

## **TIGER FISH BONAZA 2026**

### **COMPETITION RULES**

These rules supersede any previously published set of rules for this event. Please make sure you understand all the rules prior to submitting your entry.

#### **1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT**

- 1.1 The interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the organizing committee.
- 1.2 Decisions of the committee are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.
- 1.3 The committee reserves the right to withdraw any prizes given at the conclusion of the competition, should it become apparent that such prizes were awarded in error or as a result of such winner's misleading actions or breach of these rules by such a winner.
- 1.4 Should the Committee decide to withdraw any prizes, then the winner of such prize undertakes to immediately hand back such prize or pay back any cash amounts paid to him/her. The captain of any boat which has won a prize, and has to hand/pay back the prize, shall personally be responsible to hand / pay same back, regardless of whether he/she has disbursed the prize to any other person.
- 1.5 "the Club" shall mean the Sodwana Angling Club, and "Committee" shall mean the committee of the Club which organized the competition, and "Campsite" shall mean the Club's campsite.

#### **2. GENERAL**

- 2.1 All anglers enter the competition voluntarily and at their own risk.
- 2.2 No person will be allowed to enter the competition if they have not signed the indemnity form.
- 2.3 Only one team per boat is allowed and a team consists of the maximum persons as permitted per the boat's annual Safety Certification. (A team must however consist of two persons.)
- 2.4 Access to the Parks Board, Campsite and Fishing Grounds is reserved and persons who misbehave will be removed by the SAPS or the Parks Board.
- 2.5 Each angler must sign an "Indemnity form." No fish will be considered if an angler had not signed an indemnity form.
- 2.6 DUE TO WATER SHORTAGE, WATER MUST BE USED SPARINGLY. THE WATER PROVIDED IS NOT FOR DRINKING! PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR OWN DRINKING WATER.
- 2.7 THE RESERVE IS IN MALARIA ENDEMIC AREA AND YOU NEED TO TAKE PROPHYLAXIS AGAINST THE DISEASE
- 2.8 THE GROUNDS AND FACILITIES MUST BE KEPT CLEAN AT ALL TIMES. NO LITTERING WILL BE TOLERATED.

### **3. SAFETY**

- 3.1 Safe boating must be observed at all times and remains the responsibility of every skipper.
- 3.2 Any angler or boat may be ordered off the water by the Committee for safety reasons. Any information regarding possible problems with safety should be reported to officials immediately.
- 3.3 All skippers must have a valid skipper's licence which must be available to the organizers for inspection on request.
- 3.4 All skippers and anglers must at all times comply with the safety rules applicable to inland watercraft as set out in the National Small Vessel Safety Regulations of 2007.
- 3.5 It is the responsibility of each team captain and skipper to ensure that all persons on the boats have access to adequate safety equipment and comply with safety protocols.
- 3.6 At the discretion of the Competition director, Competition days may be shortened, postponed or cancelled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Anglers may only leave their boats and seek shelter on land in bad weather or when danger is eminent.
- 3.7 All boats are to be handled and operated in such a manner that it poses no risk to the occupants, other boats and anglers or the environment.
- 3.8 Any person who is guilty of any form of fighting or violence will result in immediate disqualification of the fishing team (boat).
- 3.9 No skipper may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs whilst on a boat.
- 3.10 All boats participating must be seaworthy, duly licenced, and fitted with the necessary safety equipment.
- 3.11 No kayaks, jet skis, sail craft or similar craft will be permitted.
- 3.12 At no time may an angler leave the boat to fish, land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters, save in the event of an emergency. No fishing from land is allowed.
- 3.13 Competition officials reserve the right to board any participating boat before, during or after the Competition.
- 3.14 Only paid competition participants are allowed on boats. Competition boat numbers should be affixed to the front left of the boat.
- 3.15 IPSS Medical Rescue will be on standby for the duration of the event during competition hours to any of the attendees or organizers in case of any medical emergency.
- 3.16 In the event of an emergency, please call the Competition director.

