



*African Kurash
Union*



31 George Grey Street Vanderbijlpark 1911 South Africa. Email: thomasdunker@mweb.co.za. Mobile: +27828591905 www.kurash-africa.com

**XXII AFRICAN KURASH CHAMPIONSHIPS
FOR VETERANS, SENIORS, JUNIORS, CADETS**

**IKI REFEREEING AND COACHING SEMINAR
CONTINENTAL REFEREEING EXAM – 5 LINES**

**JOHANNESBURG,
SOUTH AFRICA
07 – 10 AUGUST 2026**

IKA Ranking Event



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my support and appreciation for this exciting gathering of Africa's leading Kurash athletes, coaches, referees, officials, and dedicated members of the Kurash community.

In accordance with the agreement between the International Kurash Association and the African Kurash Union, this important celebration of Kurash will be held from 7–9 August in Johannesburg, South Africa. Once again, we will witness a dynamic and inspiring programme featuring the AKU Championships for cadets, juniors, seniors, and veterans, as well as referee evaluations. The AKU Congress will also take place during this distinguished event.

This occasion not only highlights the remarkable growth of Kurash across Africa, but also reflects our shared commitment to excellence, unity, friendship, and the continued development of sport.

I extend my sincere best wishes for a successful, productive, and inspiring event for all participants and guests.

Haider Farman
President
International Kurash Association (IKA)



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2026 African Kurash Championships and Congress. As the premier event on our continental calendar, this championship represents an important milestone in the continued growth and development of Kurash throughout Africa.

To our dedicated athletes, who have invested countless hours in training and preparation, I extend my heartfelt congratulations on reaching this stage. Your commitment, discipline, and perseverance embody the true spirit of Kurash. I wish each of you outstanding performances and success

in the competition.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Haider Farman and the International Kurash Association (IKA) Executive Committee for their visionary leadership, continuous support, and unwavering commitment to the global advancement of Kurash. The financial and institutional support provided by the IKA remains instrumental in making continental events of this magnitude possible.

A special word of thanks goes to the Organizing Committee of Kurash South Africa. Your dedication, professionalism, and tireless efforts in coordinating the many logistical aspects of this championship are truly commendable and essential to the success of this event.

On behalf of the African Kurash Union (AKU), I warmly welcome all athletes, coaches, referees, officials, delegates, and spectators to Johannesburg, South Africa. We are honoured to host you in this vibrant and dynamic city.

I hope your time here will be memorable — filled with friendship, mutual respect, cultural exchange, and the shared joy of competition. May this championship further strengthen the bonds within our Kurash family and inspire future generations across the African continent.

Thomas Dunker
President
African Kurash Union (AKU)



Dear IKA Members, Delegates, and Distinguished Guests,

It is with great pride and excitement that we welcome all Kurash delegations from across the African continent, together with our honoured guests, to the 22nd African Kurash Championships hosted here in South Africa. This championship represents more than competition — it is a celebration of unity, sportsmanship, culture, and the continued growth of Kurash throughout Africa.

We are delighted to host this prestigious event at Eden Charwell and look forward to sharing an unforgettable experience filled with passion, friendship, and excellence in sport. On behalf of Kurash South Africa, I would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to every national team, official, coach, athlete, and supporter for your participation and contribution towards making this event a success. We wish you a memorable stay in South Africa and trust that you will leave with lasting friendships and wonderful memories.

Bill Barnard
President
Kurash South Africa

COMPETITION INFORMATION

Organizers:

