

TOURNAMENT DETAILS

Date	Saturday 31 January 2026
Time	09h00 – 16h30
Venue	Swartberg Primary School
Tournament Director	Carlton van Wyk (carlton7555@gmail.com)
Chief Arbiter	Ethan Higham (ethan@chessworks.co.za)
Registration Link	https://chessworks.co.za/tournament/overberg-schools-open-championship-2026

FORMAT

Format	Individual Swiss
Rounds	6
Time Control	25/25 + 5sipm [Rapid]
Playing Schedule	Round 1 starts at 09h00
Rules	Latest FIDE rules will apply [Article A.5 will apply]

SECTIONS

Sections	Criteria	Rated	Entry Fee
U7	Born 2019 or later	Chess SA	R80 per player
U9	Born 2017 – 2018		
U11	Born 2015 – 2016		
U13	Born 2013 – 2014		
U15	Born 2011 – 2012		
U17	Born 2009 – 2010		
U19	Born 2007 – 2008		
Open	Born 2006 or earlier		

PRIZE BREAKDOWN

Medals for Top 3 and Best Female in all sections. Trophy for 1st place in all sections.
Please refer to [Prizes](#) regulations for more information.

PLAYING SCHEDULE

Round	Time
Round 1	09h00 – 10h00
Round 2	10h10 – 11h10
Round 3	11h20 – 12h20
Lunch Break	12h20 – 12h50
Round 4	13h00 – 14h00
Round 5	14h10 – 15h10
Round 6	15h20 – 16h20
<i>Rounds may be accelerated. The above times are subject to change</i>	

VENUE

Swartberg Primary, Caledon -> [Google Maps](#)

A tuckshop will be available at the venue.

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

1. Registration

- 1.1. Right of admission is reserved.
- 1.2. Players/Schools must complete their registration through the official [online registration link](#) provided. Registrations will close on **Thursday, 29 January at 12pm**. No late entries will be accepted beyond this deadline. Players/Schools are encouraged to register early to secure their participation.
- 1.3. By completing the registration, the parent, guardian, player or teacher acknowledges and agrees to the conditions of the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA). Furthermore, consent is given for photographs and videos to be taken during the event. These may be used for promotional purposes, including but not limited to posting on social media platforms. Should any concerns arise regarding this, participants must notify the organizers in advance.

2. Sections & Criteria

- 2.1. The Chief Arbiter or Tournament Director reserves the right to move players to a different section based on their discretion.
- 2.2. Players may "play up" into a higher section.

3. Prizes

- 3.1. Prizes will be awarded strictly based on the final standings determined by the tie-break system. There will be no splitting of prizes among participants.
- 3.2. Players can win more than one prize.

4. Tie-breaks

- 4.1. In the event of a tie for any position, the final rankings will be determined by applying the following tie-break criteria, in the order listed below:
 - 4.1.1. Direct Encounter
 - 4.1.2. Buchholz Cut-1
 - 4.1.3. Buchholz
 - 4.1.4. Sonneborn-Berger
 - 4.1.5. Average Rating of Opponents

5. Default Time

- 5.1. There will be no default time for all rounds. If a player is not present at their board they will lose all the time on their clock until their flag falls.
- 5.2. If both players are do not arrive at a board they will both be defaulted.

6. Electronic Devices

- 6.1. All electronic devices (smartphones, smart watches, smart rings etc.) must be switched off when brought into the playing area. Any player who is found to have such a device in his/her possession which is not switched off will immediately be forfeited.
- 6.1.1. **Exceptions:** In cases where a player has a specific medical condition, which has been declared to and accepted by the Tournament Director and Chief Arbiter.

7. Appeals

- 7.1. A player wishing to appeal against a ruling made by an arbiter, must do so immediately after the game has ended and before the pairings for the next round have been published. Appeals must be lodged with the tournament director in writing, accompanied by a R500 fee which will be refunded in the event the appeal is successful.

8. Withdrawals

- 8.1. Players withdrawing from the event will forfeit their entry fees. Players wishing to withdraw must inform the Chief Arbiter before the first round's pairings are published. If a player withdraws during the event, rating penalties will be applied as per Chess SA Rating Regulations if no valid and acceptable reason(s) are provided by the player.

9. Player Conduct

- 9.1. Any person (Arbiter, Official, Non-Official, Player or Spectator) found to be under the influence of alcohol, drugs or any other illegal substance will automatically forfeit and immediately be removed from the tournament premises
- 9.2. Scholars are encouraged to wear their school uniforms.

10. Communication

10.1. It is highly advisable that all players, parents and teachers join the Overberg Chess Events WhatsApp group to receive updates and communication regarding the event. Pairings will be published to [Chess-Results](#) as well as the WhatsApp group on the day of the tournament.

Link to WhatsApp group:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/ELlmnYVzm8hFRBf2yYZlTR>



The organizers reserve the right to change any aspect of the tournament including but not limited to the venue, sections, format, time control, dates, number of players and prize funds. Any changes will be communicated to players through the tournament WhatsApp group and to the email addresses provided by players upon registration.