

MLF Africa Cup Challenge

TOURNAMENT RULES

Loskop Dam, August 7 - 9, 2025

These rules supersede any previously published set of rules for this event and intended to further the best interests of bass fishing in general and not to benefit any individual, team, or boat. Also, these rules apply to all anglers in both MLF Africa Cup Challenge categories. Please make sure you understand the rules, regulations and procedures.

1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT

Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the MLF RSA Tournament Committee. The decisions of the special committee are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. Each contestant agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament organiser immediately upon discovery of the violation. Failure to report violations may be cause for disqualification.

Protests are to be made in writing and handed, in person, to the tournament director not later than 15 minutes after the check-in time of the final flight of each tournament day and handed to the tournament director in person. Protest forms are available on request from the tournament director.

2. GENERAL

Major League Fishing (MLF) is the world's largest tournament fishing organization and provides unparalleled fishing opportunities through a variety of tournament levels. MLF is committed to provide a lifestyle experience that is the best in fishing, on and off the water.

All anglers enter the MLF Africa Cup Challenge voluntarily and at their own risk. The tournament proprietor, the tournament director, MLF RSA Tournament Committee, and tournament sponsors and all resort proprietors and their employees at all levels, are indemnified from any personal liabilities whatsoever that may be incurred by any person while travelling to, or from, or during the tournament.

Fishing is from boats only. The emphasis is on team (rather than individual) competition and maximum two persons per boat are allowed. Anglers are not allowed to keep the official weigh-bags, tags or boat markers used at the tournaments.

3. TOURNAMENT HOURS

The MLF RSA Tournament Committee cannot be held responsible if dates and venues need to be changed because of influences beyond their control. At the discretion of the tournament organiser, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or cancelled due to unsafe weather, or water conditions.

4. CATEGORIES

Category #1 - MLF Africa Cup Challenge Team Event Champions

Each *MLF Africa Cup Challenge Team* consists of maximum THREE boats with two persons per boat.

The total combined weight of Day 01, Day 02 and Day 03 per team will determine who will be crowned **MLF Africa Cup Challenge Champions**.

Each boat (2 persons) will also be competing in the *MLF Africa Individual Champions* tournament.

Category #2 - MLF Africa Individual Champions

MLF Africa Individual Teams consist of one boat with maximum two persons per boat.

The total combined weight of Day 01, Day 02 and Day 03 per boat will determine who will be crowned **MLF Africa Individual Champions**.

5. PRIZES

Category #1: MLF Africa Cup Challenge Team Event

Only trophies up to fifth place - no prize money

(Anglers compete for MLF Africa Individual Champions prize money)

Category #2: MLF Africa Individual Champions

1st Place – CASH* + trophies + one Pro-angler and one Co-angler slot to the USA

2nd Place – CASH* + trophies

3rd Place – CASH* + trophies

**Pay-outs are based on a full field*

All prizes are based on a full field (a full field is regarded as 45 boats per event), and

Prize winners have to be at the prize giving ceremony to receive their prize. No prizes will be kept for collection and non attendance will result in a forfeiting the prize, and trophies.

In the event of a tie, the boat that had the heaviest bag on day three will have the benefit. If there is still a tie, the boat that had the heaviest bag weight on day 2.

FIRST PRIZE*

The MLF Africa Individual Champions (consisting of two anglers) will win one pro-angler plus one co-angler slot to compete at the MLF Toyota Series Championship in the USA in 2026. (See caption #28 [TERMS & CONDITIONS](#)*)

6. PARTICIPATION

Participation is open to any angler, irrespective of creed, colour, race or affiliation. No angler under the age of 16 is allowed to participate. The tournament director reserves the right of admission to any participant.

Any person who, in the judgment of the tournament director is disabled or handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his or her skipper or co-angler partner or compromise his or her safety or the safety of his or her skipper or co-angler partner may not be eligible to participate.

7. TEAM NAMES

The MLF RSA Tournament Committee reserves the right to request that a boat's team name be changed if that team name is in conflict with this event. Team names may not include the words "Big 5 / Five", "Africa King", "Africa Champions", "King of the Jungle", "MLF RSA / South Africa" which are reserved to be used by MLF South Africa only.