- **African Kurash Union:**

Address: 31 George Grey Street, Vanderbijlpark, South Africa

Thomas Dunker (President) thomasdunker@mweb.co.za

Phone: +27 82 859 1905

Martial Ngoka (General Secretary) martialcg@yahoo.fr

Phone: +242 06 669 1787

- **Kurash South Africa (KSA)**

Address: 99 Antiqua Bay, Vaalpark, Freestate South Africa

Bill Barnard (President) – Email: kurashsouthafrica@gmail.com

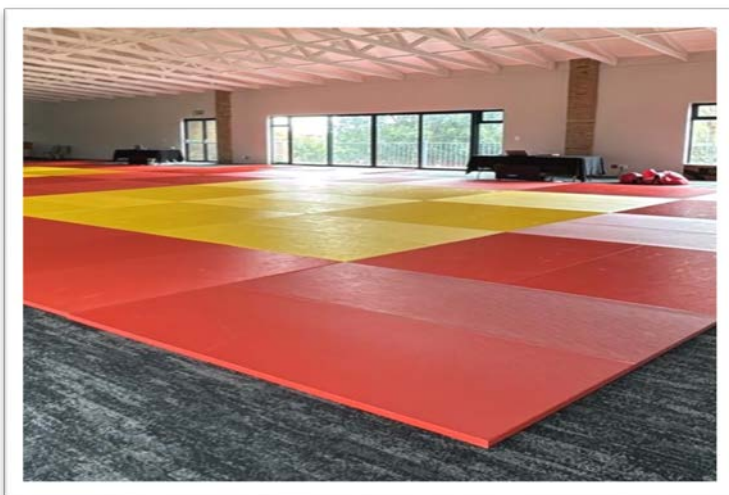
Phone +27 824420576

Secretary – Email: kurashsouthafrica@gmail.com

Phone +27 824585556

Competition Venue: Eden Charwell School -

32 Romney Avenue, Johannesburg, Gauteng



Dear National Federations Presidents

Invitation to the 2026 African Kurash Championships (7-10 August 2026)

The 2026 African Kurash Championships for Cadets, Juniors, Seniors, and Veterans will be held at the Eden Chartwell School from 07 – 10 August 2026.

The regulations for the event are indicated in this document as per the invitation of the Kurash South Africa and the African Kurash Union; kindly observe the requirements for visa applications and accommodation matters. All accommodation must be reserved with Kurash South Africa **to ensure the quoted subsidized accommodation rates..**

Program for the African Kurash Championships

7 August 2026	Arrival of AKU DC and delegations	Garden Court Hotel OR Tambo
	Arrival of all players	Garden Court Hotel OR Tambo
	Accreditation	Garden Court Hotel OR Tambo
19h00 – 19h30	Weigh-in for Cadets and Seniors	Garden Court Hotel OR Tambo
19h30 – 21h00	Dinner	Garden Court Hotel OR Tambo
8 August 2026		
06h00 – 8h30	Breakfast	Garden Court Hotel OR Tambo
06h30 – 07h00	Weigh-in for Cadets and Seniors	Garden Court Hotel OR Tambo
09h30	Competition for Cadets and Seniors	Eden Charwell School
18h00	Awarding Ceremony	Eden Charwell School
19h00 – 19h30	Weigh in for Juniors and Veterans	Garden Court Hotel OR Tambo
19h30 – 21h00	Dinner	Garden Court Hotel OR Tambo
20h00	AKU Congress Meeting	Garden Court Hotel OR Tambo
9 August 2026		
06h00 – 8h30	Breakfast	Garden Court Hotel OR Tambo
06h30 – 07h00	Weigh-in for Juniors and Veterans	Garden Court Hotel OR Tambo
09h30	Competition for Juniors and Veterans	Eden Charwell School
18h00	Awarding Ceremony	Eden Charwell School
19h30 – 21h00	Dinner	Garden Court Hotel OR Tambo
10 August 2026	Departure of delegations	Garden Court Hotel OR Tambo

AFRICAN KURASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

For the African Championships, **all** federations may enter 4 players per category in the cadet and junior divisions for the senior event, the host federation may enter a maximum of 3 players. Other participating federations may enter 2 players in every weight category as follows:

MALE AGE AND WEIGHT CATEGORIES

Cadets 14 and 15 Years	Junior Men 16 and 17 Years	Senior Men 17 Years and up
-38	-42	-60
-42	-46	-66
-46	-50	-73
-50	-55	-81
-55	-60	-90
-60	-65	-100
-65	-71	-120
-71	-77	+120
-77	-83	
-83	-90	
+83	+90	
Born 2012 - 2011	Born 2010-2009	Born 2009 and older
3 Minutes	4 Minutes	4 Minutes

FEMALE AGE AND WEIGHT CATEGORIES

Cadets 14 and 15 Years	Junior Ladies 16 and 17 Years	Senior Ladies 17 Years and up
-33	-36	-48
-36	-40	-52
-40	-44	-57
-44	-48	-63
-48	-52	-70
-52	-57	-78
-57	-63	-87
-63	-70	+87
+63	+70	
Born 2012 - 2011	Born 2010-2009	Born 2009 and older
2 Minutes	3 Minutes	4 Minutes

VETERANS (weight divisions may be combined if there are not a minimum of 2 persons per weight entered)

VETERANS WOMEN	VETERANS WOMEN	VETERANS MEN	VETERANS MEN
-60	-60	-60	-60
-65	-65	-65	-65
-70	-70	-70	-70
-75	-75	-75	-75
-80	-80	-80	-80
-85	-85	-85	-85
-90	-90	-90	-90
-95	-95	-95	-95
+95	+95	+95	+95
AGE 36 – 45	AGE +46	AGE 36 – 45	AGE +46
3 Minutes	2 Minutes	3 Minutes	2 Minutes

Junior players may compete in both the junior and senior divisions, provided the maximum allowed number of entries are not exceeded. Cadet players may compete in both Cadet and Junior Competition, provided maximum allowed entries are not exceeded.

