

## SCHWARZENEGGER: GREAT FANS AND PROMOTER OF CHESS

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Arnold Schwarzenegger

In a report by Alessandro Parodi entitled "*I used to play chess in the gym*" (Chess.com News, 20.05.2019), the famous actor and bodybuilder **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, spoke of his passion for chess in the framework of the opening of "Arnold Chess Classic Games "in Johannesburg, South Africa.

"I started when I was eight with my father, I had to play with him every day. When I went to America, I started playing over there with friends and people at the gym," he said. "It was always part of me."

Known as an iconic actor and former Governor of California, Schwarzenegger is the creator of the **Arnold Classic Games**, a multisport format with yearly competitions in five continents.

In Johannesburg, 24,000 participants in 90 different sport codes and 300 exhibition stands crammed the Sandton Convention Centre between May 17 and 19.



Schwarzenegger vs Kasparov

The Arnold Chess Classic was a rapid and blitz tournament with some of the strongest players in the continent. GM Sahaj Grover from India won in both time controls dominating over IM Johannes Mabusela and IM Providence Oatlotse, the

national champions from South Africa and Botswana, and the best players from Malawi and Zimbabwe FM Joseph Mwale and IM Rodwell Makoto. The rapid tournament had a time control of 25 minutes for all moves and a 10-second increment. The blitz section had a time control of 3 minutes and a 2-second increment.



Arnold discute con un amigo

Parallel to the titled Prestige tournament, an Open section featured upcoming South African youth and club players for a total 90 participants. Ashley Urombo won the rapid, while Yaduvir Govender was first in the blitz. A few schools from Johannesburg gave an exciting demonstration of dynamic chess playing a big board blitz competition amid the crowd of the Arnold Classic. Lastly, a section for parents and a separate tournament for disabled, blind and deaf players were particularly successful and hosted hundreds of participants.



Arnold en simultánea

Chess for everyone at the Arnold Classic. | Photo: Alessandro Parodi/Chess.com. The record attendance in the collateral tournaments demonstrates the value attributed to social development through chess in South Africa. Promoted by the Arnold Classic for Africa, the Province of Gauteng and the Kasparov Chess Foundation for Africa, the initiative is growing every year in the framework of the multisport event, creating a sport crosspollination which allows mind games and e-sport competitions to take place right next to physical sports such as boxing, martial arts and bodybuilding. The motto of the event is “There is something for everyone...”