

RULES FOR THE 2026 SADSAA JUNIOR NATIONALS HOSTED BY PORT ALFRED RIVER & SKI BOAT CLUB.

1. INTRODUCTION.

Please find below, the rules for the South African Deep Sea Angling Association (SADSAA) Junior Nationals tournament to be held at Port Alfred River & Ski Boat Club in Port Alfred from 7th to the 12th of July 2026.

2. BRIEFING AND BOAT DRAW FOR ANGLERS.

1. Boats will be pre-drawn by SADSAA for the tournament.
2. Under NO circumstances will random allocation for boats be permitted.
3. There will be no discussion and/or deviation from the rules.
4. Attendance of all Captains and Skippers is compulsory.

3. BOATS AND SKIPPERS

1. Boats and skippers will be provided for all anglers.
2. Each boat will carry only one skipper, and 3 or 4 anglers.
3. The U16 teams will be permitted to have a Team Manager on the boat. The team manager should not be from the same Province as what the anglers on the boat are.
4. The skipper is the adjudicator and referee on the boat and must ensure that all rules are always adhered to.

4. POSITION DRAW ON A BOAT.

When all anglers have arrived at the boat on a fishing day, before launching, the skipper will perform a draw for each angler for a position on the boat as follows:

- 1** will be on the starboard front,
- 2** will be on the starboard back corner,
- 3** will be on the port front and
- 4** will be port back of the boat.

Anglers must give any other angler, fighting a fish freedom of movement around the boat within reason.

5. ANGLING RULES.

The tournament will be fished according to IGFA 10kg line class and SADSAA tournament rules as below:

1. The weak link rule will apply. Each rod taken on the boat, must have a minimum of 5 meters of the tournament line class (10kg) monofilament line before the leader or trace. A heavier line class monofilament line or braid can be used as backing. It is recommended that a minimum of 20 meters of monofilament tournament line class be used if an angler wishes to claim a possible record fish. Line testing by the host province will be performed, any line exceeding the stipulated line class, will result in that angler's catch being disqualified for the day.
2. All anglers must be in possession of a valid fishing permit and may be asked to produce it to the authorities or organisers.
3. Only recognised bottom fish species will count for the tournament as per the species list on the official tournament angler information card. No sharks, Barbel or baitfish to count.
4. Each angler is permitted to take a maximum of 3 rods onto the boat. Each angler is permitted to have one (1) line in the water at any one time, while drifting or anchoring. All other rods may have line through the eyes but may not be rigged with a trace or rig.
5. All tackle and gaffs shall conform to IGFA rules as per the line class.
6. A 2-hook trace or rig is acceptable if it consists of 2 single hooks on separate leaders. Please note that the hooks have to be placed in such a way that should all line be pulled tight, the hooks do not overlap.
7. Leader length may not exceed 4.57m and the combined double line and leader may not exceed 6.1m as measured from the knot to the bottom hook, should this be checked and found to exceed the stipulated lengths, then the anglers catch will be disqualified for the day, in this case, the points on the boat will be recalculated.
8. Circle hooks are permitted but may not be off set.
9. Multiple hooks "bait jigs" are permitted for catching **BAIT** only, any legal fish caught while using "bait jigs" must be disqualified unless only using 2 hooks.
10. All anglers must make their rods available to authorities for inspection, if so requested.
11. Only bait issued by the tournament or caught on the boat is permitted to be used. Additional bait can be bought from the organisers. An angler **may not** bring his own bait onto the boat.
12. The swapping and passing of fish amongst fellow anglers, is strictly prohibited. Any angler found guilty of this, will have his catch disqualified for the day.
13. Fishing times are up to the discretion of the host province and will be printed in the program.
14. All anglers on the boat can only start fishing once the skipper calls "lines down" and must immediately come up once the skipper calls "lines up" to move or at the end of the day. Any fish hooked after the "lines up" call by the skipper, must be disqualified.
15. If the skipper decides to go and target live bait for the anglers before "lines down" is called, then all the anglers must target live bait and no legal fish caught will count. The live bait must be shared equally amongst the anglers. If

the skipper has called "lines down" and an angler catches any live bait, that angler can keep it for himself.

16. If any angler is fighting a fish before the "lines up" call for the end of the day's fishing, he will be given an extra 30 minutes to boat the fish, no extension of time will be given after the 30 minutes is over. The skipper must radio in before the "lines up" time to inform authorities of the angler given extra time. There will be **no** extra time given on the last day of the competition.
17. It is the responsibility of the anglers to assist their skippers with launching and retrieving as well as cleaning and re-fuelling of boats after each day of the competition.
18. Cellular telephones may **not** be used on boats for fishing purposes. This will include any other form of GPS/navigation device, watches, or mobile handheld GPS ETC.
19. All the Bottomfish tournaments will be release tournaments. Only fish within the daily bag limit/size or potential record fish and PB's (personal best) fish may be brought to the scale for the anglers CV.
20. The onus for record claims, remains with the individual angler.
21. U/16 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.
22. U/19 Juniors shall be deep sea anglers who have not yet attained 19 years of age at the commencement date of the Tournament.
23. U/16 Juniors of a small frame must bring their own life jacket to the tournament.
24. All on Board must be aware of how and who to call in event of an emergency.

