



QUARTER 3

2025

COOLPLAY NEWS

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

2025 Gala Dinner
R 430 000 raised to impact 358 children for one year



Champion Mental Health Training

Empowering our Champions to be trauma-informed, alert and aware



Annual Netball Tournament

Children developing strong bonds, collaborative skills, and team pride through the joy of sport

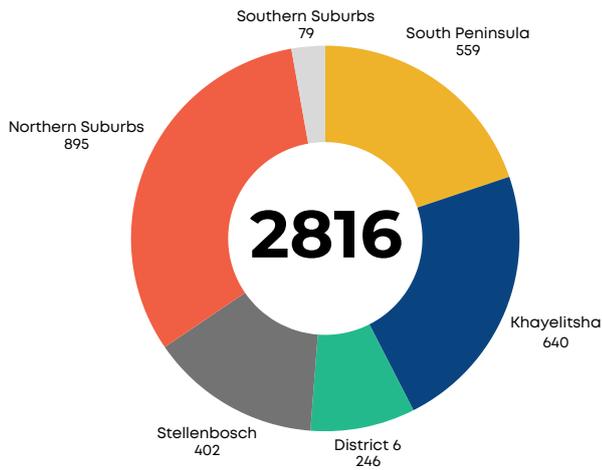


Children living in South African townships experience **eight traumas** a year

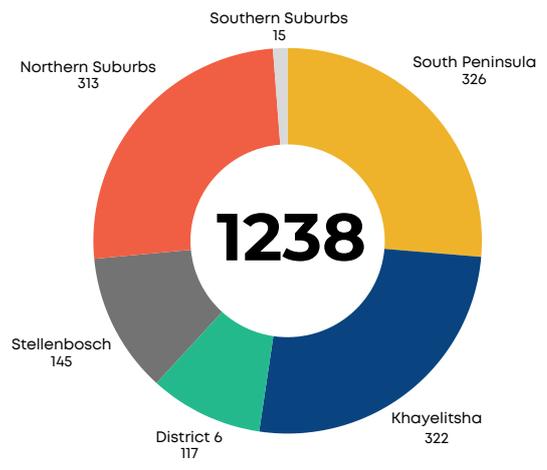




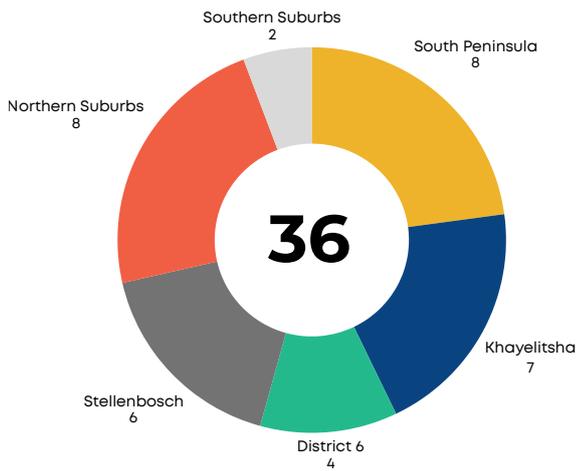
Q3 Participation Figures



Number of Registered Learner per Area



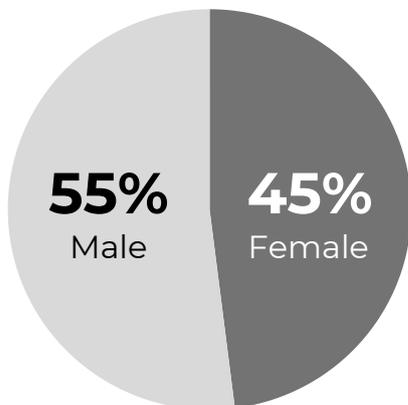
Number of Sessions Conducted per Area



Number of Active Champions



Number of Active Team Squads



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).





Cool Stories



Aiden Returns

From CoolPlay Learner To CoolPlay Champion

CoolPlay is proud to welcome Aiden as our newest Champion, returning to his roots at Heathfield High and Primary in the Southern Suburbs. His journey comes full circle—from learner to mentor, now ready to inspire the next generation.

Raised by a single mother in Heathfield, Aiden never let his circumstances limit him. "I never allowed the situation to bother me or make me any different from the others," he says. Instead, he channeled his energy into sport, becoming a two-time South African Ballroom Champion before discovering his true passion: rugby.

"Rugby is my all-time favorite sport. It opened doors for me the moment I started playing, and a big shout-out to CoolPlay for making things easier."

As a CoolPlay alumnus, Aiden knows firsthand how sport builds character and opens possibilities. Now coaching at his former high school, he's living proof of CoolPlay's mission—showing young people that resilience, teamwork, and dedication can transform their futures.

When passion meets purpose, transformation happens. Welcome home, Aiden.

