

Team RSA at ISSF Junior World Cup

Cairo, Egypt • April 2026

Athletic Federation: South African Shooting Sport Confederation (SASSCO)

Executive Overview

The Junior Protea Shooting Team competed at the ISSF Junior World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) in Cairo, Egypt, from 19 April to 27 April 2026. The championship hosted 284 junior athletes from 27 member nations. Prior to departure, leadership—including Bennie van Den Heever from SASSCO and African Shooting Sport Federation (ASSF) Vice President Orazio Cremona—issued strong messages of encouragement, urging the young squad to trust their rigorous preparation, maintain deep team cohesion, and represent South Africa with distinct honor on the global sports stage.



Official Team Leaderboard & Final Standings

Athlete	Discipline / Event	Score	Rank	Performance Notes
Anya Theart	10m Air Rifle Women Junior	622.9	16th	Exceptional individual placement for Team RSA and a Personal Best (PB) Score
Isabella Cilliers	10m Air Rifle Women Junior	619.0	20th	Solid top 20 finish.
Isabella Cilliers	50m Rifle Prone Women Junior	602.8	10th	Fought intense left-to-right crosswinds for a Top 10 finish.
Isabella Cilliers	50m Rifle 3 Positions Women Junior	557	22nd	Completed grueling multi-position match in shifting winds.
Matthew Schutte	10m Air Rifle Men Junior	608.3	28th	Officially recorded a Personal Best (PB).
Isabella Cilliers & Matthew Schutte	10m Air Rifle Mixed Team Junior	614.4	16th	Balanced performance outpacing Egypt's 2nd Team.
Mason Le Roux	Trap Men Junior	108	19th	Shot a peak individual qualification round of 24/25 broken clays.
Jaxon Le Roux	Trap Men Junior	102	25th	Maintained late-tour peak form with closing strings of 22 and 23.
Jacobus Reyneke	Trap Men Junior	95	32nd	Registered a peak single qualification string of 22 broken clays.
Matthys Fourie	10m Air Pistol Men Junior	546	33rd	Competed successfully as the sole South African male pistol athlete.
Runé Janse van Rensburg	10m Air Rifle Women Junior	601.4	33rd	Protea qualification performance at her first international event.

Chronological Day-by-Day Tour Log

[13 - 15 April 2026] Departure & Send-Off Announcements

The team members conduct their final preparations. The Tour Facebook page was launched with messages from SASSCO president, Bennie van Den Heever and ASSF vice president, Orazio Cremona. The official schedules for the competition were uploaded. Visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61569265311552>

[19 April 2026] Landing in Cairo & Mandatory Equipment Control

The South African Protea team arrives in Cairo and immediately travels to the Egypt International Olympic City Shooting Range complex. The Rifle athletes successfully complete the strict mandatory ISSF equipment control. Simultaneously, the Shotgun Trap team starts unofficial training strings to verify lighting patterns.

This was the second event where the new rules were implemented. The stiffness measurement on the rifle athlete's suits was exceptionally challenging, and the suits had to be manipulated to pass. The button distance on one athlete's jacket was adapted. The ISSF was very accommodating in allowing the athletes to test multiple times to pass the new requirements.

Matthys also had challenges with the new grip rules for pistols and had to make modifications to his grip but was also allowed to retest by the ISSF.

[20 April 2026] Official Pre-Event Training & Opening Ceremony

10m Air rifle women junior Athletes participated in the formal Pre-Event Training (PET). Later in the evening, dressed in their Protea attire, the entire delegation participates in a spectacular Opening Ceremony hosted by the ISSF and the Egyptian Shooting Federation.

The team had high level interactions with the ASSF and ISSF management and participated in social activities with the Egyptian team and performers after the official event.



