



Supported by SASCOC and FIDE

## Empowering Our Rising Stars in Chess

**Chess South Africa**, in proud partnership with **FIDE**, is thrilled to announce the launch of the **Queens' Festival 2025 Training Program** for selected girls from South Africa. This initiative recognizes and nurtures young female chess talent by offering access to elite training with one of the world's top women chess trainers.

### About the Trainer – IM, WGM Salome Melia (Georgia)

**Salome Melia** is a highly accomplished International Master and Woman Grandmaster. An active top-level competitor, she will be representing Georgia at the upcoming **FIDE Grand Prix in India**. She is also a passionate trainer, working with global initiatives such as the **Kakuma Girls Club** with WGM Anastasia Karlovich. We are honoured to welcome her as lead trainer for this impactful program.

### Training Schedule

Participants have been divided into **two groups** to ensure effective learning and engagement. Each group will receive **four online lessons** via Zoom:

- **Dates:** Sundays – **4, 11, 18, 25 May 2025**
- **Group 1:** **11:00 AM** (SA Time)
- **Group 2:** **12:00 PM** (SA Time)

A **local contact person** will be present with the players at each training location to provide support and ensure smooth logistics.

### Official List of Selected Participants

#### ◆ Group 1 – 11:00 AM

1. Ndunakazi, Nobuhle
2. Selkirk, Rebecca
3. Woolf, Charne
4. Cindi, Mbalenhle
5. Du Plessis, Anika
6. Mbele, Melokuhle
7. Dlodla, Olona
8. Visagie, Kiara
9. Mathebula, Lindiwe
10. Brown, Yasmin
11. Venter, Juanita
12. Daniels, Sasha
13. Jiyane, Nolwazi

President: **Andre Lewaks** – Vice President 1: **Lindokuhle Ngubane** – Vice President 2: **Vicky Magu** – Treasurer: **Carol Lfyedi**  
Acting Secretary: **Nicole Peter** – Provincial Rep: **Nolwandle Khumalo** – Provincial Rep: **Jeanette Mabitsela**  
Head Coach: **Reuben Salim** – PRO: **Bongani Mazibuko** – SASCA Convenor: **Fungile Ngqenga**

14. Williams, Katelyn
15. Mila Snyman
16. Mkhize, Thando
17. Govender, Trisha
18. September, Kiara
19. Maharaj, Ziona
20. Van Wyk, Tania
21. Moloisane, Lethabo
22. Mtshali, Sbahle

◆ **Group 2 – 12:00 PM**

23. Petersen, Kayleigh
24. Naidoo, Zayra
25. Dlamini, Khanyisa
26. Roberts, Nicole
27. Nkosi, Buhle
28. Jacobs, Ané
29. Pretorius, Mikaela
30. Madalitso Ramonyaluoe
31. Thwala, Mandisa
32. Gqamane, Zimasa
33. Lee Anne Matima
34. Dominique Swanepoel
35. Joya Imkitha
36. Dhiya Naidoo
37. Megan Dove
38. Ciara Adams
39. Sarah Miller
40. Tloghi Dikolomela
41. Amy Liu
42. Danielle Stevens
43. Sharika Ditshego
44. Emily Grove

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This training program is more than an opportunity to improve in chess—it's a platform to grow as young leaders, connect with peers, and be mentored by one of the finest women in chess. We're proud to support the journey of these girls as they represent the bright future of South African chess.

Let's make this an unforgettable experience!

Reuben Salimu



Head Coach Chess SA

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