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INVITATION

2026 KENYA NATIONAL YOUTH & CADETS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

3RD – 7TH April 2026

Under the Aegis of

KIAMBU County Chess Association

Venue

MANG'U HIGH SCHOOL

Chess Kenya Federation (CKF) has the honour to invite the following participants selected during Regional Qualifiers to participate in the Kenya National Youth & Cadets Chess Championships (KNYCCC), 2026 (Under-8, Under-10, Under-12, Under-14, Under-16 & Under-18 for Open & Girls categories) as per Schedule below:

Registration Deadline	Wednesday 1 st April	1800hrs
Arrivals	Friday 3 rd April	All day
Technical Meeting	Saturday 4 th April	0730hrs
Opening Ceremony/Match Past.	Saturday 4 th April	0830hrs
Round 1	Saturday 4 th April	1100hrs
Lunch break	Saturday 4 th April	1400hrs
Round 2	Saturday 4 th April	1500hrs
Round 3	Sunday 5 th April	0800hrs
Round 4	Sunday 5 th April	1120hrs
Lunch break	Sunday 5 th April	1420hrs
Round 5	Sunday 5 th April	1500hrs
Round 6	Monday 6 th April	0730hrs
Round 7	Monday 6 th April	10.45hrs
Lunch break	Monday 6 th April	13.30hrs

Amended on 16th March 2026. This supersedes all previous invitations

Round 8	Monday 6 th April	1400hrs
Prize Award Distribution	Monday 6 th April	1700hrs
Departures	Tuesday 7 th April	All day

1. Eligibility for Participation:

All Kenyan Nationals under the age of 18 years and qualified through regional qualifier 2026. **Players who are Foreign Nationals residents who would like to participate in international events under CKF as Additional Players must participate but will not be eligible to be awarded National Champion Title.**

- (a) All entries should be strictly routed through the respective regional committees approved by CKF. No direct entries shall be entertained in any circumstances. **National champions defending their respective age groups have personal right to enter into national championship**
- (b) Each region will enter players with two (2) points or more shortlisted by CKF after their regional qualifiers in each of the 12 age groups. The player should be a bona-fide student of a school.
- (c) Entitled to participate are players (Boys & Girls) who shall not have reached the age of 8,10,12,14,16,18 before 1st January, 2026.
- (i) Under 08 Born on or after 1st January 2018;
 - (ii) Under 10 Born on or after 1st January 2016;
 - (iii) Under 12 Born on or after 1st January 2014;
 - (iv) Under 14 Born on or after 1st January 2012;
 - (v) Under 16 Born on or after 1st January 2010;
 - (vi) Under 18 Born on or after 1st January 2008;

2. Proof of age

If any doubt arises about the claimed age of a player, the Chief Arbiter has the right to request the player to produce the birth certificate within a specified practical time frame. A player if declared over-age shall be disqualified as a participant and the name will be removed from list published in chess-results. The matter shall be reported to CKF once a decision is made with a copy of the birth certificate as evidence. Protest about the age of players may be made to the Chief Arbiter in writing along with a fee of Kenya Shillings One thousand (Kes 1000/=) per player. This will be refundable if the claim is successful. No Protest about overage of a player will be entertained after the Championships have ended and the claim was not raised through the arbiter in writing before or during the competition.

Only the regional representative, a parent or school patron of the affected participant can lodge such protests. Players refusing to produce copy of birth certificate within practical time frame as decided by the Chief Arbiter shall be deemed to have violated the rule and shall be disqualified from the Championships.

3. Dress Code

Players must wear formal school uniform. Special uniforms, tracksuits, pullovers or T-Shirts with school name/logo will be permitted. Players without proper uniform will not be permitted to take part in the championship. A player will lose on default upon an opponent's claim of a win within the first 5 moves of the match against player not dressed as per regulation, Claim will not be accepted on uniform basis after 5 complete moves of the claiming player. Those who are not in school (Homeschoolers or otherwise) **MUST** write to CKF before deadline of 30th March 2026a to obtain a special T-shirt (Should indicate size) at a cost that will be worn throughout the tournament to avoid losing game by default.

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4. Registration:

- a Registration of all participants and accompanying persons who are CKF members will be done exclusively online through the **CKF website**<https://chesskenya.co.ke> **using their CKF ID. One can register as a non CKF Member and will attract additional cost of Kes 350/=**. Complete registration includes submitting name and payment of registration of Kes1,500/= for players and Kes 500/= (**One-off**) for accompanying persons (Parents, patrons, coaches, etc.) for accreditation and certificates. No accompanying person will be allowed in the school without accreditation for security reasons. **No person will claim certificate of participation if names were not submitted before deadline through the online registration link provided.**
- b Deadline of registration **1st April 2026** at 6.00pm. It will not be extended for planning purposes.
- c The list of all registered participants will be published on chess results at 6.00pm on **2nd April 2026**. All participants are to confirm registration details are correctly captured and their respective playing categories. The exercise of verification will close on 3rd April after which certificates of participation and name tags will be printed based on list on chess results after verification and online data by teachers and coaches.
- d The pairing of round 1 will be published on **3rd April 2026 at 6.00pm**. No further registration will be accepted.