From Learner to Leader

Kanyisa's Journey with CoolPlay

CoolPlay is proud to welcome back Kanyisa as a Champion, leading netball sessions at Bulumko High School in Khayelitsha this term.

Kanyisa's journey exemplifies the CoolPlay model at its best. As a programme alumna, she developed essential life skills—teamwork, empathy, communication, and resilience—that now shape her coaching approach. Her transition from learner to leader demonstrates the programme's lasting impact and its ability to nurture the next generation of mentors.

Drawing from her own experiences, Kanyisa connects authentically with learners, helping them see sport as more than a game—it's a platform for personal growth and confidence. At Bulumko High, she's already making her mark with energy, structure, and a deep understanding of what CoolPlay stands for. Her return is a powerful reminder of why this work matters: young people grow through the programme, then come back to strengthen their communities. Kanyisa embodies the transformative power of sport-based youth development and the leaders it creates.



Kaydon's Story

A Champions Perspective by Lourenzo

Kaydon Kay's defining trait is simple: he never gives up. From our first meeting, his passion and determination were unmistakable. Yet his path has been far from easy—injuries, setbacks, and moments of doubt threatened to end his journey before it truly began. Each time, he chose to rise, returning stronger and more focused.

What sets Kaydon apart isn't just his talent, but his character. Despite his smaller stature, he's proven that true strength comes from mindset and heart. Through CoolPlay's social-emotional learning program, I've watched him transform—managing emotions, staying calm under pressure, and focusing on what he can control.

This mental growth has elevated his game. His confidence has soared, his leadership inspires teammates, and his focus is razor-sharp. Last year, he earned Rugby Player of the Year—recognition of both his skill and resilience.

Today, Kaydon is a role model who shows his peers that setbacks don't define you; your response does. Watching his transformation has been one of my proudest moments as a Champion, and I know his story is just beginning.



CoolPlay Inspires

a New Sporting Culture at Kuils River Primary

At Kuils River Primary, CoolPlay has transformed sport into a powerful tool for building confidence, character, and connection. The school's sports coordinator calls it "an integral component in developing sports and instilling life skills."

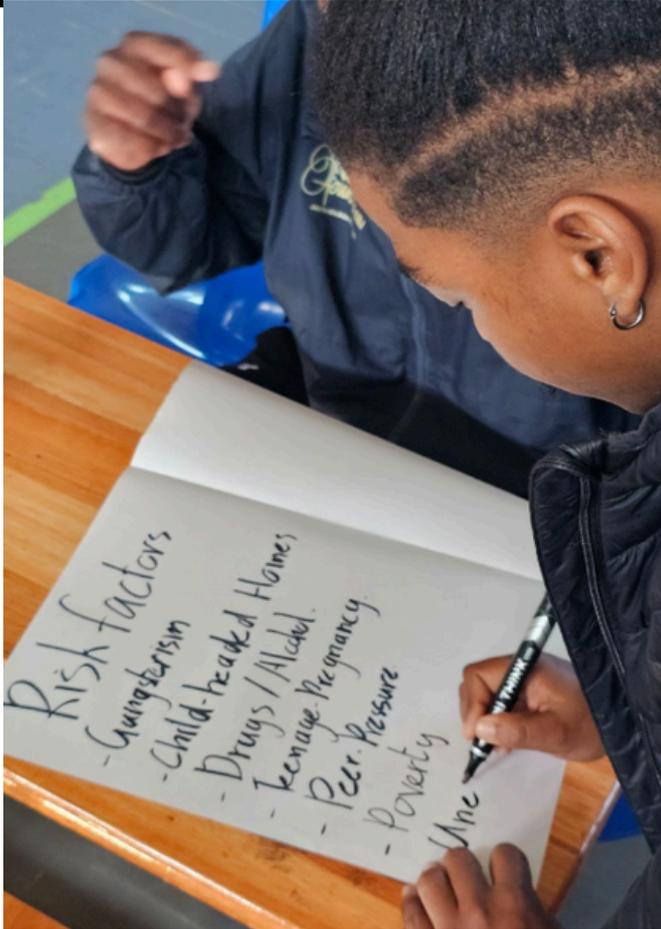
The partnership has sparked remarkable growth in learner participation, especially in netball and rugby. Students once hesitant now eagerly join sessions, proudly wearing their CoolPlay colours while learning teamwork, discipline, and respect.

The Champions (CoolPlay coaches) are central to this success. They build genuine relationships with learners, blending athletic coaching with emotional support. "Their coaching is about building good interpersonal relationships to get the best out of them in sport," explains the coordinator. This approach helps young people thrive both on the field and beyond.

CoolPlay's impact lies in prioritizing people over performance—creating a safe space where learners develop communication skills, resilience, and teamwork. "We are grateful to have them as a supporting structure in our sport," the coordinator notes. Through play and mentorship, CoolPlay is building not just better athletes, but better people.



Champion Development



Through practical exercises and discussions, Champions built confidence in using these cards as regular session tools.

