**MULUNGUSHI DAM CHALLENGE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. **PREAMBLE OF MULUNGUSHI DAM CHALLENGE 2016 TOURNAMENT**
	1. The Teams participating must comply with the Zambia Sports Fishing Association, ministry of sports, sports commission, sports federation and/or sports confederation as well as any governing laws of Zambia that apply.
	2. The Mulungushi Dam Challenge is to be held under the pretext of the Zambia Sports Fishing Association and all of its by-laws.
	3. The aim of the Mulungushi Dam Challenge is to hold an annual international angling tournament according to the REGION 5 BASS conditions and make this tournament fair for all participants.

**2.** **NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS**

2.1. Teams will consist of a maximum of three (3) anglers and teams may include junior angler/s provided at least one adult is included.

2.2. The maximum allowed number of participants per boat is therefore three (3), but single man teams will also be accepted.

**3.** **OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS**

3.1. An official opening ceremony will be held on the eve of the Tournament and will mark the commencement of the Mulungushi Dam Challenge 2016.

3.2. A prize-giving ceremony will be held on the last day, upon conclusion of the tournament.

**4.** **CONTROL**

4.1 The Tournament will be controlled by the Tournament Director as well as the Tournament Committee.

4.2 The Tournament Director’s appointed Weight-Master and Officials will weigh the catches, complete the score cards, ensure that the angling area is cleaned up by the participants and determine the results, which must be made available to each team.

4.3 The Tournament Committee will be responsible for the settling of any matters, issues, complaints, disputes etc. that may arise during the tournament.

**5. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES**

5.1. The Tournament Director will advise competitors on Boat-Launch, Boat-Extraction, Boat-Inspection as well as Boat, Trailer and Vehicle parking procedures.

5.2. The Tournament Director will advise on the official start/finish line (or gate), on possible no-wake and no-fishing areas, as well as possible venue-determined danger or no-go areas.

5.3. The Tournament Director will establish the official time, as per GPS reading, at the Tournament venue. The Tournament Director will also advise competitors of the official starting and finishing times for each day of the tournament.

5.4. At check-in, failure to return the numbered tag within fifteen (15) minutes of finishing time will result in a one (1) point penalty per tag member, unless the tag is lost and so declared at the weigh in. Any lost tags are subject to a K200 replacement fee.

5.5. Venue permitting, the Tournament Director will wave all boats away at the official start/finish line (gate).

5.6. At finishing time all boats must have crossed or be behind the start/finish line (inside the gate) before the allotted finishing time.

5.7. Teams who are late past the start/finish line (gate), shall be penalized at the rate of one point for each one minute late, to be deducted from the total weight of that team catch for that day. Any team more than fifteen (15) minutes late shall lose all credit for that Tournament day’s catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case shall a team be allowed to make up “lost time”.

5.8. After the Tournament begins, fishing the Tournament waters is prohibited except during the official tournament hours.

5.9. Any kind of communication device may be used by the Teams during the tournament.

5.10. The Tournament Director may be present on the water during the duration of the Tournament. They may fish on the tournament’s official practice days and on the official tournament days.

5.11. The Tournament days may not commence before clear daylight and must be completed at least one (1) hour before sunset with a minimum of eight (8) hour per tournament day. The Tournament Director may delay the start of a Tournament day if the conditions are deemed unsafe, be it for reasons of prevailing mist or fog, high winds or other relevant reasons (see section 7).

5.12. A program of events will be given to the Team members prior to the start of the Tournament.

**6.** **SAFETY**

6.1. Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. In the event of any competitor driving their boat in such a manner as to endanger other competitor’s property or lives, a complaint may be lodged by the affected team’s captain with the Tournament Director, on the day that the incident took place.

6.2. During the Tournament, each competitor is required to wear a chest type life preserver. This preserver must be worn whenever the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must remain securely fastened until the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for a complaint to be forwarded to the Tournament Committee.

6.3. The Tournament Director, or the assigned officials have the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors.

6.4. Tournament waters may be restricted and tournament days may be cut short at any time because of a sudden, emerging bad weather. In such a case, the Tournament Director will contact the team captains and inform them to return to the start/finish line (gate) at a time to be determined by the Tournament Director.

6.5. All boats taking part in the Mulungushi Dam Challenge are obliged to have operable ignition kill-switches fitted. This kill-switch device must be attached to the driver’s body or life preserver whenever the main combustion engine is running.

