

SADSAA Tournament Rules

These Rules will apply to all Internationals, National Championships and Inter-Regionals run under the authority and auspices of the South African Deep Sea Angling Association.

1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- 1.1. To properly elevate deep sea angling to its rightful place among the other participating sports. It is the intent to fish only the best anglers and Skippers/Boat Captains (hereinafter referred to as Skippers) under regulations which will prove the winning team to be the best in the Tournament.
- 1.2. These fishing rules have been evolved internationally so that in their observance, every fish and angler should have a sporting chance. Captures in which the fish has not fought, or in which the fish has not had the chance to fight, except on the gaff, rope or in the boat, are not caught with the intent of these rules and do not reflect credit on the fish or the fisherman. Only fish caught in accordance with the IGFA angling rules within the intent of these rules will qualify.

2. ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPANTS

- 2.1. Teams will consist of three (3) Provincial anglers, or more if decided upon by the National Council and the number of National Anglers per team is determined by the Council of SADSAA
 - 2.1.1. A non-travelling reserve may be selected in terms of the conditions specified in Rules 2.2, 2.3 or 2.4 below but shall not gain his/her Provincial or National colours unless he/she actually proceeds to the sea and fishes in the Tournament as a replacement for one of his/her team members.
 - 2.1.2. Should it be necessary for the reserve angler to replace one of his/her own team members for whatever reason, the change in the team will only be permitted prior to the commencement of the Tournament, i.e. no change to the team will be allowed for the duration of the Tournament once the fishing in the Tournament has commenced.
 - 2.1.3. Should the reserve angler wish to accompany his team to the Tournament venue, he shall not do so without the explicit prior written consent of the host province.
 - 2.1.4. Where the host province has given written consent to the reserve angler accompanying his team to the Tournament venue, the host province will have the full right to hold the province and team concerned responsible for all additional costs incurred in accommodating such a reserve angler for the duration of the Tournament.
- 2.2. In the case of International Tournaments, teams will consist of SADSAA registered deep sea anglers who have been selected on merit by the selection committee of SADSAA
- 2.3. In the case of National Championship Tournaments, teams will consist of SADSAA registered deep sea anglers who have been selected on merit by member Provincial associations and one senior SADSAA team and one U/19 SADSAA team, selected on merit by the selection committee of SADSAA. The U/19 SADSAA teams will be chosen for the Tuna, Game-fish and Bottom-fish Nationals only.
- 2.4. In the case of other Inter-Provincial Tournaments, teams will consist of SADSAA registered deep sea anglers who have been selected on merit by member Provincial associations and any invited teams which have the prior approval of the council of SADSAA
- 2.5. Juniors, for the purpose of Tournaments only, shall be deep sea anglers who have not yet attained 16 years of age at the commencement date of the Tournament.
- 2.6. Under 19's shall be deep sea anglers who have not yet attained 19 years of age at the commencement date of the Tournament.

3. REGISTRATION

3.1. Official registration must be completed with the registration officer of the Tournament by not later than the date and time laid down by the host province, which shall not be later than the commencement of the Tournament.

4. FORMAL RECEPTIONS

4.1. Attendance of all competitors is compulsory.

4.2. All participants will be correctly dressed in their step-out uniforms or alternate smart casual attire as determined and prescribed by the hosts in their written invitation.

5. BRIEFING AND BOAT DRAW

5.1. Boats will be drawn at an official boat draw ceremony and rotated daily. Under no circumstances will random allocation of boats be permitted, other than rule 6.1

5.2. There will be no discussion and/or deviation from any of these SADSAA rules.

5.3. Attendance of all competitors at the Briefing and Boat Draw is compulsory.

5.4. All participants will be correctly dressed in their step-out uniforms or alternate smart casual attire as determined and prescribed by the hosts in their written invitation.

6. BOATS AND SKIPPERS

6.1. Boats and skippers will be provided by the host province in all Tournaments other than the Sailfish, Game-fish and Marlin Nationals, where each province is required to supply their own boat and skipper. If a province is unable to supply a boat and skipper, they may request the host Province to assist.

6.2. Only boats that hold a current valid safety disc will be used in the Tournament.

6.3. Only skippers considered to be competent by the host province will take part in the Tournament and they should hold a recognised valid skippers ticket.

6.4. Each boat will carry only one skipper and one angling team. No guests are permitted on any Tournament boat with the exception of National Selectors.

