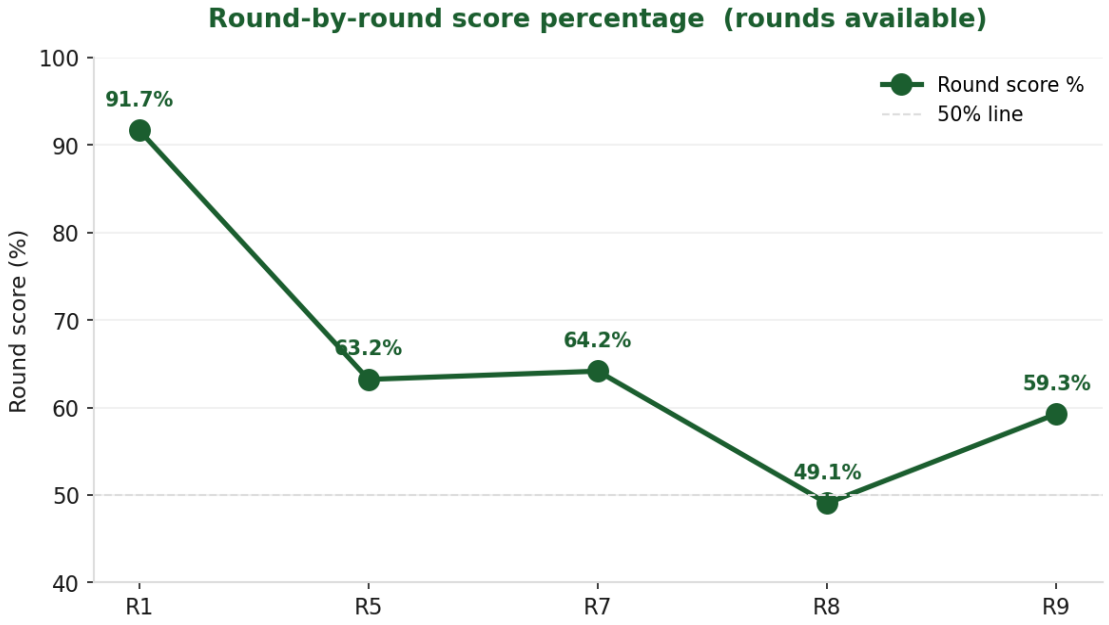
Two RSA players finished on 7.5 / 9 (Resnekov and Brits in U12 Open). Ten players finished on 7.0 (including Mlaba), 16 on 6.5, and 9 on 6.0. The top tier (7.0+) contains 12 players — 22% of the delegation. This is RSA's deepest finishing distribution at an AYCC in recent years.



Final cumulative score distribution across the 54-player delegation.

TOURNAMENT JOURNEY — ROUND-BY-ROUND SCORE PERCENTAGE

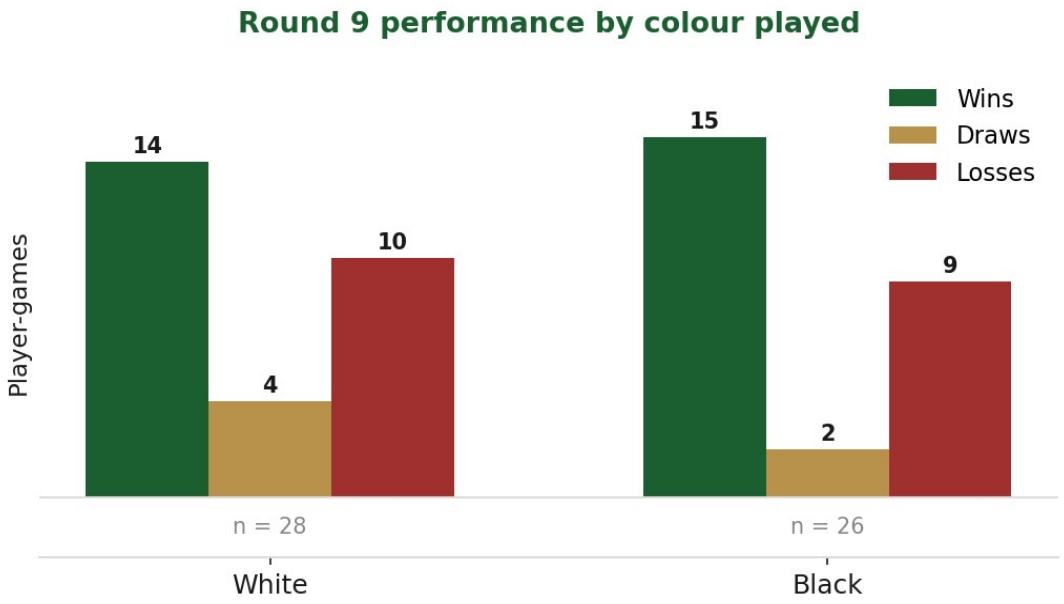
Round-by-round percentage score across the rounds we tracked in detail. Round 1 was the strongest opening (49 wins from 54 first-round games). The delegation held in the high 60s through Rounds 5–7, dipped to 49% in Round 8 as the rated field tightened, then closed at 59% in the final round.