6. **BOUNDARIES.**

Boundaries will be determined by the host province with input from the weather committee and communicated to all skippers and anglers.

7. **RADIO CONTROL.**

All radio communications during the tournament will be on a nominated VHF Channel. Radio call-ups by Radio Control will take place at **09h30, 11h30 and 13h30**. The boat's position and catch (total fish) recorded must be given. Call up for each boat is mandatory. Relay boats where necessary are to be identified and used where communication is limited.

8. **PROTESTS.**

Any rules not covered, or any objections laid by a team or angler, will be decided by the Tournaments Adjudications Committee, and will be deemed acceptable to all parties. Any protest must be lodged in writing with the Tournament Adjudicating Committee within one (1) hour after returning to base, accompanied by a fee of **R1000-**

00 deposit. Deposit will be refunded if the objection is upheld. The adjudicating committee's decision is final and cannot be challenged.

9. POINTS SCORING SYSTEM.

1. The skipper will be issued with a scorecard which will count as the angler's catch return for the day for each angler on his boat each morning. The skipper is responsible for recording each angler's fish caught onto the card, as per rules explained below. The skipper must not calculate angler points, this will be done by the appointed officials. At lines up the card must be signed by the skipper, and **ALL** other anglers on the boat to verify all information is correct. The scorecard must **always remain** with the skipper and must be handed in to the weighmaster at the end of each day by the skipper. It is the responsibility of the anglers to ensure that their card is correct when signing, once handed in by the skipper, it is final unless there is a protest. The skipper will also be issued with a returnable SADSAA measuring mat. All fish scored must be measured on this mat and by no other means to score points.
2. All fish caught by an angler will be put on a mat and measured to score points, only fish where an angler wishes to claim a record, PB or for his CV can be taken to the scale for weigh in at the end of the day but must still be measured and recorded on the bottom of the scorecard. Total length is to be measured for all species of fish to qualify for points, fork length is only used for **over line class fish** (specified on scorecard) and record claiming purposes. When measuring for over line class and records, **FORK LENGTH** is used, except species who have a round or square tail, then **TOTAL LENGTH** is to be measured. The skipper must ensure that the fish being measured is in its natural position. **IMPORTANT: THE TAIL MUST NOT BE SQUEEZED TO ADD LENGTH ONTO THE FISH.** Minimum size limits will be on the scorecard for all POINT SCORING species. **VERY IMPORTANT: Only fish listed on the official species list will count for points.**
3. Points will be awarded for fish landed by an angler and recorded by the skipper on the scorecard in the following ways: -
 1. Points will be awarded for the first fish caught of any species; this will always be more points than any subsequent fish caught of the same species. Example: The first Soldier caught by an angler gets awarded 6 points and any more soldiers caught by the same angler will get 3 points for each fish up to the permitted number on the scorecard for Soldiers. This is in effect giving 3 bonus points for each different species caught. All species will have bag limits that may vary with legal bag limits as per the scorecard. **It is imperative to note that the reason more fish are permitted to count, is on condition that fish are successfully released.**
 2. Any fish caught and claimed over the tournament line class, in this case 6kg, will be awarded with bonus points. Example A Kob measuring over 84cm. (over 6kg using the Fish

Calculator conversion App.) on the mat will be awarded 3 bonus points.

4. Points will vary per species based on an estimated rarity of the species as determined by the host association. Each angler will be given a laminated information card listing species, catch limits, points and any other information required by the angler.
5. There will be a weigh in at the end of each fishing day for **PB's or record claims only**, no other fish will be weighed to count towards scoring in the tournament.
6. When an angler is fighting a fish, he can ask the skipper to net or gaff the fish for him. Due to this being a catch and release tournament, we encourage the use of a net only. No fish is to be gaffed and killed by the angler if he has already reached his legal quota on that species.
7. Once a fish has been successfully landed and measured, only then can the skipper mark the angler's scorecard in the appropriate block with an X. The angler may not go down again until that fish has been successfully released. He may ask the skipper to assist with this. It is the anglers responsibility to ensure his fish is marked, he is entitled to ask the skipper who can show him the scorecard. Fish cannot be claimed later in the day.
8. Once scorecards are signed by the skipper and all anglers and handed in, **THEY ARE FINAL**, the weighmaster/officials will tabulate the scores.
9. NB Where an angler decides to bring some of his fish home after the days fishing, he must ensure that he is within legal bag and size limits.

