



QUARTER 1

2026

# COOLPLAY UPDATE

Children living in South African townships experience at least **eight traumatic events** in one year

## 2026 Golf Day

R 148 230 raised to impact 99 children for one year



## Champion Induction Training

Going back to the basics of the CoolPlay curriculum with our Champions (coaches)



## Cool to Lead (Irista Primary & Ikhwezi Primary)

engaging Grade 7 learners in a series of interactive and impactful leadership sessions.

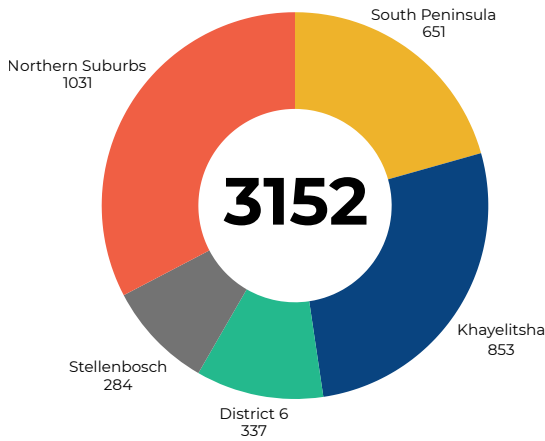


CoolPlay impacts **+2500** children weekly through sports

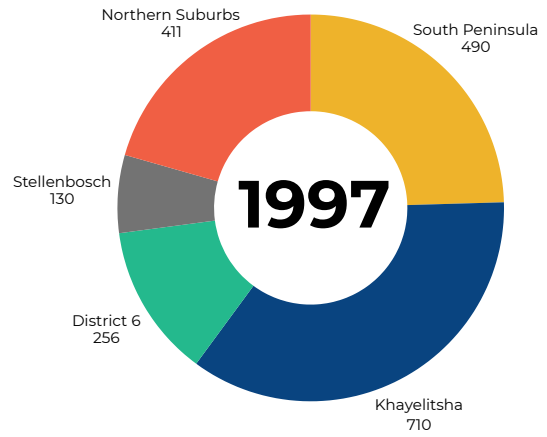




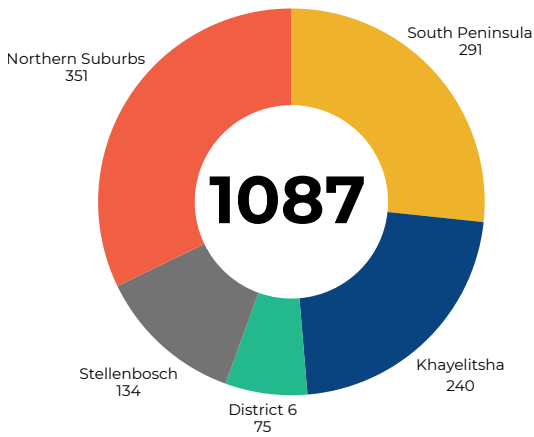
# Q3 PARTICIPATION FIGURES



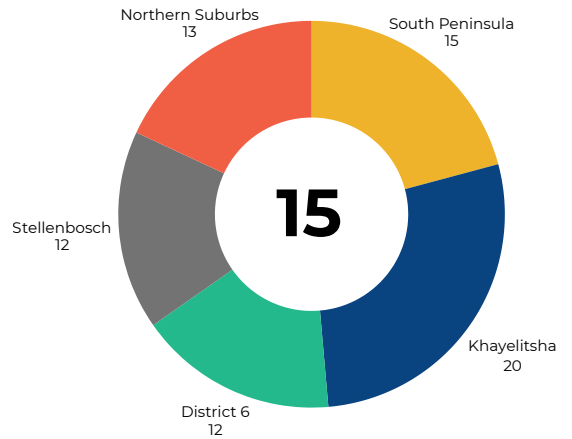
**Number of Registered Learner per Area**



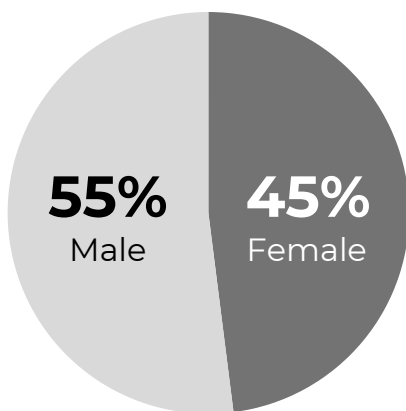
**Number of Engaged Learners - attending at least 70% of sessions -**



**Number of Sessions Conducted per Area**



**Average Number of Learners in a session**



## Gender Split

\*We calculate a learner as engaged when they have attended 70% of the sessions on offer to them (we aim to offer two sessions a week).





