



SADSAA Heavy Tackle Billfish Nationals & International Tournament 2026

Invitation

Mpumalanga Deep Sea Angling Association is proud to invite all Provinces to send their qualifying teams to participate in the 2026 SADSAA Heavy Tackle Billfish National to be held at Sodwana Bay. Entries can be made on the MDSAA website www.mpangling.co.za

Line Class:	37kg IGFA Rated
Target Species:	All Billfish species
Type of fishing:	Trawling, pitching and live bait
Method of Fishing:	Trolling konas, live bait, strip bait and pitching baits
Cost of entry:	R 12700.00 per team
Included:	The Opening and closing function meals, midweek braai and one additional dinner at Leather Backs restaurant (4 Meals included) All drinks during the opening and closing functions and during weigh-ins out of the MDSAA Bar and a Booklet with all the required information regarding the tournament. A Competition Shirt for each angler
Excluded:	Boats, all Bait, Fuel, accommodation, boat packs, transport, all other meals not supplied by MDSAA and practice days are not included in the entrance fee
Rules:	IGFA rules and SADSAA scoring will apply
Venue:	Sodwana Bay (Sodwana Ski Boat Club Hall)
Date:	This Tournament will be held from the 16 th to the 20 th of November 2026
Registration:	Sunday 15 November from 15h00 to 16h00 (Sodwana Ski Boat Club Hall)
Team Photos:	Sunday 15 November from 17h00 to 17h30
Opening Function:	Sunday 15 November 17h30 for 18h00 (Live streaming will start @ 18h00 promptly)
Fishing days:	A total of 5 fishing days (weather permitting) Monday 16 to Friday 20 November 2026
Gillies:	No Gillies will be allowed

Spouses: Spouses will be allowed to attend the tournament at an additional cost of R1500.00 per spouse. However spouses of SADSAA & Protea anglers will not be allowed to attend the tournament as per SADSAA regulations.

Entry Forms: Entries are available on the MDSAA website at www.mpangling.co.za scroll down on the competition entry list and click on the HT Billfish link to enter.

Dietary Requirements: Special dietary requirements will be available on the entry form.

Payments: Payments can be made directly into the bank account of MDSAA via EFT. Please send proof of payment to finance@mpangling.co.za via email.

MDSAA

ABSA Bank

0712035331

632005 (Code)

Closing Date: **Entries closing date 20 October 2026**

Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Kind Regards

Bryan Jooste

Tournaments Officer

Mpumalanga Deep Sea Angling Association

tournaments@mpangling.co.za

0824530531

Accommodation:	Sodwana Bay Lodge;	Didi Kriek 076-6154152
	Time Share;	Buyi 035-5719101
	Lodge Houses;	Charmaine 078-4578100
	Viskoors;	Sid Prinsloo 082-4159964
	Sodwana Ski Boat club house;	Melissa 081-8335730

Program

Sunday 15 Nov

15h00-16h00	Registration, Compulsory for all participants Indemnities and Popi Act to be signed by all participants All teams to collect their Goody Bags
17h00-17h30	Team Photos on Stage
18h00	Official Opening of the SADSAA Heavy Tackle Billfish National & International Capping Ceremony Followed by Dinner

Monday 16 Nov

05h00	launching of boats, all boats to wait behind the back line for the lines down call from Beach control
09h00	Radio call up on Channel 69
11h00	Radio Call up on channel 69
14h00	Lines Up Call (One hour extra time available)
16h30 – 17h30	Daily Weigh-in
17h30	Photo Tag & Releases
18h00	Dinners @ Leather Backs Restaurant Group 1

Tuesday 17 Nov

Same as Monday, Dinner @ Leather Backs Restaurant Group 2

Wednesday 18 Nov

Same as Monday + Tournament Braai @ Hall

Thursday 19 Nov

Same as Monday, Dinner @ Leather Backs Restaurant Group 3

Friday 20 Nov

05h00	launching of boats weather permitting
09h00 + 11h00	Radio call up on channel 69
14h00	Lines up Call (One hour extra time available)
16h00 – 17h00	Weigh-in
19h00	Final Prize Giving

Tournament Rules

1. Line Class

- 37kg IGFA Line Class
- Anglers are to supply their own line
- No heavier line to be taken on board, except for use of traces and replacing leaders and backing
- Onus remains with the angler to ensure line strength
- Line samples will be taken and tested at weigh-in
- The weak link rule will apply as per SADSAA and IGFA Tournament rules: the onus remains with the angler to ensure there is enough line for testing, and for record application purposes