6.5. A second crew member may be permitted where the host province deems it necessary, but he/she will be bound by the same rules as applicable to the Skipper in Rule 6.6

6.6. The Skipper of the boat will be bound by IGFA Rules except that he may not assist the competitors in the making up of terminal tackle or the rigging of baits whilst at sea. Either the Skipper or the second crew member may also assist with the gaffing of fish, but only when expressly requested to do so by the captain of the team. Only one person either Skipper or second crew member, may assist at any one time.

6.7. In International Tournaments only, the rigging of baits, by the Skipper or his second crew member, is allowed after approval of the National Council.

7. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

7.1. For all Internationals, National Championships and Inter-Provincials, the host province shall restrict the Tournament to one line class only.

7.2. Heavier breaking strain line than nominated line class is permitted on the boat for the exclusive purpose of towing teasers or utilisation for leaders and traces.

7.3. Any team member using line with a heavier breaking strain than the line class of the Tournament will result in his entire teams catch being disqualified for that day. This excludes the line when used as described and covered under 7.2 above.

7.4. All tackle and gaffs shall conform to IGFA Rules as it applies to the nominated class.

7.5. Certain National Championships will be issued line from SADSAA (sufficient for two reels of approximately 600 metres each). The issued line is free of charge and extra line will be issued to the host province for sale to Tournament participants should they require more.

8. TYPE AND CLASS OF FISHING

- 8.1. BILLFISH INTERNATIONALS AND NATIONALS:** Only fish of the Billfish species as listed by SADSAA in their book of “Record Requirements and Regulations for fish caught from craft at Sea” under the heading of “BILLFISH” will be permitted.
- 8.1.1.** In the case of Internationals where the International is held for a specific species of Billfish, then any one of the Billfish species will be permitted but shall be restricted to the single selected species only, e.g. in a Sailfish International only sailfish will be allowed.
- 8.1.2.** In the case of Inter-Provincials, all of the billfish species will be permitted but the host province may restrict the Tournament to a specific species or certain species only.
- 8.2. TUNA INTERNATIONALS AND NATIONALS:** Only the fish species as listed by SADSAA in their book of “Record Requirements and Regulations for fish caught from Craft at Sea” under the head of “II. TUNA” will be permitted.
- 8.2.1.** When an International is held for a specific species of tuna then only that species is permitted, e.g. in the World Albacore Championships, only the albacore will be allowed.
- 8.2.2.** In the case of Inter-Provincials, the host province may restrict the Tournament to a specific species or certain species only.
- 8.3. GAME-FISH INTERNATIONALS AND NATIONALS :** The host province may specify all or any of the game-fish species as listed by IGFA and/or listed by SADSAA in their book of “Record Requirements “V general sportfish” and Regulations for fish caught from Craft at Sea”, under the headings of “II TUNA, III GENERAL GAMEFISH”.
- 8.4. BOTTOM-FISH INTERNATIONALS AND NATIONALS:** The host province may specify all or any of the fish species as listed by SADSAA in their book of “Record Requirements and Regulations for fish caught from Craft at Sea”, under the headings of “V GENERAL SPORTFISH” and including the yellowtail from the “III GENERAL GAMEFISH” list.
- 8.4.1.** Fish may only be captured using the accepted recognised bottom-fishing methods.
- 8.5. INTERPROVINCIALS OTHER THAN COVERED ABOVE :** These may structured in any form and may be divided into both the Game-fish and Bottom-fish sections over the period of the Tournament, but invitations and rules must spell the details out very clearly and should the Tournament cater for both the Game-fish and Bottom-fish species, the the two sections must be fished independently and scores tallied separately.
- 8.5.1.** In terms of Game-fish Tournaments the host province may specify all or any of the Game-fish species as defined in 8.3 above
- 8.5.2.** In terms of Bottom-fish Tournaments the host province may specify all or any of the fish species as defined in 8.4 above.

9. SCORING

- 9.1.** There will be no more than two (2) lines per angler in the water at any one time
- 9.2.** Boat Skippers, supplied by the host province, will at all times act as referees and report any transgressions of the rules to the organisers.
- 9.3.** For all Internationals, Nationals and single category Inter-Provincials, the points scoring will be based on the National Point Scoring System applicable to the respective line class allowed in the Tournament.
- 9.4.** The team scoring the highest number of points shall be the winner
- 9.4.1.** In the case of Tournaments held in terms of Rule 8.5 above (both game-fish and bottom-fish) then scores using the National System as defined in Rule 9.3 above will be applied to each section independently and the team with the highest number of points in each of the two sections will be the winner of the respective section.
- 9.5.** Weighing will be to the nearest completed 0,1kg (1/10th of a Kg).
- 9.6.** In the event of a tie, the team with the lesser number of individual qualifying fish will win.