# TEAM OF CHAMPIONS



At CoolPlay, every new Champion represents something greater than an addition to the team. They represent **hope, growth,** and the **enduring power of positive influence** in our communities. Our newly appointed Champions step into their roles not simply as coaches, but as mentors, leaders, and role models — individuals entrusted with shaping young lives through sport, resilience, and the lessons that extend far beyond the field.

What sets this group apart is their authenticity. These are people who have lived the journey. They carry stories of **perseverance, ambition,** and **self-belief** — not borrowed from textbooks, but drawn from their own experiences. Their paths remind us that greatness is not defined by where you start, but by the courage to become who you were meant to be.



Each Champion brings a distinct voice and perspective, yet they are united by a single mission: to **uplift, inspire,** and **empower.** Through moments of joy, quiet acts of encouragement, and the simple but profound power of showing up — they embody the CoolPlay Way. They know that the smallest gestures often leave the deepest marks: a well-timed word, a patient pause, a genuine smile. This cohort also represents CoolPlay's future. Driven, values-led, and purpose-rooted, they are stepping into spaces where they once stood as learners — now returning to lead from the front and give back from a place of lived understanding.

As we welcome these Champions, we celebrate not only who they are today, but who they are still becoming. Their stories will inspire others, their presence will strengthen our programme, and their passion will continue to change lives. This is more than a team. It is a movement of young leaders rising.





# CHAMPION INDUCTION TRAINING

The January 2026 Induction Training brought together new and returning CoolPlay Champions for a rich, purposeful development experience. Designed to align all Champions with CoolPlay's core values, expectations, and delivery standards, the training balanced practical coaching skill-building with a deeper grounding in what it means to represent the CoolPlay Way.



Key areas covered included the CoolPlay Code of Conduct — reinforcing the importance of professionalism, responsibility, and leading by example. Champions explored the CoolPlay Session Structure in depth, gaining clarity on how to plan and deliver sessions that are both impactful and well-organised. This was complemented by focused work on planning and preparation, equipping Champions with the confidence and tools to run structured, purposeful sessions from day one.

Participants were also guided through the essential Do's and Don'ts of being a CoolPlay Champion, cementing the behaviours and best practices expected when working with learners and representing the organisation.

A deliberate balance of theory and practice defined the training experience. Champions engaged with the CoolPlay Coaching Cards, learning how to use them effectively to elevate session delivery. Check-ins and breathing exercises were introduced to build emotional awareness and model the kind of supportive, safe environment every CoolPlay session should offer.

To consolidate their learning, Champions participated in teach-back sessions — an opportunity to demonstrate understanding, build confidence, and receive meaningful feedback in a supportive setting. The foundation laid during induction was further strengthened through continuous monthly area trainings delivered by the training team throughout Term 1, ensuring consistency and quality across all schools. The results speak for themselves: a Champion Assessment average score of 78%, reflecting genuine growth in confidence and competence.

Taken together, the induction training and ongoing support structures have created a strong platform for high-quality, consistent session delivery — empowering Champions with the knowledge, skills, and belief to make a lasting impact in their schools and communities.



# COOL TO LEAD

During the first term, CoolPlay successfully delivered the Cool to Lead leadership programme at Ikhwezi Primary School and Irista Primary School, engaging Grade 7 learners in a series of interactive and meaningful sessions.

The programme centred on developing essential leadership qualities including **self-confidence**, **responsibility**, **communication**, **teamwork**, and **decision-making**. Through hands-on activities, group discussions, and real-world challenges, learners were invited to explore what leadership looks and feels like, both within their school environment and in their everyday lives.

The interactive nature of the sessions encouraged learners to participate actively, collaborate with their peers, and apply leadership concepts in the moment. This approach did more than build confidence; it deepened peer relationships, fostered a sense of ownership, and instilled pride in each learner's identity as a current or future leader.

The Cool to Lead sessions at both schools made a meaningful contribution to developing the next generation of young leaders, equipping them with practical skills and a positive, purposeful mindset to lead with intention in their schools and communities.

Building on this strong foundation, CoolPlay will continue rolling out the Cool to Lead programme in Term 2, expanding to additional partner primary schools and reaching even more young leaders across our growing network.





# MY JOURNEY THROUGH SOCCER

My name is Thato, and I am a learner at Ikhwezi Primary School. I am proud to be part of the CoolPlay soccer team.

Before I joined CoolPlay, I did not always know what to do with my time. There were moments when I felt lost, and it was easy to drift toward the wrong choices. But when I joined the team, something began to shift.

CoolPlay gave me something to look forward to. At training, we do not just play soccer. We learn how to work together, how to stay disciplined, and how to manage our emotions. Being part of the team makes me feel happy and proud. It keeps me focused and helps me stay away from negative influences.