8. PURCHASING OF INFORMATION

The purchasing of, or bartering for, information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including but not limited to GPS waypoints (other than through commercially available sources) and the hiring of fishing guide services is not permitted after the entry deadline for each tournament. The sharing of tournament winnings with non-contestants in exchange for information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters is strictly prohibited and will be cause for disqualification from the entire tournament. The purchasing of, or bartering for, fishing locations from another contestant is strictly prohibited and will be cause for both contestants to be disqualified from the entire tournament.

Contestants may not ask for and/or receive information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from anyone, including publicly available sources (quasi-public websites, blogs and/or social media pages set up for the specific purpose of sharing information with individuals or a small group of individuals, either private or public).

Flights over tournament waters, including drones, are not permitted beginning with the start of the off-limits period, extending through practice and competition days.

9. REGISTRATION & PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING

The tournament entry fee (per boat) must be paid up front in full. (The entry fee exclude launching and accommodation fees.) There will be no refunds of the entry fee unless an event is permanently cancelled. In the event a participant needs to cancel an entry (for any reason), the MLF South Africa will allocate the entry fee forward to a subsequent event. Entries must be made online, or download and complete the official entry form, which will be available on our web site and at registration. (Please write clearly!) By filling in the entry form, submitting and participating in the MLF Africa Cup Challenge, contestants agree to abide by all the rules and have acknowledged and have accepted the indemnity at the bottom of the entry form.

All contestants have to attend the pre-tournament meeting to record flights, takeoff time, check-in time, off-limits areas, and any other relevant tournament rule information. Non-attendance at a briefing will not be accepted as an excuse for ignorance of the arrangements and/or rules in the event of a complaint or objection being raised.

10. **STARTING POSITIONS**

Starting positions for the day will be randomly drawn from one bag on a first-come, first-served basis by all teams. Every registered team must collect their corresponding boat flag number for display when boats are lining up for the start and the skippers must arrange themselves according to their starting numbers. A rolling start from position #1 with a five-second interval between boats will be used. Teams will only be allowed to set off once their team number is called and a GREEN flag has been raised (no team may set off while the RED flag is raised). When a team's number is called, the team must idle out and is only allowed to go on plane from the point the organizer has appointed. All persons must be seated, and a qualified skipper must be behind the steering wheel in full control of the boat whenever it is on plane or the combustion engine is running and in gear.

There will be only one official checkpoint for boat check-in in the morning and one official check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat check-in and check-out in the morning, or failure to check-in at the check-in point, will result in immediate disqualification, and no tournament entry fees will be refunded.

11. **SAFETY**

Safe boating must be observed at all times and remains the responsibility of every skipper. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is running from boat check until weigh-in each day of the tournament. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition-shutoff device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is running. All persons must be seated and a driver must be behind the steering wheel in full control of the boat whenever it is on plane or the combustion engine is running and in gear.

In case of an emergency; please follow:

Procedure in the event of boating accidents on the water, or

Procedure in the event of drowning incident on the water

At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or cancelled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Competitors may leave their boat and seek shelter in bad weather or when danger is eminent. However, teams must stay within sight of each other.

12. **BOAT & HORSEPOWER REGULATION**

All participating boats must have a minimum 30hp outboard engine, be propeller-driven, and at least 4.6 meters (15 feet) in length. Kayaks and jet skis are not allowed. Boats must comply with SAMSA regulations and carry the appropriate safety equipment for their category and type, ensuring sufficient buoyancy. Each boat must be equipped with a properly aerated live-well to keep bass alive and an emergency ignition shut-off device attached to the driver when the engine is running. The use of generators, other than solar or wind-powered, is prohibited during tournament hours.

13. **BOAT OPERATION & EQUIPMENT FAILURE**

Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there will be only two permitted methods of returning to the official check-in:

(1) by both partners remaining in their boat and being towed, or

(2) by one partner boarding the boat of another tournament contestant with their entire catch kept separate in a weigh bag.

Under these two conditions the contestant's catches may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties or dead-fish penalties. **Note:** *Equipment failure does not allow for flat batteries, or running out of fuel*). Contestants who elect to return to the official check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch.

A 100 meter radius from the weigh station must be treated as a no-wake zone.

Boats are not allowed to beach directly at the release point. There is a "No Fishing Zone" directly at the weigh station as indicated by the tournament organiser. Skippers who do not comply will be disqualified. Tournament officials reserve the right to board any participating boat before, during or after the tournament.

