# Competition Rules

1) Competition registration forms are to be correctly and fully completed and to carry each competitor's personal details, name, address, telephone numbers, and his signature indicating his understanding and acceptance of the indemnity clause and the rules of the competition.
2) As this forms part of the competition rules, the omission or avoidance of a signature by a participant shall disqualify him/her as a participant, even if an entry fee has been remitted. If the participant is a crewmember, he will also have caused the disqualification of the entire boat's catch whilst he is a passenger on that boat.
3) All competition entrants are to report to the registration counters in main Lapa:
    a. Current entrants - to hand in their completed forms and settle their entry fees.
    b. Pre-entered - to confirm their presence and complete any partially completed entry forms.
    c. All boat entries - to verify certificate of fitness of boats and skippers' certificates and to receive their boat's competition number which is to be adhered in a prominent position on the **Port side** of the boat.
4) All participating craft are to be in possession of a valid Certificate of Fitness.
5) All skippers shall be in possession of a valid Certificate of Competency. Skippers are to ensure that their boat's compasses are operating correctly daily and that the instrument has not been exposed to magnetic or other influential articles placed in proximity which may affect accuracy.
6) Each competitor is required to be in possession of a valid fishing license prior to registration date. In addition, one member of each boat's crew is to be in possession of a valid boat fishing license.
7) All boats are to carry area and grid maps from which they will be required to report their positions and movements. Bay boat crews are to acquaint themselves with the marked boundaries and closed areas.
8) **No** passengers of **any age** may be carried on competition boats.
9) Line Class - This is an "Open Line" class competition with no restrictions placed on lines and terminal tackle. However, only conventional rods, reels and lines are permitted. (No electric reels or wire line to be used)
10) Baits - Lures, live baits, sardines, or any other preferred bait may be used.
11) Restrictions - This competition is not exempt from the normal regulations, and all catches are subject to the provisions, sections and regulations of the Marine Living Resources Act (1998) and any subsequent amendments.
12) Radio Procedure – Radios of boats at sea are to be kept on standby on Channel "69" to respond to announcements and for communication with Competition Control. Radio silence shall be observed for 5 minutes past the hour except for emergencies. All other radio communications should be sparingly conducted on Channel "68". Should Channel "69" become blocked for any reason, competition control will move to Channel "68".
13) **Boat skippers will ensure that their radios are fully operational each competition day and refrain from putting out to sea with a faulty radio. Boats with radios which cease to operate whilst out at sea are to return to port immediately.**
14) Modus Operandi – Competition Control:
    a. Competition Control Room for all vessels will be in the duty room on the premises of the Richards Bay Ski Boat Club. (Sandy)
15) Anglers may launch their vessels into Port waters at any time at their discretion. They are required to approach the Competition Control Room when it has opened for the day, hand in a pre-completed log sheet, collect a control disc and stand by in the Port awaiting Control's radio conveyed permission to leave Port. Boats will be released in batches in accordance with Port Authority requirements. Boats are free to check the efficiency of their radios with Control if they so wish whilst standing by.
16) **Any vessel launching into the Port waters before first light must be equipped with working navigation lights.**
17) Deep-sea boats (excluding category E registered Craft) returning to Port are required to communicate with Competition Control over their radios to obtain permission to enter Port before proceeding into the channel.
18) Boats retuning to port and who have been unable to relay a request through another boat due to failed radios as well as category E registered craft and fishing skis, are to ensure that there are no ships in the channel, leaving port or approaching the channel from deep-sea before proceeding into Port and reporting to the Competition Control Room immediately on arrival.
19) It is imperative that control disks must be returned to Competition Control Room by 16h00 on the 26th and 27th of March and by 15h00 on Sunday the 28th of March 2027. This measure is necessary to ensure the safe return of all craft and any missing disks at the end of a day's fishing will lead to rescue procedures being implemented as in the case of craft in distress. Your safety is involved. Please ensure compliance. Severe measure will be implemented and defaulters will be disqualified. Skippers failing to hand in tags will be liable for search and rescue costs if a search is conducted.
20) When out at sea, any contemplated changes of grid position are to be communicated to Competition Control. Category E registered craft and fishing skis are to remain in their nominated grid position.