10. **POINTS.**

1. **ANGLER POINTS:** The anglers on a boat will be competing against each other on that boat **only** and against no other anglers for that day. The anglers on a boat will score the points for the fish that they have successfully landed for that day. The angler on the boat with the most points will win the boat for that day and his points will be converted to 100%. The other anglers will be awarded a proportional % of their points compared to the boat winner. FOR EXAMPLE: Angler A scores 80 points, angler B scores 60 points and angler C scores 120 points, the boat winner will be angler C with 120 points and his score will now be **100%**, angler A who got 80 points will have his score proportioned to the 120 points and converted to % so he will get $80/120 \times 100 = 66.67\%$ and finally angler B will get $60/120 \times 100 = 50\%$. These will be the points/percentages allocated to the 3 anglers on that boat for the day. For the competition, each angler will have his % scores for each day totalled. The likelihood of a tie is good, and, in that case, a total fish count

- will be done to determine the winner, should there still be a tie, then the points scored by an angler will be used to determine a clear winner.
2. **TEAM POINTS:** - The team will be awarded the total of all 3 anglers in the team's % scores for the day. For the competition, each team will have their daily scores/percentages totalled. Should there be a tie, a total fish count for the competition will be done to determine the winner, should there still be a tie, then the points scored by an angler for the competition, will be used to determine a clear winner.
 3. **SKIPPER POINTS:** - The skipper will be awarded the average fish points of all the anglers on his boat for the day and then be awarded position points on the grand prix system each day. The skipper with the least grand prix points at the end of the competition will be the top skipper. Should there be a tie, then the authorities will apply the most fish caught to determine the winner, should there still be a tie, then the total points scored by the skipper will be used to determine the winner. If any skipper does not compete on any day for whatever reason, then his points for that day will be the number of boats participating plus 1.

11. **MEDALS.**

Medals will be awarded as follows:

U/16

- 11.1 Top Skipper gold medal.
- 11.1.2 Second Skipper – Silver medal.
- 11.1.3 Third skipper – Bronze medal.

- 11.1.4 Top team– Gold medals.
- 11.1.5 Second team– Silver medals.
- 11.1.6 Third team– Bronze medals.

- 11.1.7 Top angler overall – Gold medal.
- 11.1.8 Second angler overall – Silver medal.
- 11.1.9 Third angler overall – Bronze medal.

U/19

- 11.2.1 Top Skipper gold medal.
- 11.2.2 Second Skipper – Silver medal.
- 11.2.3 Third skipper – Bronze medal.

- 11.2.4 Top team– Gold medals.
- 11.2.5 Second team– Silver medals.
- 11.2.6 Third team– Bronze medals.

- 11.2.7 Top angler overall – Gold medal.

- 11.2.8 Second angler overall – Silver medal.
- 11.2.9 Third angler overall – Bronze medal.

12. OPENING/CLOSING FUNCTIONS DRESS CODE.

It is compulsory for all anglers to attend the opening and closing functions with the following dress code:

Opening function.	Full Provincial/National colours.
Evening meals and organised social events	Casual team apparel.
Prize giving/Closing function	Full Provincial/National colours.

13. SKIPPERS RESPONSIBILITIES.

1. The skipper is the adjudicator and referee on the boat and must ensure that all rules are always adhered to.
2. It is the responsibility of the skipper to complete and register catches onto the scorecards of all anglers. He must record all legitimate fish claimed by the anglers. The scorecards **must always** remain in his possession. He will also sign and ensure each angler and the other anglers sign all scorecards at the end of the days fishing and then hand them into the weighmaster/official at the end of each fishing day **within half an hour** after returning to shore.
3. The skipper may assist anglers, when requested to gaff/net a fish. He may also bring in lines if asked to do so by the angler, but must disqualify any fish caught on the rod whilst he is reeling it in. He may also release fish for an angler.
4. No fishing is allowed by skippers.
5. All skippers must be in possession of a fish release kit and can assist anglers with the release of fish if asked and he is available.
6. The skipper, in consultation with the anglers must ensure that all anglers have a fair chance at catching fish at a particular mark, but has the final say when to move after reasonable time has been given, usually 10 minutes after the first angler achieves a full count on a species, **UNLESS** there are multiple species at the mark. The skipper's decision is **final** and cannot be challenged by any angler.
7. When drifting, the skipper must attempt to alternate drifts, to give anglers on both sides of the boat, equal opportunity to fish in comfort.
8. The skipper must ensure that no angler brings onto the boat or uses his own bait. **Only bait issued by the authorities or caught that day on the boat can be used by the anglers.**