9.6.1. The recognised International “First Last Fish” rule will be the tie break for Billfish Tournaments where an equal number of releases by different teams have been made.

9.7. The results of the Tournament will be decided over the actual number of days fished.

9.8. The Skippers positions over the Tournament will be determined by the host province using a method which is totally fair and acceptable to all skippers participating in the Tournament.

10. TOURNAMENT ADJUDICATION COMMITTEE

10.1. There shall be a Tournaments Adjudicating Committee consisting of at least three but not exceeding five persons who shall be appointed by the host province and whose names shall be published before the commencement of the Tournament.

10.1.1. At the National Championship Tournaments, two of the National Selectors attending as observers shall be included in the maximum of five persons appointed to the Tournaments Adjudicating Committee.

11. MINIMUM SIZES AND LEGAL BAG LIMITS

11.1. Minimum sizes will be the legal limit for the species but shall not be less than the following:

<i>(a) All Bottom-fish species</i>	-	2 Kg.
<i>(b) All Game-fish species</i>	-	4 Kg.
<i>(c) All tuna species</i>	-	5 Kg.
<i>(d) All Marlin species</i>	-	150 Kg.
<i>(e) All Sailfish species</i>	-	Release Only
<i>(f) All Spearfish species</i>	-	20 Kg.

11.1.1. Host provinces may increase the minimum size to suite their conditions and/or species. But they may not be less than Rule 11.1 above.

11.2. No angler shall, on any day, catch or be in possession on any boat, of more than the maximum number of fish permitted by current legislation applicable to fish species and total bag limits.

12. TAG AND RELEASE

12.1. Teams will be responsible for providing their own tags and tagging equipment.

12.2. All Sailfish will be released.

12.3. Marlin tipped and released shall score SADSAA points for a 200 Kg. Marlin.

12.4. For the fish to qualify for release points, the swivel or, in the case where no swivel is used, the leader knot must touch the rod tip. Points will be scored irrespective of subsequent occurring events after the qualification has been met.

12.5. When releasing the fish, every humane effort shall be made to remove the hook from the fish or the leader is to be cut approximately one metre from the hook. The jerking of the leader to part of the line or to dislodge the hook is not permitted and any action of this nature will result in the fish being disqualified.

12.6. Where there is no independent boat skipper, digital camera evidence of tip and release and/or tag and release will be acceptable as long as the date and time appear on such digital photographs.

13. BAIT

13.1. Unless the host province specify to the contrary, teams are responsible for obtaining their own bait and such bait may be carried over from day to day.

14. FISHING TIMES

14.1. Fishing times will be as decided by the host province.

- 14.2.** All fish must be hooked by the “Lines Up” time and teams which report by radio, before lines-up time, the fact that a fish is hooked but not yet boated, will be allowed extra time of maximum 1 (one) hour for all Tournaments other than Marlin Tournaments where an extra 2 (two) hours will be allowed. Any fish hooked by an angler after “Lines-Up” will be disqualified.
- 14.3.** Fishing hours may be adjusted during the Tournament by the organisers if they deem it necessary for the purpose of safety. Should the organisers wish to extend fishing hours beyond the published times, for whatever reason, then all teams must be informed accordingly.
- 14.4.** All teams must report to the scales for weigh-in by not later than the time specified by the organisers, unless the organising committee decide, for reasons of breakdown or rendering assistance to a distress call, to extend the weigh-in time. The decisions of the adjudicating committee will be final.
- 14.5. BREAKDOWN OF TOURNAMENT BOATS**
- 14.5.1.** Should any craft break down during the Tournament this must be reported by radio to the Adjudicating Committee immediately
- 14.5.2.** Lost fishing time will not be made up but the Adjudicating Committee will endeavour to replace or repair the broken down craft as soon as possible.