One person who has made a real difference in my life is Coach Simphiwe. He is more than a coach. He is someone who genuinely cares about each one of us. He teaches us not only how to play the game, but how to carry ourselves, how to treat others, and how to believe in ourselves even when things are hard. His encouragement has meant more than I can put into words.

Because of CoolPlay and Coach Simphiwe, I feel like I belong. I feel supported. I feel stronger in who I am. I am learning to make better choices and to think seriously about my future.

To everyone at CoolPlay, thank you. You are helping me and so many others become better people, not just better players. That is something I will carry with me long after I leave this school.





# FIRST PRINCIPALS BREAKFAST

CoolPlay proudly hosted its first ever Principal Breakfast at the Protea Hotel Fire & Ice! in Cape Town, bringing together school principals and key stakeholders who are at the heart of everything we do.

The morning created a warm and purposeful space to connect, reflect, and deepen the partnerships that make our work possible. We took the opportunity to share CoolPlay's journey, highlighting how the programme has evolved to meaningfully integrate Social Emotional Learning with Mental Health and Wellbeing. Alongside this, we unpacked key insights from our monitoring and evaluation data, offering a clear picture of the tangible impact being felt across schools, from shifts in learner behaviour to growing levels of participation and engagement.

A central theme of the morning was the role of our Champions. As consistent mentors and role models, they continue to show up for learners every day, creating safe and nurturing environments where young people feel seen, supported, and free to grow. Principals also had the floor. Their reflections were candid, affirming, and deeply encouraging, reinforcing just how much the programme is valued within their school communities and underlining the importance of sustained collaboration between CoolPlay and the schools we serve.

As our very first Principal Breakfast, the event marked more than a milestone. It signalled the beginning of a deeper, more intentional chapter of engagement, grounded in a shared commitment to ensuring every learner feels supported, empowered, and equipped to face the future with confidence.





# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS...

At CoolPlay, sport is our vehicle, but people are our purpose. We use the energy of the game to nurture emotional resilience, build confidence, foster empathy, and teach the kind of teamwork that extends well beyond the field. Through structured sessions rooted in life skills, positive values, and mental health and wellbeing, we are helping young people discover who they are and who they can become. And we could not do any of it without you.

To every sponsor, partner, and supporter who has chosen to invest in this work, thank you. Whether your contribution has come in the form of funding, resources, time, or simply belief in what we are building, it has made a direct and lasting difference. Your support has allowed us to reach more learners, develop more Champions, and deepen our focus on mental health and wellbeing at a time when young people need it most.



**Paul Farlam**

**Kenan Yildirim**

**Otto Foundation**

**MacFarlane  
Family  
Foundation**

**The Schlebusch  
Family**

**Nelsie Sibozza**

Because of you, children who might otherwise never have had access to these opportunities are finding their voices, managing their emotions, stepping into leadership, and building connections that strengthen their entire communities. These sessions are more than sport. For many of the young people we work with, they are a turning point.

We are equally grateful to those who have supported us beyond the financial, through mentorship, apparel, venues, and the kind of hands-on generosity that keeps the everyday work of CoolPlay moving forward. Every contribution, large or small, is woven into the fabric of what we are creating together.

To our current partners, your belief in this mission means everything to us. To those who have yet to join the journey, we extend a sincere and open invitation. There is room here for anyone who wants to be part of something meaningful.

**Thank you for investing in the power of sport. Thank you for investing in our children.**



# HOW TO SUPPORT US?

**R125** to support **a child per month**

**R1500** to support **a child per year**

**R3000** to support **a squad per month**

**R12 500** to support **a school per month**

**R50 000** to support **a community per month**

**CoolPlay is a registered PBO able to provide Section 18A certificates for tax rebate purposes**

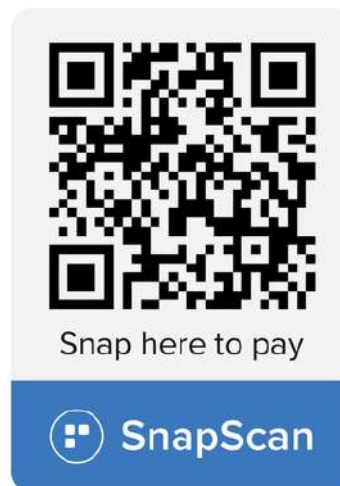
We love having volunteers at our events and tournaments...  
Click here to [Volunteer](#)

Click here to donate using a **Credit/Debit Card online:**



Donate via **EFT:**  
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[www.coolplay.co.za](http://www.coolplay.co.za)



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IT135/2010 | NPO : 259-900  
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**CoolPlay Trust Account**

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