5. Accommodation:

- a. All participant's accommodation will be arranged by Mang'u High School for Boys and Girls at a fee of Kes 800/= full board per day.
- b. The participants who will not stay in the school or opt to arrange for private accommodation will be required to pay a **one-off fee** of Kes 500/= for amenities (Approx. Kes100/= per day). A participant may make alternative accommodation arrangements provided such arrangements have been made and accompanied by the school Patron or a parent. Students are not allowed to seek accommodation on their own without being accompanied by a teacher (with same gender as the participant) or parents.
- c. Accommodation fee will be paid strictly online in the link provided-
<https://chesskenya.co.ke>

6. System of Play:

- i. The Championships will be played under FIDE Laws of Chess and total eight (8) rounds shall be played in each category. In case that one group has less than ten (10) participants then it will be merged with the same age group category.
- ii. Players from the same school shall not be paired against each other in the last round of the championships. However, they may be paired if there is no compatible opponent with the same point group or score group with a maximum difference of one (1) point. It is applicable only for the top 50% score of the penultimate round.
- iii. Default Time: Default time for arriving to the chessboard will be thirty (30) minutes. The chief Arbiter will announce when the default time has elapsed not based on individual clocks.
- iv. Session: The rate of play shall be 90 minutes flat each player from move number one.
- v. Chess Clocks: Each participating region must provide as many chess boards and clocks. In case a game on a top board is finished earlier, the section arbiter will make best estimate of remaining time and pass it to next remaining games without clocks.

7. Play-offs (FIDE Rated)

The top 11 players (Only Kenyan Nationals) in each category will be invited for a round-robin play-off with rate of play 90 minutes flat in venue to be communicated from 10th

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to 13th April 2026. The Winner of each section will be declared a National Champion 2026 of respective category and earn an invited slot for international events.

No registration fee will be charged, however, each participants will cater for their own accommodation, CKF will strive to secure accommodation for rate not more than Kes 800/= per day. CKF will strive to ensure no child who has qualified for the play-off misses because of genuinely not affording to meet accommodation cost.

The schedule will be as follows

Opening Ceremony /Technical Meeting	Friday 10 th April	08.00hrs
Round 1	Friday 10 th April	0830hrs
Round 2	Friday 10 th April	1130hrs
Lunch break	Friday 10 th April	1430hrs
Round 3	Friday 10 th April	1545hrs
Round 4	Saturday 11 th April	0800hrs
Round 5	Saturday 11 th April	1120hrs
Lunch break	Saturday 11 th April	1420hrs
Round 6	Saturday 11 th April	1530hrs
Round 7	Sunday 12 th April	0800hrs
Round 8	Sunday 12 th April	1120hrs
Lunch break	Sunday 12 th April	1420hrs
Round 9	Sunday 12 th April	1530hrs
Round 10	Monday 13 th April	0730hrs
Round 11	Monday 13 th April	1100hrs
Prize Award Distribution	Monday 13 th April	1500hrs
Departures	Monday 13 th April	1400hrs

The final ranking order of the players is determined by the number of points scored. If at the end of the tournament two or more players are tied in points for first place, tie break matches will be organized involving tied up players.

- a. If two players tied up, two games shall be played with time control of ten (10) minutes. If more than two players tie up, a single round robin will be used with time control of ten (10) minutes.
- b. If there is still a tie, two Blitz games shall be played with time control of five (5) minutes.
- c. If there is still a tie, sudden death game will be played with the player with the white pieces receiving five (5) minutes, the player with the black pieces shall receive four (4) minutes. The winner in the sudden death game will be declared the National Champion 2026. In case of a draw the player with black pieces will be declared the National Champion 2026

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- d. If two or more players are tied for other position the tie shall be broken in the following order:
 - a. Direct Encounter points
 - b. Buchholz Cut 1
 - c. Buchholz
 - d. Greater Number of wins with Black Pieces
 - e. Greater Number of Wins

8. Prizes, Medals/Merit Certificates:

Individual prizes

- a. Top three Winner of each of the twelve (12) categories of Kenya National Youth Chess Championships 2026 at will be awarded Trophies, Medals and certificates of Merit. All players will be given certificates of participation. Only players with minimum six (6) points qualify to be considered as Additional Players (Self sponsored player) in international events.
- b. The winners of respective categories in the **Play-offs** in Venue to be decided will be awarded the **National Champion 2026 title** and earn invited slot for international events.
- c. The top 3 in Play-off will be awarded trophies, medals and certificates of merit. They will be sponsored for international events provided CKF secures sponsorship.