15. WEIGH-IN AND JUDGING

- 15.1.** Only one Official Scale shall be used and supplied by the host province.
- 15.1.1.** The Official Scale shall have been certified for accuracy not more than twelve (12) months prior to the Tournament and the relevant Agent’s Certificate of Accuracy shall be available for inspection from the Adjudicating Committee if requested.
- 15.2.** All fish submitted for official weighing shall be weighed and judged only by the official Weigh-Master and his decision in all respects is final and binding.
- 15.3.** Each team’s catch shall be recorded on a catch record form furnished by the host province. This form must be signed by the team captain, skipper and Weigh-master at the Weigh-in.
- 15.4.** The angler shall be required to exhibit the bait (lures), rod, reel and any relevant tackle with which the fish was caught, to the Weigh-master, if the Weigh-master so deems it necessary.
- 15.5.** The Adjudicating Committee may investigate and act upon any incident occurring during the Tournament on their own initiative.
- 15.6.** Any protest, concerning the validity of any catch, shall be filed in writing accompanied by a R500-00 fee, signed by the protesting team and delivered to the Tournament Chairman/Director within one hour of the close of Weigh-in on the day in question.
- 15.6.1.** The decision of the majority of the Adjudicating Committee shall be final.
- 15.6.2.** If the objection is upheld, the protest fee will be returned; if set aside, then the protest fee will be retained by the organisers.
- 15.7.** All fish, on being weighed, will be marked by the Weigh-master.
- 15.8.** All fish caught in the Tournament shall be disposed of by the organisers.

16. PRIZE GIVING FUNCTION

- 16.1.** There shall be a Prize Giving function.
- 16.2.** Attendance of all competitors is compulsory.
- 16.3.** The President of SADSAA, or a person nominated by him, will officiate for the purpose of awarding prizes at all Internationals, National Championships and Inter-Provincial Tournament prize Giving functions.
- 16.4.** All participants will be correctly dressed in their step-out uniforms or alternate smart casual attire as determined and prescribed by the hosts in their written invitation.

17. PRIZES

- 17.1. Prizes shall be in the form of medals and/or trophies only and shall consist of the following minimum number of awards per Tournament.
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|---------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| 17.1.1. Winning Team | - | Gold Medal |
| 17.1.2. Second Place Team | - | Silver Medal |
| 17.1.3. Third Place Team | - | Bronze Medal |
| 17.1.4. 1 st Place Skipper | - | Gold Medal |
| 17.1.5. 2 nd Place Skipper | - | Silver Medal |
| 17.1.6. 3 rd Place Skipper | - | Bronze Medal |
- 17.2. Awards for all Internationals and Nationals, as detailed above, will be supplied by SADSAA at the expense of SADSAA, but where the host province wishes to make additional awards, these may be purchased from SADSAA at the expense of the host.
- 17.3. Awards for Inter-Provincials, as described above, may be purchased from SADSAA at the expense of the host province.

18. RULES FOR THE TUNA, GAME-FISH AND BOTTOM-FISH NATIONALS AND INTER-PROVINCIALS

18.1. TUNA NATIONALS & INTER-PROVINCIALS

- 18.1.1. The host province may nominate one line class for the Tournament
- 18.1.2. The minimum weight to weigh will be not lighter than the line-class used.
- 18.1.3. The first 10 fish killed by any angler will be the fish presented to the scales at the end of the days angling (in other words an angler cannot kill small fish and then select his 10 at the end of the day).
- 18.1.4. Whilst there will be NO points for release, the amount of releases and fish taken by predators must be recorded by the team and verified by the Skipper.
- 18.1.5. The Skipper remains SADSAA's referee to ensure the adherence to these rules as present.

18.2. GAME-FISH NATIONALS & INTERPROVINCIALS

- 18.2.1. The host province may nominate one line class for the Tournament
- 18.2.2. The first 10 fish killed by any angler will be the fish presented to the scales at the end of the days angling (in other words an angler cannot kill small fish and then select his 10 at the end of the day).
- 18.2.3. Whilst there will be NO points for release, the amount of releases and fish taken by predators must be recorded by the team and verified by the Skipper.
- 18.2.4. The Skipper remains SADSAA's referee to ensure the adherence to these rules as present.

18.2.5. SPECIES SCORING

If the team catch one species, the team score the full normal SADSAA points
 If the team catch two species, the team score the full normal SADSAA points
 If the team catch three species, the team score the full normal SADSAA points X 2.
 If the team catch four species, the team score the full normal SADSAA points X 3,
 etc...
 If a Sailfish or Marlin are caught in Gamefish Tournaments, they will not score any points but will count as a specie for multiplication purposes

- 18.2.6. In the case of a Gamefish Tournament where the host Province supplies the boats, the Skipper remains SADSAA's referee to ensure the adherence to all fishing rules.