Round-by-round percentage score for rounds tracked in detail (R1, R5, R7, R8, R9).

ROUND 9 — PERFORMANCE BY COLOUR PLAYED

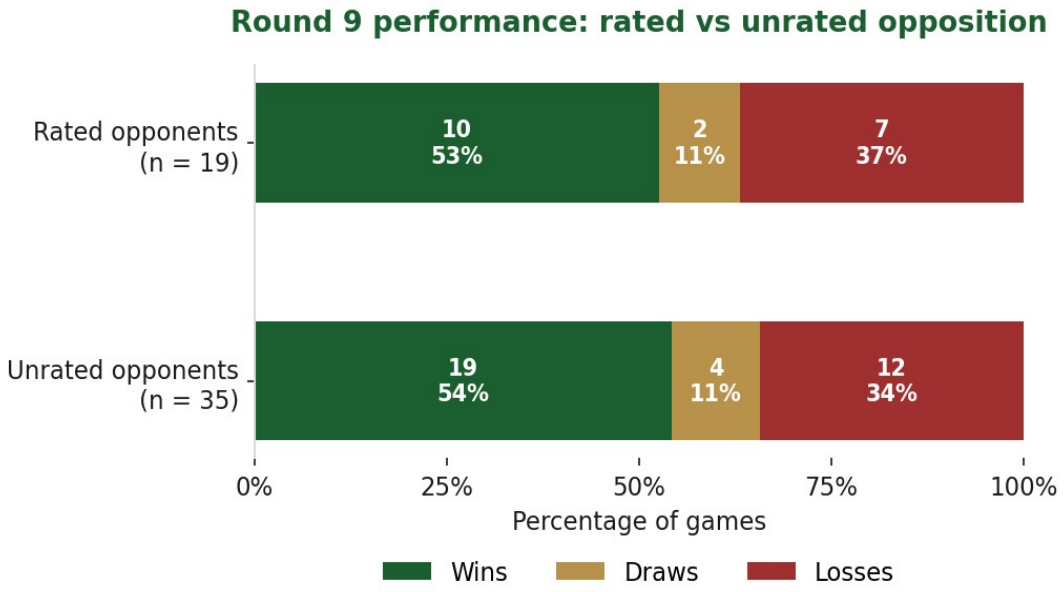
Black slightly outperformed White in the final round, reversing the Round 7 pattern. As Black: 15W / 2D / 9L (57.7%). As White: 14W / 4D / 10L (50.0%). Across the rounds we tracked, RSA's aggregate colour split was White 55W / 17D / 30L vs Black 59W / 25D / 35L — RSA played Black slightly more often than White overall, an artefact of how Swiss pairings broke at the top boards.



Black: 15W / 2D / 9L (57.7%). White: 14W / 4D / 10L (50.0%).

ROUND 9 — OPPOSITION QUALITY

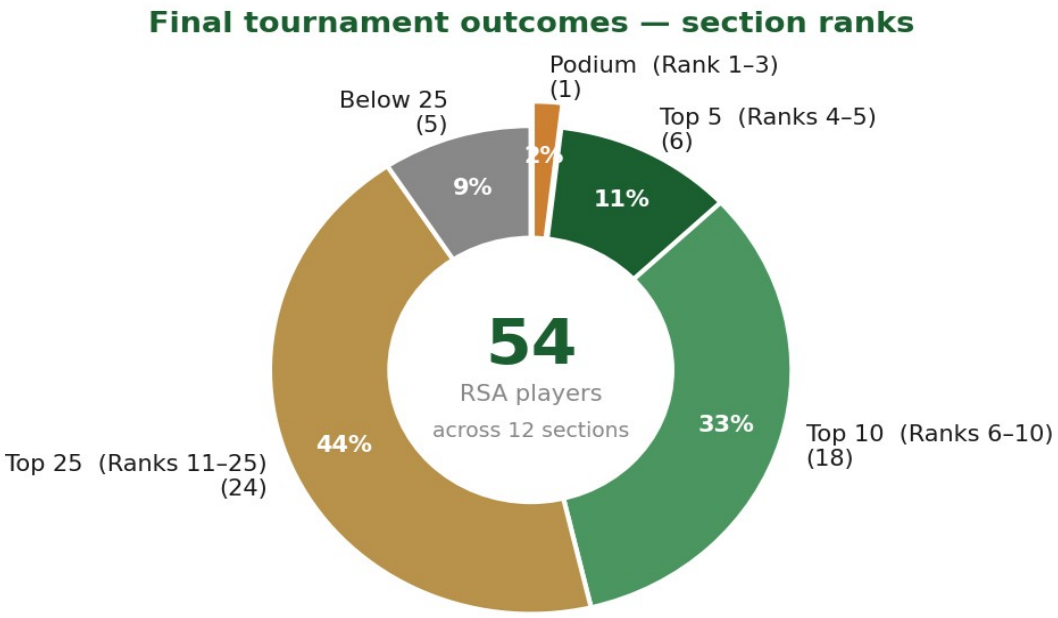
Round 9 paired RSA against unrated opposition 35 times — the most all tournament — with 19W / 4D / 12L (60%). Against rated opposition (19 games), 10W / 2D / 7L (58%). Roughly equal scoring against both pools, a strong sign of consistency.



