

# International training boosts table tennis

COURTESY PHOTO

By Gabriel Esiku

The Uganda Secondary Schools Sports Association (USSSA) believes that participation in table tennis at the 2026 National Schools Games will significantly increase following the successful completion of a seven-day international coaching course held at Elite High School in Entebbe.

USSSA chief executive officer Christopher Mugisha said the training addressed a long-standing gap in the sport, which has previously attracted limited school involvement. He noted that building technical capacity among teachers is key to expanding table tennis at grassroots level.

The course was organised by the International Table Tennis Association (ITTA) in partnership with the International School Sport Federation (ISF) through the ISF Academy, working alongside the Uganda Table Tennis Association



Sammy Odongo (C) handing over USSSA Jacket to the trainer

and USSSA. Mugisha said the 30 teachers who graduated as certified coaches will play a crucial role in introducing and strengthening the sport in their respective schools and communities.

Participants were drawn from across the country and were guided by international instructors Keitseng Kealebogs of Botswana, Christina Chee of Malaysia, and ISF Academy director Romain Fermon. Fermon praised Uganda's collaboration with ISF, describing

it as a clear demonstration of commitment to the development of school sport.

He added that the course was unique in scope and execution, expressing optimism about future partnerships and the involvement of more international sports bodies in similar initiatives.

USSSA Head of Capacity Building Patrick Okanya described the programme as a landmark moment for table tennis development in Uganda.