



Chess South Africa Arbiters and Organisers Commission



Date: 10 July 2026

Subject: Introduction of the Chess South Africa Arbiters and Organisers Commission (AOC)

Dear Chess South Africa Arbiters and Organisers,

The members of the Chess South Africa Arbiters and Organisers Commission (AOC) are honoured to introduce ourselves following our appointment in accordance with the Constitution of Chess South Africa. Our appointment was ratified by Chess SA Executive Board on 23 June 2026.

The Commission has been constituted to serve the interests of the arbiter and organiser community by promoting professionalism, consistency, development, and excellence in the administration of chess tournaments throughout South Africa. We recognise the vital role that every arbiter and organiser plays in ensuring the integrity, fairness, and continued growth of our game.

The members of the Arbiters and Organisers Commission are:

- Chairperson: Karen Taljaard
- Secretary: Rishi Budhram
- Treasurer: Maria Smit
- Member: Michael Bornheim
- Member: Ben De Winnaar
- Member: Ricardo Minnaar
- Member: Maria Luchies
- Member: Fikile Kumalo
- Member: Ethan Higham

As the Commission begins its term of office, our priorities will include:

- strengthening communication with arbiters and organisers across all provinces;
- promoting high standards of tournament administration and officiating;
- supporting the education, training, licensing, and continuous professional development of arbiters and organisers;
- ensuring that policies, regulations, and procedures are applied fairly and consistently;
- working collaboratively with provincial affiliates, tournament organisers, and the Chess South Africa Executive Board to enhance the quality and integrity of chess events.

We believe that the success of the Commission depends on active engagement with the arbiter and organiser community. We therefore encourage all arbiters and organisers to share their ideas, concerns, and recommendations as we work together to strengthen chess administration in South Africa.

Committee: *Chairperson – Karen Taljaard *Secretary – Rishi Budhram *Treasurer – Maria Smit
*Other members: Michael Bornheim, Ben De Winnaar, Ricardo Minnaar, Maria Luchies, Fikile Kumalo, Ethan Higham
*Chessa representative: Janine Fourie



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Over the coming weeks, the Commission will communicate further details regarding its strategic objectives, planned activities, training initiatives, licensing matters, and other developments relevant to arbiters and organisers.

We thank you for your continued dedication and service to chess and look forward to working with each of you in the spirit of professionalism, transparency, mutual respect, and cooperation.

Should you wish to contact the Commission, please do so via the Commission's designated email address: secretary@chessa-aoc.co.za

Yours sincerely,

Karen Taljaard

Chairperson

Arbiters and Organisers Commission (AOC)

On behalf of the Members of the Arbiters and Organisers Commission