

WP Youth Training

Note that blitz events do not form part of Youth Commission sanctioned training. Regard them as a fun activity whose value lies in the motivation and enjoyment it brings.

In order to adequately prepare for the SAJCC, we approve of 90m+30s games only. WP has in recent years held less and less of these events so the Youth Commission has instituted its own 90+30 tournament, to be held on Sundays at 3pm on LiChess. This is probably the only 90 minute tournament your child will be exposed to leading up to the SAJCC so please encourage them to join [here](#).

If they are not already a member of the Chess Western Province Youth group on LiChess, they must first join it [here](#).

Once again our core training will be the ChessKid Gold program, but this time it will be a means of getting to the starting point of the next phase: All graduates of the ChessKid course, will be placed into a curriculum course consisting of the Artur Yusupov 9-book series training course. I met the author in Dresden at the World Senior Team Chess Championships in 2018 and he was still very passionate about these books in spite of having written several others since. To my knowledge, we have only one trainer who actively promotes this series and a couple who use it minimally.

In order to motivate and entertain our kids while they work through the ChessKid levels, I am going to use a gimmick from my own training methodology: Training videos where an animal appears to be giving the course. I have attached an example so that parents can see what I am talking about. The 'Coach Cecil's Training' will be replaced with 'WP Youth Training'. Any other coaches who wish to alter it for their own training purposes have my permission to do so if they use it for coaching a WP player. There is a competition to see which dog will be our official mascot. The dog will have his/her own Gold ChessKid account and will go through all the training levels. If you can get your dog to look as though s/he is talking as in the video, please send the clip to me.

youthdirector@chesswesternprovince.co.za).

ChessKid have agreed to stream a match between our kids and another team somewhere else in the world. They did this before with the USA and the UK and it appears to have been very well received. It looks something like [this](#).

I was fortunate to spend some time with GM Aronian at SAJCC 2019 and as much as I would have loved to ask him questions which would benefit my own play, I instead focused upon the training of our squad. We currently train our children to play in their age groups. This is a huge mistake. When they play in an international event, they have a huge rating deficit. It would have been a greater idea for them to have trained against much stronger players than against their peers. Similarly, our females should not train against other females. So, going forward, our strategy will be for our youth to play outside of their comfort zones during small events so that when they play in their actual age groups nationally or internationally, the practice games would have been tougher than the real event.

Last year, thanks to an initiative of Murray Steenkamp, an official Youth Tournament was held for the first time. This was a huge success and future plans are for the Youth Commission to host tournaments themselves. **It is still regarded as better for our players to simply join international open online matches (freely available) as many are doing than to play amongst themselves.**