Round 9: 10W / 2D / 7L against rated; 19W / 4D / 12L against unrated.

FINAL TOURNAMENT OUTCOMES

Across the 12 sections, RSA delivered one podium medal, six additional top-5 finishes, and 18 further top-10 finishes. Nearly half the delegation finished in the top 10 of their respective sections.



Distribution of final section ranks across the 54-player delegation.

GAME OF THE ROUND — ROUND 9

Chezhaan Ethan Adams (RSA, 1664) vs **Apollo Ahumuza** (UGA, 1903)

U14 Open • Colour: Black • Result: 1–0 (Adams) • Rating differential: 239 points

Adams came into the final round on 6/8 in U14 Open after losing the Round 8 RSA derby to Puran. Paired up against a +239-rated Ugandan opponent as Black, he converted the upset to finish on 7/9 — the largest verified rating-differential upset by an RSA player in Round 9, and the second-largest of the tournament behind Salimu's +356 win earlier in this round.

TOP 10 SECTION FINISHES — ALL RSA PLAYERS WHO PLACED INSIDE RANK 10

Player	Section	Final score	Section rank
Mlaba, Khethelo	U08 Girls	7 / 9	3 🥉
Hagen, Gina Sophia	U14 Girls	7 / 9	4
Naidoo, Nadeema	U08 Girls	6.5 / 9	5
Conradie, Minka	U10 Girls	7 / 9	5
Resnekov, Oliver	U12 Open	7.5 / 9	5
Puran, Madhav	U14 Open	7 / 9	5
Maharaj, Aditi	U14 Girls	7 / 9	5
Morgan, Raegan	U10 Girls	7 / 9	6
Brits, Etienne	U12 Open	7.5 / 9	6
Nel, Kayla	U16 Girls	6.5 / 9	6
Monchosi, Atlegang	U18 Girls	5 / 9	6

Player	Section	Final score	Section rank
Radha, Yugesh	U10 Open	7 / 9	7
Dharampall, Viraak	U16 Open	6.5 / 9	7
Maharaj, Arya	U16 Girls	6.5 / 9	7
Levitan, Judah Nathan (FM)	U18 Open	5.5 / 9	7
Segal, Jamie Dylan	U14 Open	7 / 9	8
Van Meersbergen, Ettienne (AFM)	U16 Open	6.5 / 9	8
Naidoo, Dhiya	U16 Girls	6 / 9	8
Mojaki, Tshegofatso	U18 Girls	5 / 9	8
Akemdien, Alex	U10 Open	7 / 9	9
Salimu, Chase	U16 Open	6.5 / 9	9
Conradie, David	U08 Open	6 / 9	10
Kapp, Amelie	U10 Girls	6.5 / 9	10
Singh, Shaurya	U14 Open	6.5 / 9	10
Combrink, Juan-Louis	U16 Open	6.5 / 9	10

FINAL STANDINGS — BEST RSA FINISHER PER SECTION

Section	Top RSA finisher	Score	Section rank	Players
U08 Open	Conradie, David	6 / 9	Rank 10	2 RSA
U08 Girls	Mlaba, Khethelo	7 / 9	🥉 BRONZE	4 RSA
U10 Open	Radha, Yugesh	7 / 9	Rank 7	5 RSA
U10 Girls	Conradie, Minka	7 / 9	Rank 5	5 RSA
U12 Open	Resnekov, Oliver	7.5 / 9	Rank 5	5 RSA
U12 Girls	Temmers, Isabella	6 / 9	Rank 13	5 RSA
U14 Open	Puran, Madhav	7 / 9	Rank 5	6 RSA
U14 Girls	Hagen, Gina Sophia	7 / 9	Rank 4	3 RSA
U16 Open	Dharampall, Viraak	6.5 / 9	Rank 7	7 RSA
U16 Girls	Nel, Kayla	6.5 / 9	Rank 6	7 RSA
U18 Open	Levitan, Judah Nathan (FM)	5.5 / 9	Rank 7	2 RSA
U18 Girls	Monchosi, Atlegang	5 / 9	Rank 6	3 RSA