21) No fish may be passed from one boat to another or from one angler to another.
22) All anglers to be in possession of a valid fishing licence and may be requested to show proof thereof.
23) Weighing of fish:
    a. Any angler wishing to weigh fish or proof a successful release of one of the qualifying species (see par. 24) is required to obtain a TAG. These are obtainable from the Competition Control Room.
    b. An angler may request a weigh-in TAG any time daily between the hours of 06h00 and 16h00 on Friday the 26th of March and Saturday the 27th of March and between 06h00 and 15h00 on Sunday the 28th of March 2027.
    c. Only fish for which weigh-in Tags are presented at the weigh-in will qualify for weigh-in. Fish without tags will not be weighed.
    **d. No mutilated fish will be weighed under any circumstances.**
    e. Once a weigh-in Tag has been issued to an angler no further fishing will be allowed from his boat or by himself on that day.
    f. If two fish of a species with the identical weights are weighed in any one category, the lower numbered ticket shall take precedence of eligibility for any prize qualification. This is also applicable for tag and release catches.
    g. **Anglers presenting fish for weigh-in will be required to verify the details and to sign the weigh-in form.** The angler endorsing his/her signature understands that by so doing, he is recording an affidavit that he caught the fish and that the above conditions have been met. The weigh-in form will be witnessed by a Bonanza Weigh-in Official.
    h. Barbels, skates, rays, sharks, eels' remoras, tobies, and any other species not normally targeted or sought after recreationally or commercially or which are not considered desirable or normally edible, shall not be eligible for weigh-in.
    i. The admissibility of any fish for competition eligibility and weigh-in, will rely solely on the discretion and the decision of the adjudicators.
24) Billfish and Billfish Tag and release:
    a. The release section applies only to Marlin and Sailfish.
    b. Tags will not be supplied; anglers wishing to tag fish should use their own tags if available.
    c. For a boat to compete in the release section, the team will be required to have a digital camera/cell phone available. **Participants are requested to bring along the cables for the digital camera so that the images may be downloaded, verified, and displayed at the venue.** All pictures become the property of The Richards Bay Ski-Boat Club and can be used in newspaper articles, magazine articles or any other form of media authorised by the Club
    d. As soon as a Marlin or Sailfish is hooked, the skipper must contact one of the control boats to be announced during the briefing. The control boat will record the time of the hook up. If the fish is lost during the fight, the control boat must be informed. When the fish is close to the boat and ready to be released, the control boat must be notified. The control boat will then notify the skipper which colour of control card must be photographed with the fish.
    e. To qualify for a release the camera must contain a picture of the fish with the leader in the hand of one of the team members and the card of a colour communicated to the team by the control boat. The fish must be identifiable in the picture.
    f. In event of a draw see section 23f.
25) Boundaries - Bay anglers are restricted to the confines of the Port of Richard's Bay. Fishing area is as depicted on the map provided. Deep-Sea anglers are not restricted to boundaries but are still bound by the restrictions of the registration of their craft and may only start fishing once they have left the Port and are at deep-sea. (NO fishing for bait in the harbour while waiting to put out to sea, all fishing only to begin when Control room gives the go ahead).
26) Allocation of prizes and rules associated with such allocation as defined in the program, form part of these rules. Should there be a conflict between these rules, the rules documented for prize allocation, or any other material, the decision of the Bonanza Committee will be final and binding. The Club Secretary will have a list of the names of the Bonanza Committee available.
27) Force Majeure and Protests - In the event of any controversial issue arising, a protest or an accusation of a contravention, the report is to be presented to the Chairman of the Bonanza Committee in written form at the latest by 15h00 28th March 2027 before prize giving where the validity of the time for a protest is extended to one week (the Sunday following the prize giving day). A protest is to be accompanied with a R2000 nonrefundable deposit. The Bonanza Committee's decision in such matters will be deemed to be final and binding and without needing to be qualified. No further correspondence will be entered into.

