EMALAHLENI

SPRING CHESS OPEN

FIDE AND CHESSA RATED

Emalahleni CHESS Academy
Move in silence only speak when it's time to **Checkmate**

R55 000 prize fund

19-20 September 2026
Emalahleni
Witbank High School

Call or WhatsApp:
Eddie 0715814519
Fortune: 0825201800

Emalahleni Chess Academy FNB
Business Account
Acc. Number 62895239533
Branch Code 210835
Ref: player's name and surname

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Tournament Details

Date	19 – 20 September 2026
Venue	Witbank High School
Organisers	Eddie (071 581 4519) | Fortune (082 520 1800)
Chief Arbiter	Eddie Bhila
Registration Link	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfnTDbONYa6k_lmWU6_uv_FOUyCuBU0DImkU4E2S2Wvm_WMwg/viewform
Rules	Latest FIDE rules will apply

Sections

Section	Criteria	Rated	Rounds	Time Control	Entry Fee
Section A	Rating 1600 – 1999	Chess SA & FIDE	**6**	**60/60 + 10sipm**	**R500**
Section B	Rating 1300 – 1599				**R400**
Section C	Rating 0 – 1299				**R300**
U13	Born 2013 or later		**5**	**60/60 + 2sipm**	**R100**
U9	Born 2017 or later				

Prize Breakdown

Section	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Best Junior	Best Girl
A	R10 000	R7 500	R5 000	R3 000	R2 000	R1 000	-
B	R5 000	R3 500	R2 000	R1 000	R500	R500	-
C	R3 000	R2 000	R1 500	R1 000	R500	R500	-
U13	R1 000	R750	R500	R350	R200	-	R200
U9	R1 000	R750	R500	R350	R200	-	R200

Playing Schedule

Date	Time	A, B & C	U13 & U9
Saturday 19 September	07h00 – 07h30	Registration Confirmation	
	07h30	Opening Ceremony	
	08h00	Round 1	Round 1
	11h00	Round 2	All subsequent rounds of the age groups will be played on Saturday at rate of play. Prize giving will follow after round 5.
	14h00	Round 3	
Sunday 20 September	08h00	Round 4	-
	11h00	Round 5	
	14h00	Round 6	
	17h00	Prize Giving	

Playing Venue

The Venue of the Emalahleni Chess Academy's Spring Open will be at Mpumalanga, Witbank High School. GPS location link will be added on chess-results.com

https://share.google/zGTWIGaVWvTkYYU2B

Tournament Regulations

1. CONSENT

1.1 The player/parent/guardian gives consent for the player's name, surname, gender, date of birth, Chess SA ID and or FIDE ID to be submitted to the rating agencies (Chess SA and/or FIDE) for the purposes of rating the tournament and the rating agencies displaying it on their respective websites.

1.2 The player/parent/guardian gives consent for the publication of the player's details name, surname, gender, date of birth, Chess SA ID and/ or FIDE ID on the website **chess-results.com** for the purpose of tournament pairings and administration.

1.3 The above processing of information is required for the running of this event. Should consent for either of the above be refused, the player will not be able to participate in this event.

1.4 The player/parent/guardian gives consent for photo's and/or videos to be taken of the players during the tournament and to be published on social media pages and/or the internet. Should consent not be given, please notify the organisers before the tournament so that the event photographers can be notified.

2. REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

2.1 Right of admission is reserved

2.2 Players must register using the official registration link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfnTDbONYa6k_lmWU6_uv_FOUyCuBU0DImkU4E2S2Wvm_WMwg/viewform

2.3 To secure your spot, please make your deposit to the official academy account:

Banking Details	
Bank: First National Bank (FNB) **Account Name:** Emalahleni Chess Academy **Account Type:** Business Account **Account Number:** 62895239533 **Branch Code:** 210835	Email your proof of payment to **eddiebhila@gmail.com** ***Reference:*** *Player's initial + surname + section* *e.g.) Z Roets U13*

2.4 The deadline for all registrations is **Saturday, 12 September** at 23h59.

2.4.1 Late entries will incur an additional penalty of R50 for all sections.

2.4.2 Late entries will be allowed until **Wednesday, 16 September** at 23h59. No further entries will be allowed beyond this deadline.

3. SECTIONS & CRITERIA

3.1 The Chief Arbiter or Tournament Director reserves the right to move players to a different section based on their discretion.

3.2 Eligibility for a section will be determined using a player's Chess SA (Main) rating or their FIDE (Standard) rating.

3.2.1 Players must use the higher of the two ratings to determine their eligibility for a specific section

4. PRIZES

4.1 Prize money will be awarded strictly based on the final standings determined by the tie-break system. There will be no splitting of prize funds among participants.

4.2 Players cannot win more than one prize. Players will receive the prize with the greatest monetary value.

4.3 Prize money will be transferred immediately on the day.

5. TIE-BREAKS

5.1 In the event of a tie for any position, the final rankings will be determined by applying the following tiebreak criteria, in the order listed below:

5.1.1 Direct Encounter

5.1.2 Buchholz

5.1.3 Buchholz Cut-1

5.1.4 Sonneborn-Berger

5.1.5 Number of Victories

6. DEFAULT TIME

6.1 There will be a default time of 30 minutes for all rounds. Players who are defaulted will be removed from the subsequent pairings unless they communicate with the Chief Arbiter.

7. DRAW AGREEMENTS

7.1 No draw agreements are permitted before move 30. If violated, the result of the game will be 0–0.

8. FAIR PLAY

8.1 The tournament is conducted in accordance with the FIDE Laws of Chess.

8.2 Fair Play regulations will be strictly enforced throughout the event.

8.3 All players must arrive at least 1 hour before the scheduled start of their round to allow for Fair Play checks.

8.4 Players may be subjected to random Fair Play checks at any time during the event.

8.5 Dress code: Smart casual. Hoodies are not permitted.

8.6 Rowdy/intoxicated players may be expelled.

8.7 Alcohol/drugs are strictly prohibited.

8.8 Smoking is only allowed in designated areas.

9. APPEALS

9.1 Appeals must be submitted in writing within 30 minutes of the end of the game concerned.

9.2 An appeals fee of R300 is applicable to all appeals. The fee will be refunded for successful appeals.

9.3 The Appeals Committee's decision is final and binding.

10. WITHDRAWALS & REFUNDS

10.1 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.

10.2 Players withdrawing from the event will forfeit their entry fee (no refunds).

11. COMMUNICATION

11.1 It is highly advisable that all players (and parents of junior players) join the 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/BvTDxiEuFegAVOjQn4dNXq?s=cl&p=a&ilr=0&amv=3

12. PLAYER CONDUCT

12.1 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

13. DISCLAIMER

13.1 The organisers 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.