2. Teams

- The tournament is a 4 man team as per SADSAA' call for nominations
- Teams that will be competing will be those that were selected by SADSAA and the respective provinces
- All anglers will have a valid fishing license and remains the responsibility of each angler to obtain a valid fishing license
- Teams are to supply their own Boats and Skippers

3. Bait

- Teams are responsible to obtain their own bait and such bait may be carried over from day to day

4. Fuel

- Teams are responsible to for their own fuel and refueling at their own expense

5. Fishing Times

Launching	05:00
Lines Down	To be called by beach control
Lines up	14:00
Weigh-in	16:30 to 17:30 at SBSC Hall, 16:00 to 17h00 on last day (COMPULSORY FOR ALL ANGLERS)

Teams and anglers reporting late for weigh-in will be disqualified for the day

Tag & Release sheets to be signed by both angler and team captain during weigh-in

- Launching form 05:00 weather permitting (Weather Committee)
- All boats will be listed and controlled by beach control
- All boats to wait behind the backline and wait for the lines down call from beach control
- Radio communication will be on VHF channel 69
- Lines up will be called by beach control at 14:00 by beach control. All teams to respond to lines up call on channel 69
- Extra time: All fish still being fought that were hooked prior to the lines up call must be reported to beach control immediately. It remains the responsibility of the team to request extra time before the lines up has been given from beach control on VHF channel 69.
- A Maximum extension of 1 hour will be allowed, weather permitting. Thereafter the line has to be cut.

6. Radio Call Up

- All skippers must confirm and specify T&R during call ups and lines up. All fish hooked up after the lines up call will be disqualified
- Call ups will be on VHF channel 69 at 09:00 and 11:00
- All teams to respect radio silence during call up times and only reply to the call up from beach control or to report a hook up or any safety issues.
- Lines up call will be at 14:00
- All Billfish Strikes must immediately be reported to beach control by the skipper or team captain in the following order
 - a. Name of Boat
 - b. Name of angler
 - c. Fish raised-at time
 - d. Fish hook-up and fighting
 - e. Fish released time

7. Boundaries

- North at Island Rock
- South at Rooiwalle at Parks Board Beacon
- No fishing activities in the Marine Sanctuary areas whatsoever

8. Weather

- The appointed weather committee will decide on the weather daily
- The weather committee may decide to call the competition off or shorten the fishing hours for the day if the weather condition so require
- The weather committee may extend the fishing hours for the day if conditions so require, but the call has to be made prior to lines down in the morning.
- Should the competition be called off for the day due to bad weather, no extra time will be allowed. All teams will at this time retrieve all lines from the water and any lines that still have a fish on will have to be cut immediately.

9. Scoring Method of Calculation

- Spearfish 100 Points
- Sailfish 100 Points
- Marlin 220 Points

10. Bonus Points

- **SPEARFISH**
Team's 1st Release in the Tournament: Straight Points only
Team's 2nd Release in the Tournament: 20 bonus Points
Team's 3rd Release in the Tournament: 40 bonus Points
Team's 4th Release in the Tournament: 60 bonus points
Team's 5th Release in the Tournament: 80 bonus Points
- **SAILFISH**
Team's 1st Release in the Tournament: Straight Points only
Team's 2nd Release in the Tournament: 20 bonus Points
Team's 3rd Release in the Tournament: 40 bonus Points
Team's 4th Release in the Tournament: 60 bonus points
Team's 5th Release in the Tournament: 80 bonus Points
- **MARLIN**
Team's 1st Release in the Tournament: Straight Points only
Team's 2nd Release in the Tournament: 40 bonus Points

Team's 3rd Release in the Tournament: 70 bonus Points

Team's 4th Release in the Tournament: 100 bonus points

Team's 5th Release in the Tournament: 130 bonus Points

- **SPECIES BONUS POINTS**

Qualifying species: Sailfish, Spearfish, Black Marlin, Blue/Striped Marlin

Blue and Stripe Marlin will count as one species because they are not as easy to identify on a leader in the water

