



FLW South Africa Record Requirements

Read all FLW S Record Requirements before completing and signing the application form.

Catches can only be considered for record status if they are caught according to FLW South Africa and International Game Fish Association Rules. Following is information on record categories, requirements, and procedures for filing claims, based upon the IGFA system. The members' application fee for each claim is R150, and for non-members R950. All materials submitted become the property of FLW South Africa.

Record Categories

GENERAL INFORMATION

FLW South Africa maintains records for largemouth and smallmouth bass in line class, tippet class and open categories.

In order to qualify for a record, a catch must be a minimum of 0.450kg in weight, and must out weigh the existing record by the required amount.

The catch must not be at variance with any laws or regulations governing the species or the waters in which it was caught.

When an additional species of game fish is made eligible for FLW South Africa records, the effective date will be announced. Fishes caught on or after the effective date will be eligible for records. Announcement of an additional species in the SA BASS magazine or in any other SA BASS publications will be considered proper notification in lieu of any other notice.

OPEN CATEGORY

Open records are kept for fish caught by an angler on a line class other than that in the line class categories, or that are the heaviest for the species. Open record claims are considered for fish caught according to FLW South Africa angling rules.

LINE CLASS & FLY ROD CATEGORIES

1. Line class records are kept according to the strength of the line.
2. Fly rod records are maintained according to tippet strength.
3. Each species recognized for line class records is also recognized for tippet records.
4. Records are kept in the following line and tippet classes:

Line Classes	Tippet Classes
1 kg (2 lb)	1 kg (2 lb)
2 kg (4 lb)	2 kg (4 lb)
3 kg (6 lb)	3 kg (6 lb)
4 kg (8 lb)	4 kg (8 lb)
6 kg (12 lb)	6 kg (12 lb)
8 kg (16 lb)	8 kg (16 lb)
10 kg (20 lb)	10 kg (20 lb)



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Following are the maximum line classes acceptable for record purposes in each species category:

<i>Species</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Max. Line Class</i>
Bass, largemouth	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	10kg (20lb)
Bass, smallmouth	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>	8kg (16lb)
Bass, spotted	<i>Micropterus punctulatus</i>	10kg (20lb)

LINE TESTING

FLW South Africa tests all line and tippet samples submitted with record claims. Regarding labeling of line spools, the following: The U.S. customary equivalent of four kilograms is 8.81 pounds. Thus, line designated by the manufacturer as 8lb class line may test up to 8.81 pounds (4kg) to qualify for an 8lb line class record. The U.S. customary equivalents in pounds for the metric line classes are as follows:

U.S. Customary Metric Equivalent:

1kg-	2.20lb
2kg-	4.40lb
3kg-	6.61lb
4kg-	8.81lb
6kg-	13.22lb
8kg-	17.63lb
10kg-	22.04lb

Record Catch Regulations

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Protested applications or disputed existing records will be referred to the FLW South Africa Executive Committee for review. Its decision will be final. FLW South Africa reserves the right to refuse to consider an application or grant a claim for a record. All FLW South Africa decisions will be based upon the intent of the regulations.
2. FLW South Africa may recheck information supplied on a claim. Such action is not to be regarded as doubt of the formal affidavit, but rather as evidence of the extreme care with which FLW South Africa investigates and maintains its records.

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

1. Photographs must be submitted by which positive identification of the exact species can be made. Applications without photographs will not be accepted.
2. If there is the slightest doubt that the fish cannot be properly identified from the photographs and other data submitted, the fish should be examined by an ichthyologist or qualified fishery biologist before a record application is submitted to FLW South Africa. The scientist's signature and title (or qualifications) should appear on the FLW South Africa application form or on a separate document confirming the identification of the species.



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3. If a scientist is not available, the fish should be retained in a preserved or frozen condition until a qualified authority can verify the species or until notified by FLW South Africa that the fish need no longer be retained.
4. If no decision can be made from the photographs and the angler can provide no further proof of the identification of the species, the record claim will not be considered.

WITNESSES TO CATCH

On all record claims, witnesses to the catch are highly desirable if at all possible. Unwitnessed catches are not allowed. It is important that the witnesses can attest to the angler's compliance with the FLW South Africa angling rules.

WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS

1. The minimum acceptance weight for any record catch claim is 450 gram (0,450kg).
2. If the line or tippet over tests its particular category, the application will be considered in the next highest category; but if it under tests into a lower line or tippet class category, the application will not be considered for the lower line class.
3. The heaviest line permitted for line class records is 10kg. The heaviest tippet permitted for fly-fishing records is 10kg (20lb). If the line or tippet over tests these maximum strengths, the claim will be disallowed.