9. School Awards

Schools will be awarded based on players who ranked top 20 as per the following criteria: Winner 20 points, runners up 19 points, 2nd runners up 18 points, etc. Position 20 earns 1 point. In case of a tie, the total points scored by all student in the category of will used to break the tie.

- a. Best secondary school (Girls) - Most points scored by members in top 20 of final list
- b. Best secondary school (Boys) - Most points scored by members in top 20 of final list
- c. Best Junior secondary school(Girls) - Most points scored by members in top 20 of final list
- d. Best Junior secondary school (Boys) - Most points scored by members in top 20 of final list
- e. Best primary school (Overall) - Most points scored by members in top 20 of final list
- f.

NB: It is mandatory for all the participants to attend the Opening and Closing Ceremony to collect their respective prizes.

10. Appeals Committee:

Before the commencement of the championships, a 5-member Appeals Committee and two (2) reserves selected will be formed by the CKF. All the members and reserves shall be from different regions and must include two (2) tournament arbiters. No member of the Committee can vote on a dispute in which a player from his own region is involved and in such case(s), the reserves shall take his place in the committee. An arbiter of affected section will not participate in the appeal except as a witness/accused.

The decision of the Appeals Committee is final and binding on players concerned.

11. Protests:

Protests, if any, against the decision of the Chief Arbiter, shall be made in writing with a protest fee of Kes 2000/= within fifteen (15) minutes of the occurrence of the incident. The amount shall be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

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Recording Sheets

Recording of moves is compulsory. The recording sheet is the property of the tournament organizer; a copy will be provided to players. After the completion of the game, the players are to sign both recording sheets and submit them to the arbiter.

Playing Area

- i. Players & spectators can only enter the playing area with the permission of an arbiter. Players can only leave the playing area with the permission of an arbiter, otherwise, they risk being penalized with respect to Article 11 and 12 of the FIDE Laws of Chess.
- ii. Photographing is only allowed first five minutes of the round.
- iii. A player must not hold discussions with other players & spectators, inside or outside the playing hall, if their game is still going on. Players found holding such discussions will be penalized with respect to FIDE Anti -Cheating regulations and Article 12 of the FIDE Laws of Chess.
- iv. Once a player's game is finished and results recorded by the arbiter, the player may be permitted by the arbiter a grace period to watch other games. Once the arbiter requests the player to leave the playing hall, the player must leave the hall immediately.
- v. Players must not leave their board before submitting their results to the arbiter.

FIDE Anti-Cheating Measures and Guidelines

- a. In accordance with the FIDE Anti-cheating measure and guidelines, players may be subjected to inspection before the beginning of the games, if need be, and a player can be inspected/frisked during a game on request.
- b. Any situation that may be deemed to raise suspicion, the arbiter or a person authorized by the arbiter shall inspect the player and shall be of the same gender as the player. If a player refuses to cooperate with these obligations, the arbiter shall take measures in accordance with Article 1.
- c. Electronic Devices - Players must not use electronic devices in the playing hall, or during games, all electronic devices are to be left with the Chief Arbiter. Arbiters must not use electronic devices in the playing hall during games except those used for arbitration purposes.
- d. Players will not be allowed to have wrist watches (all types of watches) in the playing hall.
- e. Players found with electronic devices (whether switched on or off) will lose the game immediately, if their game is already completed, the player will not be paired in the next round
- f. Further action will be sought through to the Appeal Committee with respect to Anti-Cheating regulations; this may include withdrawal from the tournament.

14. Interpretation:

For interpretation of the Rules and deciding any point not covered by Rules, the decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding. The Appeals Committee has every right to make any additional or amendment to these rules without prior Notice. However, such changes or inclusion will be subject to CKF Federation clearance. Such changes, however, will be displayed at the Championship venue.

15. Photography

By registering your child to KNYCCC 2026, you give express Consent that any photo taken of your child while competing in the event can be used by CKF to promote events or produce Chess promotional materials. A parent or Guardian who would not wish her/his Child photo not taken should write to CKF before start of the event and a special identification will be issued her/him for photographers to take note.

All photographs taken during the KNYCCC 2025 will not be used for commercial purposes without seeking permission from CKF. In addition, by taking photos in this event, all photographers waive copy rights to CKF using any photo taken during the event promotion of chess unless a photographer write to CKF before the event to have to have copy rights applied.

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16. In case of conflict with information shared earlier, this invitation on date 16.3.2026 supersedes any other communication regarding the event.

17. CONTACT INFORMATION

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Yours faithfully,



**JOHN MUKABI
CKF SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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