



WESTERN CAPE WOMEN'S CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

HOSTED BY WEST COAST CHESS UNION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



7 – 10 August 2026

Club Mykonos – Athene Hall

REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://chessworks.co.za/tournament/western-cape-womens-championship-2026>

Elite & Advanced WA Group		Intermediate WA Group		Junior WA Group	REGISTER ONLINE 
SECTIONS	FORMAT	LOC	SCHEDULE	PRIZE FUND	REGULATIONS

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SECTIONS

SECTION	ENTRY CRITERIA	ENTRY FEE	RATED
Elite Section (Females Only)	FIDE / CHESS SA Rating 1300+	R400	CHESS SA & FIDE Rated
Advanced	FIDE / CHESS SA Rating 1600 & above		
Intermediate	FIDE / CHESS SA Rating below 1600	R300	
Junior U14	Born 2013 – 2014	R200	
Junior U12	Born 2015 – 2016		
Junior U10	Born 2017 – 2018		
Junior U8	Born 2019 or later		

FORMAT

SECTION	FORMAT	TIME CONTROL
Elite & Advanced	6 Round Individual Swiss	90/90 + 30sipm
Intermediate	5 Round Individual Swiss	55/55 + 5sipm
Development Juniors (U14, U12, U10, U8)	5 Round Individual Swiss	55/55 + 5sipm

LOC CONTACT DETAILS

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR	REGISTRATION OFFICER	CHIEF ARBITER
Natasha Opperman (C) 082 953 5617	Ethan Higham ethan@chessworks.co.za	IA Ricardo Minnaar (C) 081 546 2221

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TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	SECTIONS					
	ELITE & ADVANCED		JUNIOR		INTERMEDIATE	
Friday 7 August	18h45	Players seated				
	19h00	Round 1				
Saturday 8 August	08h45	Players seated	08h45	Players seated		
	09h00	Round 2	09h00	Round 1		
	14h00	Round 3				
Sunday 9 August	08h45	Players seated			08h45	Players seated
	09h00	Round 4			09h00	Round 1
	14h00	Round 5			11h30	Round 2
					14h00	Round 3
Monday 10 August	08h45	Players seated			08h45	Players seated
	09h00	Round 6			09h00	Round 4
					11h30	Round 5
	14h00	Prize Giving			14h00	Prize Giving
All rounds in the Junior section will be accelerated. Prize giving ceremony for Juniors & Intermediate events will take place immediately after the last round has concluded.						

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PRIZE FUND

POSITION	ELITE	ADVANCED	INTERMEDIATE	JUNIOR
1 st Place	R10 000	R6 000	R3 000	Winners Trophy Medals – Top 5 <i>No cash prizes</i>
2 nd Place	R8 000	R4 000	R2 000	
3 rd Place	R6 000	R3 000	R1 500	
4 th Place	R2 000	R1 000	-	
5 th Place	R2 000	R1 000		
Best Female	-	R500	R400	
Best Senior (50+)	R700	R500	R400	
Best Junior (Under 20)	R700	R500	R400	
Best player with Physical Disability	R700	R500	R400	
Club Mykonos Queen	R700	R500	-	
Club Mykonos King	-	R500		

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TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

1. RULES

- 1.1. The latest [FIDE Laws of Chess](#) will apply for the event (Jan 2026)
- 1.2. Players with Disabilities (**PWD**)
 - a. Criteria: Legally disabled players
 - b. There is no dedicated section for PWDs. They will compete in their appropriate sections according to the section criteria stated above.
 - c. PWDs must indicate their status on the registration form when signing up on the ChessWorks platform so that they can be correctly categorised and considered eligible for prize money.

2. REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

- 2.1. Registration for the tournament must be made online.
 - 2.1.1. Tournament registration link: <https://chessworks.co.za/tournament/western-cape-womens-championship-2026>
- 2.2. The closing date for registrations and payment is **Sunday, 2 Aug 2026 at 21h00**. Late entries will be subject to an additional late entry fee of R200 and will be allowed up to 24 hours before the scheduled start time for the first round of the relevant section.
- 2.3. All registrations will be done via Chessworks.
- 2.4. **NO REFUNDS**

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. Players and parents are highly encouraged to join the relevant WhatsApp groups to receive info regarding the event:
 - 3.1.1. Elite & Advanced Sections  [JOIN HERE](#)
 - 3.1.2. Junior Sections  [JOIN HERE](#)
 - 3.1.3. Intermediate Section  [JOIN HERE](#)

4. VENUE

- 4.1. The tournament will be hosted at Club Mykonos, Athene Hall.
- 4.2. Venue Map - <https://bit.ly/3SCdGBi>
- 4.3. There is limited capacity for only 200 players.
- 4.4. Club Mykonos offering:
 - 4.4.1. Limited accommodation at discounted price for chess players and their families.
 - 4.4.2. Refreshments at discounted prices.
 - 4.4.3. Offering mystery prizes to randomly selected players.

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5. SECTIONS

5.1. The event will consist of the following tournaments:

- 5.1.1. Elite Section – Only female players with a FIDE or Chess SA rating 1300+
- 5.1.2. Advanced Section – Open to all players with a FIDE or Chess SA rating 1600+
- 5.1.3. Intermediate Section – Open to all players with a FIDE or Chess SA rating below 1600
- 5.1.4. Junior U14 – Players born 2013 – 2014
- 5.1.5. Junior U12 – Players born 2015 – 2016
- 5.1.6. Junior U10 – Players born 2017 - 2018
- 5.1.7. Junior U8 Section - Players born 2019 or later

5.2. All sections will be Chess SA and FIDE rated.

5.3. Players that wish to “play-up” into a higher section must make submission to the LOC.

5.4. For all sections, the highest between a player’s Chess SA Main rating and FIDE Standard rating must be used when determining eligibility.

6. TIE-BREAKS

6.1. The following tie-break systems, in the order given below, will be used to rank the players (who finish the tournament on the same scores) to determine the final standings:

- 6.1.1. Direct Encounter
- 6.1.2. Buchholz Cut-1
- 6.1.3. Buchholz
- 6.1.4. Sonneborn-Berger
- 6.1.5. Average rating of opponents

7. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

7.1. All electronic equipment (e.g. mobile phones, tablets, smart watches, etc. but excluding those items used exclusively for the running of the Event) must be switched off when brought into the playing hall. Any player who is found to have such a device in his/her possession which is not switched off will immediately be forfeited (loss of game).

8. DEFAULT TIME

8.1. **Default time:**

- 8.1.1. Elite & Advanced: 30 minutes
- 8.1.2. Juniors: 15 minutes
- 8.1.3. Intermediate: 15 minutes

8.2. Any player who arrives after the default time has elapsed will forfeit the game unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise

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9. APPEALS

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 has been published. Appeals must be lodged with the tournament director, accompanied by a fee of R500 (which will be returned if the appeal is successful)

10. PRIZES

- 10.1. Each individual section winner will be presented with a trophy.
- 10.2. Prizes will not be split and will be awarded to the highest ranked player based on the tie-breaks.
- 10.3. Prizes will be paid in by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) within 72 hours after the conclusion of the event.
- 10.4. No player may win more than one individual prize. A player will receive the prize with the highest value.

11. WITHDRAWAL/CANCELLATION

- 11.1. Players withdrawing from the event will forfeit their entry fees.
- 11.2. Should a player withdraw during the event [without informing the TD/CA], rating penalties will be applied as per Chess SA Rating Regulations if no valid and acceptable reason(s) are provided by the player.

12. DRESS CODE

Players must always be dressed neatly and look presentable. Dress code is formal or smart casual.

13. PHOTOGRAPHS & VIDEOS

Photographs and videos will be taken during the event and during the award ceremony. All players are deemed to allow publication of photographs of them taken at the event by the organisers for publicity purposes unless they inform the organisers otherwise.

West Coast Chess Union reserves 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 groups and to the email addresses provided by players upon registration.