The AKU reserves the right to combine weight categories in the event of low participation numbers. The elimination system to be used for the African Championship in all divisions will be the loser's pool. Weight categories with 5 or less players will be conducted in Round Robin System. All entries must be submitted on the **attached Microsoft excel sheet** to allow for the seamless import of entries into the draw program.

Entry Deadlines:

- **Entry by Numbers:** Submit entries by number by **July 5, 2026**, to ensure sufficient accommodation. (Please submit the accommodation and transport request form.)
- **Entries by Name:** The final date for submitting entries by name, **weight** and passport copies is **July 20, 2026**,
- **Federation in need of visa support letters must request this before 7 July** to ensure timely receipt of your visa support letter. (Please complete the application form.)

Accommodation and local transport requests must be sent to the Kurash South Africa Organizing Committee by **4 July** to the following email addresses: kurashsouthafrica@gmail.com and thomasdunker@mweb.co.za

Visa Requirements:

You are responsible for making your own visa arrangements and covering the associated costs. Individuals requiring a visa for South Africa must apply at their nearest South African embassy. Please note that **NO VISAS ARE AVAILABLE ON ARRIVAL**.

For federations requiring a **visa** to enter South Africa, the last date for a visa support letter request is **28 days before entry** into South Africa. Kindly complete the designated form and submit with passport copies to the following email address kurashsouthafrica@gmail.com (WhatsApp - +27 824585556). Persons traveling by road between bordering countries must ensure that they meet the visa requirements if applicable.

Please send your application forms and passport copies to KSA for your official visa support letter at kurashsouthafrica@gmail.com and thomasdunker@mweb.co.za

Final list of entries per federation (Excel Application form) must be sent to AKU president at thomasdunker@mweb.co.za AKU Sport director roddykiba44@gmail.com and kurashsouthafrica@gmail.com not later than 20 July 2026 on the prescribed Excel entry form.

Awards: Medals and certificates will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

Participation Fee: \$50 USD per person (\$25 to the host federation and \$25 to the African Kurash Union).

REFEREE AND COACHING SEMINAR / COURSE

The Referee Seminar will be under the guidance of Mr. Teddy Rita, our AKU acting Referee Director, on **evening of 7** August 2026.

A Practical Coaching Course will be conducted by the IKI for coaches 7 August 2026. IKA 'B' Level exam is possible for interested coaches.

A 5-Line Continental and 1 Star Referee Exam can be scheduled upon request for those who are interested.

CONTINENTAL REFEREE EXAM

- Continental referee exam (5 Lines) \$50 payable at accreditation & 1 Star \$200 payable to IKA
- Referee exams are taken during the championship.
- Entries will be taken on the 4th July 2026
- Certificates will be issued to successful candidates

FLIGHTS AND TRANSPORT DETAILS

- For all delegations, flights are at your own cost.
- Transport between the hotel and **OR Tambo International Airport** is provided by the hotel shuttle (arrival and departure)
- Transport for all players and officials between the hotel and the venue will be provided daily
- Travel, meals and accommodation costs for AKU invited referees and AKU directing committee may be paid by the host federation or the AKU. (Partially or fully)

VISA MATTERS

SOUTH AFRICA

Everyone traveling to South Africa is responsible for his/her own visa arrangements and costs. Please check your country's visa requirements to see if a visa is required to enter **South Africa**. If applicable, please request a visa support letter from AKU President at thomasdunker@mweb.co.za, and KSA secretary at: kurashsouthafrica@gmail.com

(Example of info: – to be on official federation letterhead

	NAME	PASSPORT No.	Expiry date	Country of Citizenship	Male or Female	Port of Entry
1						
2						