14. **LIVE FISH**

The MLF Africa Cup Challenge is a catch, weigh and release event. Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated live-well of some sort. The tournament proprietor and all its sponsors recommend the use of

live-well additives that promote the healthy return of bass to their natural habitat. (No stringers, keep nets or fish nets are allowed).

Any fish presented to the weigh master with a white circle in the eye or a fish, or obviously dead, or a fish that is not gilling or finning within (10) ten seconds on a wet towel in the shade; will be regarded as "dead" and will not be weighed. The penalty for placing a dead fish on the scale is 1000 gram (per dead fish) deducted from the boat's total bag weight.

15. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS

Anglers can only start to fish after they have gone through the starting gate. Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line and a rod and reel with the rod in hand. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. All fishing must be conducted from the boat and only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits. Only one wet rod with one main line and one lure / bait per angler at any given time is allowed. The rod must be hand held (no rod holder may be used). Rigs like the double rig where multiple lures / baits are attached to one main line are not allowed, except for commercial available "Alabama" rigs. Trolling as a method of fishing is strictly prohibited. Trolling is defined as operating the combustion engine or using the trolling motor to extend a cast or lengthen a retrieve. All bass caught must be hooked inside the mouth. Creating feeding spots by dumping bait either artificial or natural, or any other attractant in order to attract fish to a specific location is prohibited. Tournament ethics, courtesy and good conduct are unwritten "golden rules" and core responsibilities of all anglers on all levels.

16. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by local or provincial officials or within 45 metre of a competitor's boat. Non-contestants (and/or spectators on boats) are also not allowed within 45 metres from a contestant's boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. The cutting of trees, bushes and/or logs after the start of registration to make an area more accessible by boat is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification from the tournament.

17. CHECK-IN

All tags must be returned and be back at the weigh station, on the tag board before the cut off time for the particular flight. Even though a boat's bag could have been weighed but the tag is not on the board at the time, both anglers will be deemed late and their catch for the day will be disqualified. Any boat that is late solely due to the anglers rendering [emergency](#) assistance to another boat may, at the discretion of the tournament organiser, have their catch weighed if they provide satisfactory proof of such assistance given.

18. LIMITS

All live-wells must be completely empty prior to the start of any official fishing session. Each boat may possess a maximum of SIX bass in the live-well at any time, but only FIVE fish may be presented for weigh-in. Culling at the scales is strictly prohibited. Exceeding the daily boat limit will result in disqualification. There is no minimum size limit for bass to be weighed.

19. WEIGH-IN

A maximum of FIVE fish may be brought to the scales - no culling at the scales will be allowed.

All fish to be weighed have to be brought to the scale within a suitable weigh bag filled with adequate water. Any fish brought lip-landed to the scale will NOT be weighed!

Only a team member may handle his team's catch to be weighed and presented for scoring by a tournament official. No angler may allow any fish caught by him to be added to the score of any other team. In such an event both teams shall be disqualified and subject to disciplinary procedures. Each boat's catch must be verified by the signature of a team member. Failure to have a verified signature may result in disqualification of that day's catch. Boat markers must be weighed along with each boat's entire bag of fish. Weight will be measured in kilogram.

Any fish weighed before the weigh-in time will be noted on the boat's score card and once it has been noted it cannot be removed for any reason whatsoever. Winners are determined by the heaviest cumulative weight from days 1, 2, and 3.

Note:

All bass under 30cm not to be released back into dam as part of Bass Management Program (MTPA).

All bass caught must be tagged by the relevant MTPA official and he will release it back into Loskop Dam for the bass

population study. Bass not tagged may not be released back into Loskop Dam.

20. **PENALTIES & DISQUALIFICATIONS**

There will be two penalty levels:

a. Penalties (-1,000 gram penalty per bag)

- Going on the plane within a no wake zone.
- Smoking in the weigh-in line.
- For each dead fish placed on the scale.

b. Disqualification

- Violation of, or failure to comply with any of the tournament rules, excluding #20a, but also include the following:
- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during registration or tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure and prize giving.
- Anglers possessing more than the tournament limit of fish per boat per day will be disqualified.
- Boats who beached directly at the release point.
- No angler may hand to, or exchange, any article with any other boat and, excepting in an emergency situation, may not leave the boat during the fishing session.
- The intentional introduction of materials that cause an increase in weight/mass of a fish by an angler.
- Intentional damaging of fish (fin clipping, illegal tagging, or disfiguration of any kind).
- A tag that is not on the tag board by the closing time for the particular flight will result in the day's catch being disqualified. (In case of a lost tag the anglers must identify themselves to the tournament organiser and inform him of a lost tag before the dedicated cut-off time, to avoid disqualification.)
- Fishing in an off limits area.
- If any team or team member receives more than one complaint, the team (or team member) will be disqualified for the rest of the tournament.
- In the event that a team is found guilty of cheating, the team members will be immediately banned from all SA BASS, Cast-for-Cash® or MLF tournaments and legal action will be taken against the team members.