6.6. At any time when the combustion engine is operating, the driver must be in the driver’s seat and must be in full control of the boat. The passenger (co-angler) must be seated in his/her seat.

6.9. Overtaking in the same direction shall be executed with discretion and the overtaking boat shall maintain its course until well clear of overtaken boat(s).

6.10. Generally, the overtaking boat should keep to the deep-water side of the other, without endangering boats approaching head-on.

6.11. Entering or exiting a narrow channel, backwater area, in the back of a tributary arm of a river or a secondary arm for example shall only be done at idle-speed so that no wake is created. This narrow water area is an area where it is possible to cast to both banks, from the middle if the arm or channel.

6.12. Idle-speed is defined as no-wake travel (1,200 rpm). The Tournament Director and/or Tournament Committee will identify these areas at the opening of the Tournament.

6.13. These narrow-water areas may not be blocked off by a boat or a marker-buoy and competitors must be allowed to pass. In such a case, the competing boat (boat that arrived second on the scene) may not infringe on the first boat’s angling waters.

6.14. Boats on trolling motor use may pass each other, however each has to observe a forty (40) meter courtesy distance. Moving boats must pass behind (behind the fishing direction of the other competitor’s) the stationary boat.

6.15. When two boats are fishing (both moving) towards each other, the boat closest to the bank will stay against the bank and the other shall give a reasonable berth (forty (40) meter courtesy distance) around the boat on the bank.

6.16. Competitors must leave and return to the official check-in point by boat, and must be on the boat when actively angling. Competitors may however leave the boat during tournament hours to answer the “call of nature”.

**7.** **EMERGENCY, DISTRESS OR BREAKDOWN**

Safety and security of all involved are of the utmost importance during the Mulungushi Dam Challenge.

7.1. In case of an emergency, distress or breakdown at Mulungushi Dam Challenge, competitors may be removed from their boat to another team’s boat or a marshal boat operated by the tournament committee or a rescue boat. In extreme cases competitors may abandon their boat.

7.2. In the case of an emergency, distress or breakdown at the Mulungushi Dam Challenge, a competitor may flag down, or draw the attention of any fellow competitor, by making use of one of the emergency equipment (see 11. Below).

7.3. The competitor seeing a fellow competitor seeking assistance, or seeing a fellow competitor in distress, may not pass and/or leave the competitor in distress, but must assist wherever possible, to the best of their ability without endangering their own safety. Failure to respond to a distress signal, yellow flag, mirror or flare will be forwarded to the Tournament Committee.

7.4. All emergencies, distresses and/or breakdowns must be communicated to the tournament committee or tournament director as soon as possible.

7.5. In the event of an emergency or a breakdown a team may transfer their catch in separate weigh bags to the rescue boat and one member of that team may proceed to the weigh-in whilst the other remains with the boat to await the boat retrieval, should they wish to do so.

7.6. In the event that the rescue boat is a competitor’s boat and as a result of the rescue (to include towing) they are late to weigh in, they will not be subject to late penalties but the rescue’s will.

7.7. If a competitor must violate any of the Mulungushi Dam Challenge Rules & Regulations, both anglers of the distressed boat must cease fishing at this point and a tournament official must verify their catch in order to be counted in the tournament. If, after the emergency situation is resolved by the tournament officials and enough time is left for the competitors to resume fishing, a restart will be allowed, the competitor will continue and their catch will be counted.

7.8. This applies only in dire emergency situations. Boats must remain in the tournament waters during tournament hours. “Trailering” of boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except with the permission of tournament officials.

7.9. Misuse or misconduct of the emergency, distress or breakdown rules, by any participant of the Mulungushi Dam Challenge, will be brought forward to the Tournament Committee.

**8.** **SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONDUCT**

8.1. Competitors, Team Managers and Reserve Anglers are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for the matter to be forwarded as a complaint to the Tournament Committee.

8.2. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor that reflects unfavourably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for a complaint to be forwarded to the Tournament Committee.

8.3. Drunk and disorderly conduct or other conduct reflecting unfavourably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with the Tournament Rules & Regulations, shall be grounds for dismissal from the competition.

**9. TACKLE; EQUIPMENT AND ANGLING RULES**

9.1. Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait, prepared bait or bait made from a natural substance may be used.

9.2. Only one (1) casting, spinning or spin-casting rod and reel may be used by an angler at one time. All other rods are prohibited. A snagged rod or a rod that has a fish attached to it, is considered in-use.