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES — ROUND 9

- U16 Open section recovery. After Round 8's collapse (1W/2D/4L), the section posted 5 wins and 1 draw in Round 9. Salimu beat ZAM 1668 as Black (+356-pt advantage), Combrink beat AFM Mwanje (UGA 1630) as Black, Dharampall, Dikane, Murray all won.
- U12 Open went 4W-1D-0L. Resnekov's +125 upset on White vs EGY 1719 is the headline. Brits, Thorulsley and Klopper Ben all won; Stern drew.
- U10 Girls medal-chasers. Conradie Minka and Morgan Raegan both won to finish at Rank 5 and Rank 6 respectively (both 7/9).
- Levitan returns. FM Levitan beat KEN 1850 as Black to finish 5.5/9 at Rank 7 in U18 Open after a difficult middle tournament.
- U18 Girls double recovery. Both Monchosi and Mojaki won as Black in the final round to finish on 5/9 at Rank 6 and Rank 8 respectively.

NEAR MISSES — PODIUM POSITIONS HELD ENTERING ROUND 9

Two RSA players entered Round 9 in podium positions and dropped final-round games against higher-rated opposition. Both are acknowledged here for the broader achievement of holding those positions through eight rounds of African continental competition.

- Madhav Puran (U14 Open). Entered Round 9 at Rank 2 on 7/8. Lost the final round as Black to UGA 1710. Final finish: 7/9, Rank 5.
- Gina Sophia Hagen (U14 Girls). Entered Round 9 at Rank 3 on 7/8 — the podium chair. Lost as White to MAD 1716. Final finish: 7/9, Rank 4 — one position outside bronze.
- Shaurya Singh (U14 Open). Held Rank 1 in his section after Round 7. Final finish: 6.5/9, Rank 10.

SECTION-BY-SECTION FINAL SUMMARY

U08 Open. Conradie David won final round to finish 6/9 at Rank 10. Klopper Liam drew to finish 4.5/9.

U08 Girls. BRONZE for Mlaba Khethelo (7/9, Rank 3). Naidoo Nadeema also finished in the top 5 (Rank 5, 6.5/9). Strongest section outcome for RSA at this tournament.

U10 Open. Five RSA players, two in the top 10. Radha Rank 7, Akemdien Rank 9.

U10 Girls. Three wins in Round 9 finished the section strongly. Conradie Minka Rank 5, Morgan Rank 6, Kapp Rank 10. Strongest section depth in the top 10.

U12 Open. Best Round 9 record (4W / 1D / 0L). Resnekov and Brits both at 7.5/9 — highest joint section scores. Resnekov Rank 5, Brits Rank 6.

U12 Girls. Three wins in Round 9. Best RSA finish: Temmers Rank 13 at 6/9 — section was tough overall.

U14 Open. Held Rank 1 (Singh, after R7) and Rank 2 (Puran, after R8). Final-round losses moved both off the podium. Adams' +239 upset is the round's Game of the Round. Puran Rank 5 at 7/9.

U14 Girls. Hagen at Rank 4 (7/9) — one position outside bronze, the closest RSA came to a second medal. Maharaj Aditi also in top 5 (Rank 5, 7/9).

U16 Open. Section recovery round. Five Round 9 wins lifted Dharampall, Van Meersbergen, Salimu, Combrink and Dikane all into the top 13.

U16 Girls. Three RSA in the top 10 of section. Nel Rank 6, Maharaj Arya Rank 7, Naidoo Dhiya Rank 8.

U18 Open. FM Levitan finishes at Rank 7 (5.5/9) with a final-round win as Black. Difotso 4/9.

U18 Girls. Monchosi Rank 6 (5/9), Mojaki Rank 8 (5/9) — both won final round. Meeran 4/9.

FIDE TITLE RECOGNITION

Per FIDE AYCC regulations, podium finishes in the older age categories carry direct FIDE title awards (subject to FIDE confirmation per the current Handbook). Title awards typically apply from U14 upward; U10 and U08 podium positions are recognised as continental medals without an automatic FIDE title.

- Khethelo Mlaba — Bronze, U08 Girls — continental bronze recognition. Confirmation of any title implication subject to current FIDE rules for the U08 age category.

TOURNAMENT SUMMARY

54 South African players. 12 age sections. Nine rounds of continental chess. One podium medal, six top-5 finishes, 25 top-10 finishes — from a delegation that competed across the full strength field of African youth chess.

A separate operational report will follow on logistics, coaching observations, and rating-change summaries once final FIDE-rated change tables are published.

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