21. **MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTACKS**

The favourable public reputation of the tournament, the tournament proprietor, tournament organisers and staff, tournament sponsors as sanctioning organizations in the sport of fishing, the integrity of its officials, and the reputation of its media properties are valuable assets and tangible benefits for SA BASS and MLF South Africa. Accordingly, it is an obligation of competitors to refrain from comments to the news media that unreasonably attack or disparage the integrity of tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow anglers, SA BASS or Major League Fishing (MLF). Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with SA BASS and/or MLF South Africa policies are encouraged as opposed to attacks upon the integrity of the rules or officials. However, public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of SA BASS, MLF, its officials or sponsors shall be considered conduct unbecoming an angler and will result in disciplinary action.

22. **SPORTSMANSHIP**

All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct them in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, the tournament, sponsors, the sport of fishing and efforts to promote the sport. Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavourably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards set in this rules.

In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined in these rules, the tournament director shall have the right to refuse an application to compete, to deny a confirmed application to compete by returning the entry fee, to disqualify a contestant or impose any penalty outlined in these rules. All disputes will be handled and finalised immediately after each tournament. The organisers may at their discretion co-opt persons to assist in settling disputes.

23. **MISBEHAVIOURS**

- a. Fighting, pulling pushing and threatening each other and abusive language will not be tolerated, this includes officials as well.
- b. Deliberate or intentional actions of a member, official, competitor (including the competitor's family, relatives or friends),

publishing negative comments towards fellow competitors, administrators, officials or tournament partners on social media, using foul language (including officials) towards spectators, officials, competitors, tournament partners or employees of the venue. The competitor (official) may be banned from future MLF events if found guilty by a special committee appointed to investigate the matter. The decision of the special committee is final.

c. The intentional introduction of any material, including vegetation, that cause an increase in weight/mass of a fish by any angler shall be deemed just cause for the disqualification of the anglers concerned. Any foreign object protruding in any way from the fish must be safely removed and not count towards the weight. For the avoidance of doubt such foreign objects will include partially swallowed or regurgitated prey / food and any fishing tackle.

24. COMMUNICATION and SOCIAL MEDIA

Contestants may not use mobile communication devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, tablets, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., to communicate with anyone about locating or catching fish on tournament waters during tournament hours. Mobile communication devices may be used during tournament hours to communicate with the tournament director. At no time during tournament hours may contestants read or discuss social media posts from other contestants.

25. LOGO DISPLAY & MEDIA COVERAGE

During all days of competition any and all tobacco logos are prohibited and may not be worn or displayed.

Anglers may wear their own apparel every day, but the tournament director reserves the right, in his sole discretion, to prohibit any angler to compete whose apparel is found to be offensive.

Only official sponsors are entitled to publicity at the MLF Africa Cup Challenge. Anglers may not offer publicity, guaranteed or incidental, on behalf of the tournament director in exchange for sponsorship.

In the event of any television coverage of any event, the tournament proprietor owns the rights to all camera footage. The tournament proprietor is under no obligation to remunerate, whether it be cash or any other means, what so ever, to any competitors should they appear in the production.

26. TRUTH VERIFICATION

Each contestant agrees to submit, by signature on the tournament entry form, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification from the tournament. Truth verification tests will be used at the tournament director's sole discretion and the decision based on the findings will be made solely by tournament proprietor. All costs for such a polygraph test will be for the competitor's account, despite the outcome.

27. POWER OF DISQUALIFICATION

Under any of the above rules, tournament organisers are empowered to disqualify any competitor, after due consideration of the facts, deemed to have broken these rules at their level and/or apply disciplinary measures as defined in these tournament rules. The tournament organiser may recommend the banning of any angler for serious breach of rules. In the event of a dispute the tournament director may make use of a polygraph test for both anglers on the boat.