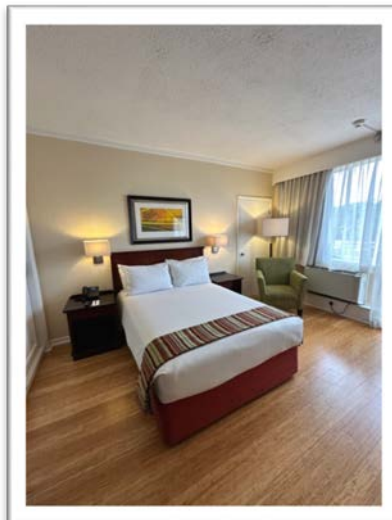
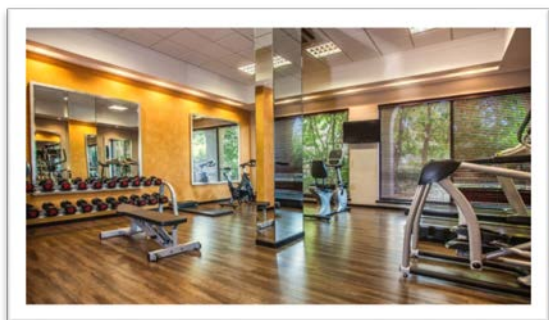
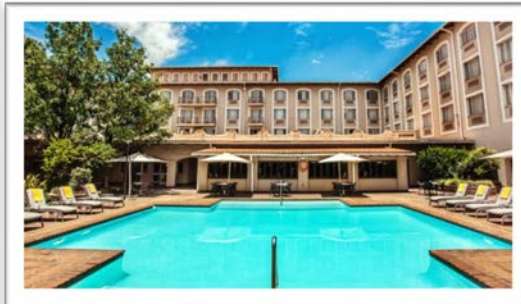
Countries not requiring visas

Lesotho, Botswana, Ghana, Gabon, Namibia, **Mauritius**, Eswatini, Zambia, Malawi, Benin, Seychelles, Rwanda, Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, Tunisia, Tanzania.

ACCOMMODATION

All Accommodation will be at the following hotel:

Garden Court OR Tambo Hotel: Address 2 Hulley Road Isando Ext. 3, Kempton Park, Gauteng, South Africa



Official Hotel	Single Room	Double Room
Garden Court OR Tambo Hotel (subsidized price)	\$105pp	\$70pp

- The price **per person** per day includes breakfast and dinner, **as** quoted in US dollars.
- Accommodation in the tournament hotel is mandatory for participants **requiring transport between the hotel and competition venue**.
- A third meal (Lunch) is available for lunch at an additional cost of \$7 per day per person.
- **Subsidised Accommodation:**
 - Federations participating in the African Championships with at **least 3 athletes** will receive 1 room sleeping 2 athletes free for **1 day only** in the official hotel.
 - Invited officials and AKU directing committee members will also be allocated accommodation in the hotel. Based on 2 persons sharing a room. (Persons requiring a single room or wishing to stay in another hotel are responsible for the difference in cost.)
 - Anyone not booking accommodation by the deadline date must pay the normal hotel rates.
 - Federations are responsible for all bookings and **non-arrivals** not cancelled one week before the event, and will be invoiced for the balance accordingly.

- Kindly complete the attached accommodation request.
- All delegations and guests are responsible for their own accommodation costs.

DOPING CONTROL

Doping control in all weight categories will be done with the cooperation of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADO) in accordance with WADA guidelines.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

General Conditions:

- All players must be citizens of the country they represent in order to compete.
- The draw will be conducted automatically one day before the competition in accordance with the rules and regulations of IKA.
- Refugees will be allowed to participate under the following conditions:
 - Refugee passport or travel document
 - All refugees, even from different countries, will be sorted under “REFUGEE”
 - Where entries exceed the maximum number of entries, there will be an elimination round first, before being entered in the final draw.

LIABILITY

- (1) Neither the AKU, nor Kurash South Africa shall hold any liability in case of injury or any personal loss experienced by the delegates throughout their visit.
- (2) All delegates and participants are liable for their own insurance.
- (3) Kindly observe if any **medical** protocols during your journey are applicable. There are currently no restrictions in South Africa. **Some countries may require a yellow fever card.**

RULES OF THE KURASH COMPETITION

- (1) The International Kurash Association rules will govern the championship.
- (2) The English language version of the rules is available on the IKA website www.kurash-ika.org

THE FOLLOWING FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED

1. ENTRIES BY NUMBER
2. KURASH AFRICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026 ENRTY LIST
3. ACCOMMODATION REQUEST 2026
4. VISA SUPPORT LETTER
5. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE FORM

We look forward to meeting you soon.

Best Regards



Thomas Dunker
AKU President



Bill Barnard
South Africa President.