Following the initial training, weekly area sessions continued across all CoolPlay locations. The training team visited different areas to provide follow-up support and on-the-ground guidance, reinforcing key lessons and ensuring consistent delivery.

This ongoing support has created valuable space for coaches to ask questions, receive feedback, and build confidence. We've seen noticeable improvements in session quality, with Champions delivering emotionally supportive and engaging CoolPlay experiences.

The continuous presence of our training team has been crucial to successfully implementing these mental health tools. We're excited to continue weekly trainings through the fourth term to finish the year strong.

Mental Health Content

During the third term, CoolPlay launched with three intensive training days introducing our new Mental Health Coaching Cards to strengthen Champions' ability to support children's emotional wellbeing.

Champions learned essential skills including understanding mental health, creating safe spaces, asking open-ended questions, and conducting emotional check-ins. They also practiced energizers, icebreakers, breathing exercises, and reflective session closures.

The training centered on three Mental Health Coaching Cards designed to help children identify their feelings, understand their emotions, and develop healthy responses.





Tournaments this Quarter

Netball Tournament Showcases Inclusion, Empowerment and Community Spirit



Over 200 young netball players from 12 schools—including Dominican School for Deaf Children—gathered at Sarepta Primary School for the CoolPlay Netball Tournament, showcasing the true power of inclusive sport.

The tournament exemplified CoolPlay's mission of using sport to build life skills and community. The inclusion of Dominican School for Deaf Children demonstrated that when barriers are removed, every learner can participate, feel valued, and thrive. Watching players communicate and celebrate across schools captured the heart of what CoolPlay stands for.

The day began with an empowering session by **Periods for Hope**, an NGO breaking down stigma around menstrual health. Their interactive workshop created space for open conversation about topics often left unspoken, reinforcing that confidence and dignity are essential to wellbeing.

Spur generously sponsored meals for all participants, keeping energy high throughout the day. On the courts, laughter mixed with determination as learners demonstrated teamwork, respect, and resilience—the core values CoolPlay nurtures.

Beyond trophies and scores, the tournament celebrated friendships formed and lessons learned. It proved that when inclusion, education, and play unite, every child wins—on and off the court.





Thank You to Our Partners...

At CoolPlay, we believe in the power of sport not only to build physical strength, but to create emotional resilience, confidence, empathy, and teamwork. Our mission is to teach essential life skills, mental well-being, and positive values to children through structured sports sessions—and none of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our incredible sponsors.

To all our partners, thank you. Your contributions—whether financial, in-kind, or logistical—have helped us deliver consistent, high-impact sessions in schools and communities across the region. With your backing, we have been able to reach more learners, train more Champions, and expand our focus on mental health and well-being, a vital need in today's world.



Paul Farlam Kenan Yildirim Netto Foundation MacFarlane Family Foundation The Schlebusch Family
Nelsie Sibozza

Because of your support, young learners are developing emotional awareness, learning to manage stress, becoming leaders in their teams, and forming connections that uplift their entire communities. These are not just sports sessions—they are life-changing experiences for many children who may not otherwise have access to such opportunities.

We also extend our gratitude to those who have walked this journey with us by offering mentorship, apparel, venues, and tools. Your generosity fuels every step of the CoolPlay journey—from the sideline cheers to the quiet confidence growing in every child we coach.

Together, we can ensure that every child has the chance to grow, learn, and thrive—both on and off the field.

To our current sponsors, we are deeply grateful. To our future partners, we welcome you to be a part of something truly special.

Thank you for believing in the power of sport. Thank you for believing in our children.



How to support us?

R100 to support a **child per month**

R1200 to support a **child per year**

R2500 to support a **squad per month**

R10 000 to support a **school per month**

R30 000 to support a **squad per year**

R40 000 to support a **community per month**

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

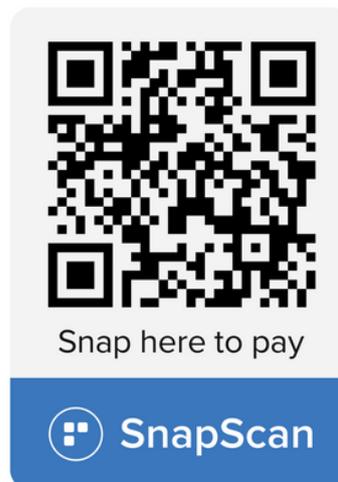
We love having volunteers at our events and tournaments...
Click here to [Volunteer](#)

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



Donate via **EFT:**
The CoolPlay Trust
Bank Name: Nedbank
Account Number: 9016057063
Branch Code: 198 765
Account type: Corporate Saver
SWIFT Code: NEDSZAJJ

Click here to open up **SnapScan or scan to donate:**



Snap here to pay

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Add CoolPlay as a beneficiary on the **Woolworths MySchool Card** :



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PBO : 930034864 | Section 18A Approved

CoolPlay Trust Account

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