### **4. RULES OF EZEMVELO KZN WILDLIFE**

As the Competition takes place in a nature reserve, all anglers and skippers must comply with the rules of EZEMVELO KZN WILDLIFE. They are:

- 4.1 Access to the Reserve will be from 04:00 am to 18:00 each day.
- 4.2 No shore fishing during the competition is allowed.
- 4.3 Boats may only be launched at the specified launch area.

- 4.4 All participants must note that the dam borders Eswatini (Swaziland) in the north – see enclosed map). No angler is allowed in Swaziland waters. If you fish across the border line, the boat will be disqualified for the day.
- 4.5 Picnics may only take place at the camping site
- 4.6 Only use the dedicated toilet facilities as provided.
- 4.7 No firewood shall be collected in reserve.
- 4.8 No indigenous vegetation may be removed from the reserve.
- 4.9 Any person who misbehaves will be removed from the reserve by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, their representatives or the Committee.
- 4.10 Vehicles may only be parked at the launch sites, unless there is an emergency.
- 4.11. Visitors must not pass through any "NO ENTRY" sign and must keep all vehicles on the existing roads at all times.
- 4.12 The speed limit is 40km/h.
- 4.13 Fuel should be filled on the shore and not on the water, to avoid pollution or fire.
- 4.14 No glass, bottles, plastic or any other rubbish may be thrown into the dam or dumped in the Reserve.

## **5. REGISTRATION & BRIEFING**

- 5.1 Participation in the Competition is only for those anglers who have entered the competition after they have furnished the organizers with payment and all the required information and signed documents. There is only a limited number of entries available.
- 5.2 Registration will be from 9h00 to 17h00 on 23 September 2026 at the campsite. The Committee may refuse to accept late registrations. No person may participate who has not completed the entry and registration process.
- 5.3 There is a compulsory briefing session which will be held from 18h00 on 23 September 2026 at the camp site. During this briefing session, the use of the Keepnet App and competition rules will be explained.
- 5.4 Any angler under the age of 18 entering must have the written permission of his parent or legal guardian.
- 5.5 Competition entry fees (per team) must be paid as stipulated in the entry form. (The entry fee excludes accommodation fees.)
- 5.6 Entries must be made on the official entry form, which will be available on our web site. By filling in the entry form, submitting and participating in the competition, anglers agree to abide by all the rules and have acknowledged and have accepted the indemnity at the bottom of the entry form.
- 5.7 Each angler must register in person at the designated site. In an emergency, anglers may request permission from the Competition director to send a person who is 18 years of age or older to represent them, on condition that such angler has signed all documents necessary and such documents are presented at registration.

- 5.8 Anglers who arrived after 17h00 on 23 September 2026 will have to register and collect their hamper & boat sticker ext. at the Kiosk at Sodwana Angling Club (Golela) before they start fishing on 24 September 2026. Fish caught by anglers who did not register or signed the indemnity form will be disqualified.

## **6. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS**

- 6.1 Anglers may fish anywhere on the dam available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas designated as “off limits” or “no fishing” by local, provincial or Competition officials, or within 45 metres of another angler’s boat. Please see the enclosed map.
- 6.2 Anglers may be disqualified if encroachment is made into out-of-bounds areas, which have been declared as such at the competition briefing.