28. TERMS & CONDITIONS*

- a. The two slots to compete at the MLF Toyota Series Championship, USA in 2026 **includes**;

*One pro- and one co-angler slot;

*Registration fee;

*Registration dinner;

*MLF will supply a boat FREE of charge during tournament days; and

*International dinner

- b. The two slots are subject to the following Terms & Conditions:

*The USA slots cannot be exchanged for prize money;

*All prizes are based on a full field;

*Not all costs are covered - see 28c;

*If the winning team in the MLF Africa Cup Challenge has only one angler competing, that angler will receive a single "pro-angler" slot. The "co-angler" slot will then be awarded to the runners-up.

c. **For each person's own account:**

USA visa application, air tickets, accommodation, meals, vehicle hire & fuel, boat fuel, boat hire outside tournament days, US fishing license and spending money.

Please note: Any damages whatsoever to the tournament boats supplied are for the angler's own account.

29. **CAPTION**

The captions at the beginning of each paragraph are intended to facilitate convenience in referring to the various rules.

The captions are not part of the substance of the paragraph and should not be used in construction of any paragraph or of this overall set of rules

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ANNEXURE A

PROCEDURE IN THE EVENT OF BOATING ACCIDENTS / CAPSIZING ON THE WATER

We will ensure that all anglers are familiar with these procedures before participating in any boating activities to handle accidents effectively and efficiently.

a. **Adhere to the following tournament RULES:**

- * Each contestant is required to wear a fastened personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is running.
- * An emergency ignition-shutoff device must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is running.
- * All persons must be seated and a driver must be behind the steering wheel in full control of the boat whenever it is on plane or the combustion engine is running and in gear.

However in case of an emergency; here are the procedures to follow in the event of a boating accident on the water:

b. **Ensure Safety:**

- * Stop the boat immediately.
- * Check for injuries and provide first aid if necessary.
- * Signal for help if conditions are severe.
- * The MLF RSA marshal boats will be the first responders and sent to the scene.

c. **Alert Authorities:**

- * Notify the tournament officials of the accident.
- * Contact the emergency services immediately.
- * All major incidents and accidents will be reported to SAPS Middelburg and at the SAMSA office in Pretoria.

d. **Secure the Scene:**

- * If possible, move the boat to a safe location to prevent further damage.
- * Use safety equipment to mark the area and warn other boaters.

e. **Exchange Information:**

- * Exchange names, contact details, and insurance information with other parties involved.
- * Gather witness contact information if available.

f. **Document the Incident:**

- * Take photos of the damage and accident scene.
- * Write down a detailed account of the events leading up to the accident.

g. **Report the Accident:**

- * Fill out an official accident report as required by local regulations and tournament rules.
- * Submit the report to the appropriate authorities and tournament officials.

h. **Follow-Up**

- * Cooperate with any investigations.
- * Keep records of all communications and documents related to the accident.

ANNEXURE B

PROCEDURE IN THE EVENT OF A DROWNING INCIDENT ON THE WATER

We will ensure that all anglers are well-versed in these procedures to guarantee a swift and effective response in the event of a drowning incident, thereby potentially saving lives.

a. **Adhere to the following tournament RULES:**

- * Each contestant is required to wear a fastened personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is running.
- * An emergency ignition-shutoff device must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is running.
- * All persons must be seated and a driver must be behind the steering wheel in full control of the boat whenever it is on plane or the combustion engine is running and in gear.

However in case of an emergency; here are the procedures to follow in the event of a drowning incident on the water:

b. **RESCUE the victim:**

- * Signal for help if conditions are severe.
- * The MLF RSA marshal boats will be the first responders and sent to the scene.
- * Use a floatation device to reach the drowning person.
- * Approach cautiously, ensuring your own safety and that of the victim.
- * Bring the person on board carefully.

c. **Perform FIRST AID:**

- * Check for breathing and pulse.
- * If necessary, begin CPR immediately.
- * Use a first aid kit if available.

d. **ALERT authorities:**

- * Contact the tournament officials immediately.
- * Notify the onsite medical assistance team.
- * Notify the SAPS Police Emergency Services: Inland Water Policing and Diving Services Middelburg Dive Point to do the search, rescue / recovery.

e. **DOCUMENT the incident:**

- * Record the time and details of the incident.
- * Gather witness accounts if possible.

f. **Follow-up:**

- * Cooperate with emergency services upon their arrival.
- * Provide a detailed report to tournament officials and authorities.