18.3. BOTTOM-FISH NATIONALS & INTERPROVINCIALS

- 18.3.1. These rules take cognisance of the present legislation with regard to fish caught and bag limits
- 18.3.2. Only ONE line class

- 18.3.3. The target species, minimum weights, lengths etc., will be issued by the province taking cognisance of their particular area and National regulations
- 18.3.4. The first 10 fish killed by any angler will be the fish presented to the scales at the end of the days angling (in other words an angler cannot kill small fish and then select his 10 at the end of the day).
- 18.3.5. One single hook only will be allowed.
- 18.3.6. *SPECIES SCORING*
 If the team catch one species, the team score the full normal SADSAA points
 If the team catch two species, the team score the full normal SADSAA points
 If the team catch three species, the team score the full normal SADSAA points X 2.
 If the team catch four species, the team score the full normal SADSAA points X 3, etc...
- 18.3.7. The reverse hook method may be used and a special rig kept on the boat for this release method which can be carried out by Skipper
- 18.3.8. The Boat Captain remains SADSAA's referee to ensure the adherence to these rules as present.

19. GENERAL

19.1. COMMUNICATIONS

- 19.1.1. All radio communications between Tournament boats and between the organisers and Tournament boats will be initiated by a call up on Channel A (29.935MHz) or VHF Marine Channel 16 only, unless otherwise instructed by the organisers.
- 19.1.2. Cellular telephone communication, wherein any matter related to the Tournament is discussed, is strictly prohibited.

19.2. SKIPPERS

- 19.2.1. Skippers will adhere to rules, radio reporting times and procedures as laid down by the organisers.
- 19.2.2. No alcoholic beverages shall be consumed or be allowed on the Tournament Boats during the Tournament while at sea

19.3. COMPETITORS

- 19.3.1. *INFRACTION* : Any person, including Skippers, guilty of infraction of the rules may be disqualified from participating further in the Tournament and all future Tournaments sanctioned by SADSAA
- 19.3.2. The latest IGFA Rules will apply to all Tournaments and the onus will be on participants to keep themselves informed of the latest rules and amendments.

19.4. NATIONAL SELECTORS

- 19.4.1. At every National Championship Tournament the host province shall provide within their budget the cost of travel, accommodation and function expenses for at least two National Selectors to attend the Tournament as observers.
- 19.4.2. The National Selectors attending the National Championships shall accompany teams of their choice to sea daily, as observers.
- 19.4.3. The National Selectors shall not assist or advise the participating teams in any way whatsoever.

19.5. RECORDS: The organisers will have available the latest Provincial, South African, All African and World Record lists.

- 19.5.1. The onus for record claims remains with the individual angler.
- 19.5.2. The organisers must at all times retain a copy of the weigh sheet for any potential record claims and must have available a copy of the scale Certificate of Accuracy.
- 19.6. All anglers will, prior to the commencement of the Tournament, sign an indemnity form, which indemnifies the host province, SADSAA, the sponsors and any person involved in the

Tournament or the organisation thereof. In the case of minors, the indemnity form will be signed by the parents or legal guardian.

- 19.7. Each province must supply a flag to be flown during the Tournament.
- 19.8. Invitations must be sent out by registered mail, E-mail or by fax transmission where facilities exist, by the host province at least sixty (60) days prior to the commencement of the Tournament and shall set out clearly all of the pertinent details regarding line classes, fish species, accommodation, costs, etc.
- 19.9. Acceptances to the invitation must be returned by registered mail, or by fax transmission where facilities exist, by the final date specified by the invitee.
- 19.10. The Entry Fee shall be in line with the budget as approved at the time of the acceptance of the host Province's tender to the National Council.
- 19.11. National Championships for the five different disciplines will be held in South African waters but Inter-Provincials may be fished anywhere, worldwide.
- 19.12. National Tournaments will be held for the duration of five days (weather permitting) and Inter-Provincial Tournaments can be as long as the host province decides prior to issuing invitations.
- 19.13. The hosts for the National Championships each year will be decided at the Annual General meeting of the Association.

20. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOST PROVINCE

- 20.1. A detailed income and expenditure account signed by the Provincial Chairman shall be submitted to the SADSAA Tournament Officer not later than 30 days after the Tournament.
- 20.2. A detailed schedule of the results and all correspondence with the sponsors, together with any brochures and a collection of photographs taken at the Tournament, shall be submitted to the SADSAA Tournament Officer within 60 days after each of the five National Championships.