## **7. FISHING RULES AND MEASURING OF CATCH**

- 7.1 Fishing Hours during the competition are 06h00 to 16h00 on Thursday and Friday 24 and 25 September 2026 and 06h00 to 15h00 on Saturday 26 September 2026. No boats are allowed to depart from the dedicated launch sites before 06h00. Any boat found guilty of this transgression will be disqualified for the day. Committee boats with identifiable flags will be allowed to travel to the different launch sites before 06h00.
- 7.2 No line weight restrictions apply. No nets, handlines or shore fishing will be allowed.
- 7.3 Fish must measure more than 400mm to be considered. The scoring system will work by means of submitting your catch via the Keepnet app (available in the iOS app and Google Play stores), which will be used for the validation process of the angler’s catch. It will therefore be necessary for each boat to have a smart phone on board which has email capabilities.
- 7.4 All anglers must ensure that they know how the Keepnet app works and attend the necessary briefing session. Ignorance of how the App works will not be accepted as an explanation for the improper measuring of fish, or the late submission of catches. Any fish which is incorrectly recorded will be disqualified.
- 7.5 It is the responsibility of each angler to ensure that any catch is transmitted via the Keepnet app, and that they have access to sufficient data and cell phone reception.
- 7.6 Catch record submission time via the Keepnet App will determine the placing of your entry.
- 7.7 In the event that there is a loss of signal, continue with the process as the app will record the information and submit it once signal has been restored.
- 7.8 *REMEMBER: CATCH • RECORD • RELEASE • CONSERVE*
- 7.9 Once a fish is safely landed, the angler must use the mobile app to record the length of the fish and then the release of the fish in one continuous video clip. After the successful release, the angler can enter the remaining information including species, size, and angler.
- 7.10 No entry of fish will be accepted if a clear video of the measurement and release of the fish is not recorded in one continuous video clip. Please remove the LIP-GRIP for the measuring of the fish.
- 7.11 **CATCH AND RELEASE – Any tiger fish wilfully brought back, and dead will result in the disqualification of that boat and crew.**
- 7.12 There will be a Biggest Barbel prize for the barbel that measures the widest between its ‘whiskers’ against the official template.

- 7.13 Skippers and respective crews will be responsible for the behaviour of their teammates/members.
- 7.14 As the event is one based on trust, any disregard for the rules and/or regulations needs to be reported to the organiser by any person witnessing the transgression/s on the day it occurs. In the unfortunate event that an incident of this nature arises, it shall be treated as the organisers deem it fit at the time and will remain confidential between the parties concerned.
- 7.15 The decision of the organizers is final, subject to clauses 1.4 and 1.5 above.
- 7.16 The organizers reserve the right to enlist the help of an expert if there is any doubt as to the catch of any angler, regardless of the identity of the angler.
- 7.17 As the ultimate confirmation of the winning prizes are confirmed by Keepnet, an independent organization, the organizers and their families are allowed to take part in the competition.
- 7.18 If no fish is caught that qualifies for the prizes, the prizes will be transferred to next year.
- 7.19 If the competition is cancelled for reasons beyond the committee's control, the entries will not be transferred to the following year. (force majeure)
- 7.20 Only one prize per angler will be given, save for the team prize.
- 7.21 Neither the club nor the organizers will be liable for the non-performance of any sponsor of any prize.

## **8. PENALTIES & DISQUALIFICATIONS**

An angler or team may be disqualified in the event of:

- 8.1 Violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the Competition rules.
- 8.2 Use of illegal drugs.
- 8.3 **Possession of any dead tigerfish.**
- 8.4 Teams who beach on any of the shores of the dam, apart from the official launching sites, save in the event of an emergency.
- 8.5 Fishing in an off-limits area,
- 8.6 Any acts of discrimination or racism.
- 8.7 Any violent behaviour, or behaviour which places other anglers, visitors, guests or employees at risk, regardless of whether it is during fishing hours or at places of accommodation. This rule applies from the opening of registration until completion of the prize giving event.

**SODWANA HENGEL KLUB  
TIGERFISH BONANZA 2026**

**Location: Sodwana Angling Club Grounds, Golela,  
GPS Co-ordinates South 27.32471, East 31.89441**

**Competition Director – S Van Heerden**

**Chairman - S Van Heerden - 082 892 8004**

**Vice-Chairman – G Combrink - 082 452 5873**

**Secretary – A Retief - 079 734 6618**

**Safety Officer – H Duvenage - 082 773 2903**

**P Retief - 082 624 9781**

**H Van Tonder - 071 445 3388**

**A Steffen - 082 804 7310**

**B Brecher - 083 232 0355**

**K Muller - 082 928 8755**

**D Minne - 074 114 9728**

**T Duvenage – 079 6139637**