WEIGHTS NEEDED TO DEFEAT OR TIE EXISTING RECORDS

1. To replace a record, the replacement must weigh at least 50 gram more than the existing record.
2. A catch, which matches the weight of an existing record or exceeds the weight by less than the amount required to defeat the record would be considered a tie.

TIME LIMIT ON CLAIMS

Claims for record fish caught in AFRICAN waters must be received by FLW South Africa within 60 days of the date of catch. Claims for record fish caught in other waters must be received by FLW South Africa within three months of the date of catch.

WEIGHING REQUIREMENTS

1. The fish must be weighed by an official weighmaster (if one is available), OR by an FLW South Africa official, OR by a recognized local person familiar with the scale. Disinterested witnesses to the weight should be used whenever possible.
2. At the time of weighing, the actual tackle used by the angler to catch the fish must be exhibited to the weighmaster and weight witness.
3. No estimated weights will be accepted. Fish weighed on the water will not be accepted.



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4. Only weights indicated by the graduations on the scale will be accepted. Visual fractionalizing of these graduations is not allowed. Any weights that fall between two graduations on the scale must be rounded to the lower of the two.
5. All record fish should be weighed on scales that have been checked and certified for accuracy by government agencies or other qualified and accredited organizations. All scales must be regularly checked for accuracy and certified in accordance with applicable government regulations at least once every twelve months. If at the time of weighing the fish, the scale has not been properly certified within twelve months, it should be checked and certified for accuracy as quickly as possible, and an official report stating the findings of the inspection prior to any adjustment of the scale must be included with the record application.

SCALE CERTIFICATION

1. In extremely remote areas where no weighing scales are available, it is permissible to use his/her own scales providing that they are of a quality type and has been properly certified before the fishing trip.
2. FLW South Africa reserves the right to require any scale to be re-certified for accuracy if there are any indications that the scale might not have weighed correctly.

PREPARATION OF CLAIMS

To apply for a record, the angler must submit a completed FLW South Africa Record Application form, the mandatory length of line and acceptable photographs showing the fish, the tackle used to catch the fish, the scale used to weigh the fish, and the angler with the fish.

APPLICATION FORM

The official FLW South Africa Record Application form must be used for record claims. This form may be reproduced as long as all items are included.

The angler must fill in the application personally. FLW South Africa also recommends that the angler personally mail the application, line sample or fly leader and photographs.

Extreme care should be exercised in measuring the fish, as the measurements are often important for weight verification and scientific studies. **(See the measurement diagram on the record application to be sure you have measured correctly.)**

The angler is responsible for seeing that the necessary signatures and correct addresses of the weighmaster and witnesses are on the application. If an FLW South Africa officer or representative is available, he or she should be asked to witness the claim. The name of a weighmaster or witness may not be repeated as a witness.

The angler must have his/her application notarized in person. A S.A.P.S. officer can do this at any police station. Any deliberate falsification of an application will disqualify the applicant for any future FLW South Africa record, and any existing records will be nullified.



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LINE OR TIPPET SAMPLE

All applications for fly fishing records must be accompanied by the lure, the entire tippet, and the entire leader along with one inch of the fly line beyond the attachment to the leader. These components must be intact and connected.

All applications for line class records must be accompanied by at least 15 metres of the main line. All line samples and the leader (if one is used) must be submitted in one piece. The line or leader should be cut at the eye attachment to the lure.

Each line sample must be in one piece. It must be submitted in a manner that it can be easily unwound without damage to the line. A recommended method is to take a rectangular piece of stiff cardboard and cut notches in two opposite ends. Secure one end of the line to the cardboard and wind the line around the cardboard through the notched areas. Secure the other end, and write your name and the specified strength of the line on the cardboard. Any line sample submitted that is tangled or cannot be easily unwound will not be accepted.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs showing the full length of the fish, the rod and reel used to make the catch, and the scale used to weigh the fish must accompany each record application. A photograph of the angler with the fish is also required. The clearest possible photos should be submitted.

In all cases, photographs should be taken of the fish in a hanging position (not from a lip grip) and also lying on a flat surface on its side. The fish should be broadside to the camera and no part of the fish should be obscured. The fins must be fully extended and not obscured with the hands, and the jaw clearly shown.

When photographing a fish lying on its side, the surface beneath the fish should be smooth and a ruler or marked tape placed beside the fish if possible. Photographs from various angles are most helpful.

An additional photograph of the fish on the scale with actual weight visible helps to expedite the application.

Photos taken by daylight are highly recommended if at all possible.

Note: All record catches are available on our website www.flwsouthafrica.com It is important that we have clear, publishable photographs of the fish and the angler. Action shots of the catch are also most welcome.