**I M P O R T A N T  G E N E R A L  N O T E S:**

Fuel sales are available at the Club's fuel pumps from early morning to 18h00. If you have available 25L cans, please deliver them to the fuel pumps in your van, rather than in your boat. This will help to avoid congestions and traffic

manoeuvring difficulties. It is advised to fuel up your boat after the days fishing and NOT in the morning before launching as this will affect the traffic in the morning.

The Competition Control in consultation with Port Control will determine whether boats may or may not put out to sea in the eventuality of adverse weather conditions. Should conditions change, boats may be recalled and the competition suspended. Should this result in the termination of fishing for that day, the Bonanza Committee will decide on whether to consider fish caught as eligible for a weigh-in.

When entering the Club for access to the slipway, please use the first entry gate and be guided by the traffic controllers on duty. When exiting the club ground use the second gate. Please adhere to the directions given by these controllers and spend as **little time possible** preparing in font of the slipway or on the slipway to help smooth the flow of traffic and to help ensure that all boats get on the water in the shortest time possible.

Limited trailer parking will be available on Club grounds on a first come basis. However, further parking facilities are available next to the Club's southern fence. Please follow the instructions of the traffic controllers.

When parking outside, please ensure that your trailer does not encroach over the road leading to the Northern headland and helicopter base.

Security is provided in this area.

Boat skippers are asked to be considerate and to take care when approaching the Club's jetty and to avoid creating a bow wave. The speed limit of six knots (6) within the Port confine will be observed.

Launching slipways are also available at: Meer en See Ski Boat Club. (Please adhere to the parking and other rules in force at the venue you use).

**All boats must launch through Richards Bay Port**. No other launching sites permitted.

The delivery of prizes remains the responsibility of the sponsor and not the Bonanza Committee.

Should the competition or any other paid for event in the festival must be called off due to adverse weather, sea conditions, or any default circumstances whatsoever, or in the event of a prepaid competitor failing to take part in the competition, no refunds will be made.

Prize Allocation:

All prizes will be allocated on a percentage according to the benchmarks.

To receive a prize the angler or the skipper of the vessel must be present at the prizegiving.
One fish wins only one prize in the Bonanza. Please note that the Bonanza Committee reserves the right to amend, change substitute or re-allocate any stated prize up to the prize-giving without warning and at their sole discretion. In addition to the main prizes, there will also be prizes for nominated species in each of the different categories.

# Bonanza 2027

**Highest percentage of the benchmark wins first prize.**

These benchmarks have been defined considering various factors including typical weight of the species caught in previous events, the quantity of these species typically

caught during these previous events and potential of the area based on previous catch records of the region. You may even notice that some of the benchmarks are above the record weight of the species, this would be a result of the high catch rate of the species, thus, to balance the chances of a less frequently caught species, the benchmark will be higher.

**Qualifying Species and Benchmarks**

| | |
|---|---|
| Tuna (Yellow Fin) | 66 kg |
| King Mackerel (Cuda) | 22 kg |
| Wahoo | 20 kg |
| Dorado | 15 kg |
| Queen Mackerel (Natal Snoek) | 6.6 kg |
| Kob (Salmon) | 23 kg |
| Rubber Lip | 6 kg |
| Rock Cod (Spotted/ Cat face only) | 5.8 kg |
| Grunter (Javelin Only) | 5.0 kg |
| Slinger (Bag Limit 3) | 2.3 kg |
| Scavenger | 2 kg |
| Amberjack | 28 kg |
| Cave Bass | 3.4 kg |
| Soldier | 5.0 kg |
| Unspecified Bottom & Game | NOT ELIGIBLE FOR MAIN PRIZE |

**Marlin Tag & Release only and not to be eligible for first prize.**

NO EXTRA TIME will be given for any reason of the competitions.