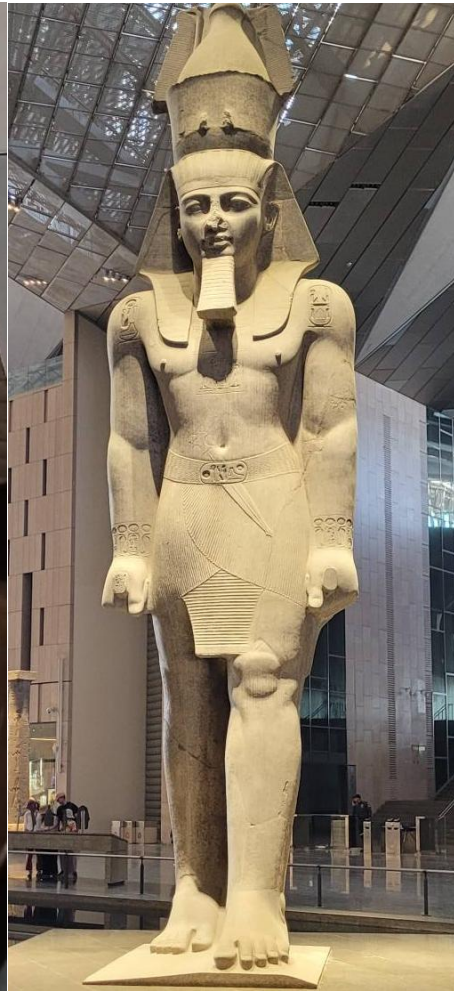
[21 April 2026] 10m Air rifle women junior and 10m Air Pistol Junior Qualification & Giza Pyramid Excursion

The 10m Air rifle women junior athletes competed in the qualification event. In the 10m Air Rifle Women Junior event, Anya Theart, Runé Janse van Rensburg, and Isabella Cilliers competes, securing highly respectable ranks.

Simultaneously, Matthys Fourie executes a solid individual performance within the competitive 10m Air Pistol Men Junior event.

Later in the afternoon, the squad travels to the legendary Giza Pyramids and the National Museum.





[22 April 2026] 50m 3P Women Junior Pre Event Training

Isabella Cilliers completes her official 50m Rifle 3-Positions (3P) pre-event training sequences. Matthew Schutte completes his air rifle PET.



[23 April 2026] Individual Qualification Events & Matthew's Personal Best

In demanding conditions on the .22 range, Isabella Cilliers did well, finishing 22nd with a 557.

Over in the air rifle range, Matthew Schutte shoots a new individual personal best score of 608.3 in the 10m Air Rifle Men Junior event. Later, both athletes unite for their mixed team PET.

At the same time, Trap shooters Mason, Jacobus, and Jaxon start their competition with formal pre-event training.



[24 April 2026] Mixed Team Match & Live Trap Stages

Isabella Cilliers & Matthew Schutte compete in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team Junior event, recording a joint qualification score of 614.4 to place 16th overall. The Protea pair finished ahead of the 2nd mixed team from host-nation Egypt.

Simultaneously, the Trap Men Junior competition starts with 75 clays for the day.



[25 April 2026] Shotgun Qualification

Mason Le Roux shoots 24 out of 25 clays in Round 4. Jaxon Le Roux shoots 22 clays in Round 4 and follows up with 23 in Round 5. Jacobus Reyneke shoots 22 targets in his fourth-round sequence.



[26 April 2026] Isabella's Prone Finish & Media Interactions

The final appearance of the Junior World Cup tour rests on Isabella. In Left-to-right crosswinds on the 50m range, Isabella finishes strong with a total score of 602.8 to secure a Top 10 finish. (10th Place overall).

The junior team caps off the tour by engaging in a highly inspiring, encouraging conversation with renowned ISSF media host and commentator Jamie Stangroom inside the main lobby.



Team manager Observations & Long-Term Recommendations

Team dynamics: This was the first time that all major disciplines were represented by a South African team. The President of SASSCO joined the team after an ISSF hosted workshop and this gave further impetus and support to the team.

On the ranges, athletes, parents and management represented well in their official attire. The team got along well and supported each other at different ranges and events.



- **Administration and finances:** This tour was officially initiated and managed by SAARA. Entries, hotel bookings, flights and financial management of the tour were managed by SAARA. The tour commenced without any administration or logistical difficulty. All arrangements were in place and paid upfront.

Strategic partnerships: High level meetings took place between the SASSCO president and ISSF and ASSF management. The ISSF reiterated their commitment in developing the sport in Africa with South Africa as a strategic partner.



Future tours: Funding support for athletes remains the biggest obstacle to the future of South African shooting sports. The entire team and team management is completely self-funded. Financial assistance and centralized management of tours will increase the number of yearly tours and will improve the competitive level of the Protea athletes.