Gert Sibande Chess Strategic Plan



(2024-2026)

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Executive Summary:

This strategic plan outlines the vision and goals for Gert Sibande Chess over the next two years (June 2024 - June 2026). Our aim is to revitalize chess activity in the region, fostering inclusivity, growth, and competitive excellence. We will achieve this by:

Expanding Coaching & Arbiter Development

Training programs for coaches and arbiters will broaden the player pool and enhance tournament management.

Facilitating Club Formation & Support:

We will actively seek out existing chess clubs and assist in establishing new ones across all municipalities.

Championing Junior Chess Development:

By organizing qualifying tournaments and fostering participation in the SAJCC, we will identify and empower talented young players.

Launching School Chess Leagues:

Introducing chess leagues in schools will create a sustainable talent pipeline and promote the game at a grassroots level.

Vision:

To become a vibrant and inclusive chess organization, leading the growth and development of chess within the Gert Sibande District Municipality.

1. Expanding Coaching & Arbiter Development (Goal 1):

Challenge: Limited access to qualified coaches and a lack of black arbiters in the region.

Targets: Training of new coaches and arbiters throughout the district.

Coaches

- Train 21 new chess coaches by June 2026, targeting at least three qualified coaches per municipality.

Arbiters

- Conduct quarterly Arbiter Seminars (2-day workshops) – one per quarter from July 2024 to March 2026 (excluding the final quarter).
- Increase the number of black arbiters by five by June 2026, one in each municipality (7) being the ideal. At least one of the Arbiters must be a black female.

2. Facilitating Club Formation & Support (Goal 2):

Challenge: Unawareness of existing clubs, limited resources, and a lack of formal structures.

Targets: Identify and register existing chess clubs in all municipalities by December 2024.

- Establish at least one new functional chess club in each municipality by June 2026.
- Assist affiliated clubs in conducting at least one rated tournament per year.

3. Championing Junior Chess Development (Goal 3)

Challenge: Non-participation in the SAJCC and historical lack of focus on inclusivity.

Targets: Secure participation for Gert Sibande Chess in the 2025 SAJCC with teams reflecting the region's demographics.

- Organize 7 qualifying tournaments across all municipalities (February – August 2025) to select regional representatives for the SAJCC.
- Implement a transparent selection policy based on performance in qualifying tournaments (best 5 out of 7).

4. Launching School Chess Leagues (Goal 4):

Challenge: Limited exposure to chess within the school system.

Targets: Get chess leagues playing in the local schools.

- Pilot a School Chess League in Govan Mbeki Municipality schools to run from July 2024 to September 2024.
- Develop a sustainable plan for expanding School Chess Leagues across the region by June 2026.

Implementation and Monitoring:

1. The Executive Committee will oversee the implementation of this strategic plan.
2. Regular progress reports will be presented to the Gert Sibande Chess Council and stakeholders.
3. We will actively seek partnerships with schools, local authorities, and sponsors to support our initiatives.

Conclusion:

By implementing this strategic plan, Gert Sibande Chess aims to create a thriving chess ecosystem in the region. We are confident that our focused efforts will lead to increased participation, inclusivity, and a brighter future for chess in Gert Sibande.