Team 1st Species in the tournament: Straight Points only

Team 1st Species in the tournament: 25 Bonus Points

Team 1st Species in the tournament: 50 Bonus Points

Team 1st Species in the tournament: 60 Bonus points

- **DAILY RELEASE SEQUENCE BONUS POINTS**

Daily sequence bonus points are awarded per day, every day of the tournament

Tournament's 1st release of the day: 5 Bonus points

Tournament's 2nd release of the day: 4 Bonus points

Tournament's 3rd release of the day: 3 Bonus points

Tournament's 4th release of the day: 2 Bonus points

Tournament's 5th release of the day: 1 Bonus points

- **CIRCLE HOOK BONUS POINTS**

Billfish released on a circle hook: 5 Bonus Points

11. LINES

- There will be no more than two lines per angler in the water at any one time

12. T&R/Tip and Release

- 12.1. Each successful released Billfish will receive points as per the scoring system in point 10. The onus is on the angler to prove the tip and release by photo/video capturing date and time of tip (catch), and that the fish was released. The footage must be submitted to the weigh Master at weigh-in
- 12.2. For the fish to qualify as a release the swivel or connecting device between the double line and the leader must touch or be in the top eye of the angler's rod. In the case of wind-on leaders the full connection between the line and the leader must be through the top eye of the rod.
- 12.3. If requirements of rule 12.2 have been completed, the fish will count as a release, irrespective of any subsequent events after the fish was tipped.
- 12.4. When releasing the fish, every effort should be made to remove the hook from the fish, and if this proves to be impossible, the trace should be cut as close to the hook as possible.
- 12.5. It is bad practice to jerk the leader to try and break the leader or dislodge the hook and whilst it is impossible to disqualify a catch because of such action, it should be discouraged.
- 12.6. These T&R rules are written to give the Billfish the best possible chance of living and these principles should continually be emphasized to competition anglers.
- 12.7. No Billfish shall be taken out of the water to be Photographed
- 12.8. 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

13. HOOKS

- If fishing with circle hooks, only non-off set hooks to be used with dead or live bait. The use of off set hooks are illegal.
- When bait is presented to Billfish (Marlin or Sailfish) using a skirted lure, you are allowed to use J-Hooks
- One may use J-Hooks with a Kona
- NO Stainless steel hooks allowed

14. TIE: In the event of a tie, the angler/team or boat first achieved their points will be classified as the winners. (First last fish)

15. Awards

- 1st Team Gold Medals
- 2nd Team Silver Medals
- 3rd Team Bronze Medals

16. Adjudicating Committee

- The Adjudicating committee will consist of the Tournament committee and SADSAA selectors

17. Protests

- Any protest made by an angler or team must be in writing and signed by the protesting team's captain accompanied by a R1000.00 cash payment, handed to the weigh master within one hour of the close of weigh-in. The result of the protest will be made known 24 hours after the protest

18. BOATS

- Only boats, currently registered with SADSAA and which hold a current valid COF, may be only boats, currently registered with SADSAA and which hold a current valid safety disc/certificate, will be used in this tournament.
- Each boat will carry only one team (Max 4 anglers) with a registered Skipper (Non Angling) only.
- Skippers and Captains will always act as referees, adhering to rules, radio reporting times and procedures, and will report any transgressions of rules to the tournament committee.
- It is the duty of each team to assist their skipper with launching, refueling and cleaning of the boat.
- In the event of a breakdown, lost fishing time will not be made up, but the tournament committee will try to assist to get the boat repaired A.S.A.P.

19. GENERAL RULES

- Each angler shall sign an indemnity form which indemnifies SADSAA, MDSAA, Isimangaliso Wetland Park and the organizing Committee against any loss or damage whatsoever.
- Attendance by all competitors is compulsory at the Opening and closing functions, Ceremony, Briefing, weigh-ins and happy hours.
- Dress code for the opening and closing functions will be Provincial Step Outs (Blazer & Tie)
- Dress code for weigh-in will be Provincial weigh-in attire.
- Skipper dress code for opening and closing functions will be SADSAA Skippers or Provincial step outs (Blazer & Tie) if not available then skippers will wear button shirt, long pants and closed shoes. NO T-SHIRT AND PLAKKIES WILL BE ALLOWED
- SADSAA representatives will have the right to accompany a team out to sea should they decide to do so. They will act as observers only.

20. Breach of rules

- Teams will automatically be disqualified should they be found guilty
- The Tournament committee's decision will be final and binding
- Anglers will be responsible for any damage or harm they have caused to any Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife or Isimangaliso property or person and cost relating to loss of Isimangaliso performance Bonus of R30000.00

21. GENERAL

- Any incident that may occur which has not been covered by the rules above shall be referred to the tournament committee.