9.3. All fish must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day’s catch disqualified.

9.4. When visually fishing for bedding fish (sight fishing), all fish must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your angling partner before being unhooked to be counted as a legal fish.

9.5. Only knotless, approved landing nets or ‘boga-grip’ type grippers may be used to boat fish. No gaffs may be used to boat fish.

9.6. Competitors may not touch another competitor’s rod, reel or line from the time a competitor has made a cast until the end of the retrieval.

9.7. A competitor’s partner may land his partner’s fish. It is acceptable for the “landing partner” to touch the line up to 1 meter from the fish to assist in landing that fish. If a line breaks during the playing or landing of a fish, only the competitor whose fish it is may retrieve the fish by hand. Any fish landed on a “broken line” in any other manner must be returned to the water.

9.8. A maximum of 2 lures may be tied to one line. Umbrella rigs, Alabama rigs or any similar rigs are not permitted, unless they have a maximum of 2 hooks attached. Double lure combinations may sport a maximum of 4 treble hooks total.

9.9. Casting distance shall be casting distance of the lure, rig and rod currently fished, or a maximum radius of 40 meters around the boat. No fellow or competing boat is allowed within this casting distance radius, except to lend assistance in a distress situation. (See Section 8.)

9.10. Anglers are permitted to use marker-buoys to demarcate a fishing area, but will remain within a casting distance of any marker buoy. In the event of a marker buoy being used, the radius of forty (40) meters shifts from a competitor’s boat to a radius around the marker-buoy being fished. Any marker-buoy falling outside of this casting distance, neglected by a competitor or not being fished by a competitor becomes null and void to the above regulations; unless it is retrieved and re-set by the original competing angler. An approaching angler may claim a null and void marker-buoy for his/her own use.

9.11. Fishing tackle may only be exchanged by team members outside of tournament hours. In the case of emergency assistance, an exception will be made.

9.12. ***Trolling and/or “strolling” – trolling with an electric motor – are prohibited.***

**10.** **BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT**

10.1. All boats competing in the Mulungushi Dam Challenge, as well as the Tournament Director’s boat, must be registered under the relevant local authority if such is applicable.

10.2. All team captains must be in possession of a valid Launch-masters Licence.

10.3 Every boat must have the following safety equipment:

* A set of paddles or electric trolling motor.
* A torch.
* A fire extinguisher.
* A piece of yellow material, one meter square, to be used as a distress flag (see Section 8).
* A mirror (A CD-ROM or highly reflective piece of aluminium is suffice).
* One (1) life preserver per person on the boat.
* A rope no less than 10m in length and of sufficient strength to tow a boat.
* A raised pole light in working order that sheds 360 degree of light.
* A baling bucket of not less than five (5) litres capacity. (May be flat-pack, fold-up type)
* A suitable anchor of sufficient strength to anchor the boat.
* A devise able to make an audible noise, such as a hooter, whistle, etc.

10.4. In addition to the above a boat must have a functional bilge pump and live-well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive a limit catch of five (5) fish. The Tournament Director and Tournament Officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is “proper and adequate”.

10.5. All boats will be made available for inspection by the Tournament Director and/or Tournament Officials at the start of the Tournament. Equipment will be laid out on the deck for inspection before the start of the tournament. The Tournament Director and/or Tournament Officials reserve the right to re-inspect boats at any time and verify easy access to all safety equipment.

10.6. After initial inspection the boat will be allocated a numbered tag.

10.7. If fitted, pole lights must be switched on at the start of each day’s fishing, when boats are launched and may only be switched off and/or removed at full daylight.

10.8. On each Tournament day, each boat will be given an inspection check by the Tournament Director and/or a Tournament Official. The boat is then issued with a numbered tag, which must remain with your boat until turned in each evening or Tournament day conclusion at the check-in.

**11.** **WEIGH-IN, ELIGIBLE FISH AND SCORING**

11.1. After the team passes through the official check-in point they must present all legal fish in their possession to the appointed Weight-Master or Tournament Official, upon request, to be counted, measured and weighed.

11.2. Once a team’s catch is presented to the Weight-Master and/or weigh bay that team may not return to their boat until their catch has been recorded and signed for by the Team representative. No disputes regarding weights of fish will be entered into after the score sheet has been signed.

11.3. All live fish will be released under the supervision of a designated Tournament Official.

11.4. Only bream will be weighed and only bream with a length of 300 mm and over will qualify to be weighed. Any dead fish less than 300 mm will attract a penalty equal to 1 point. Any dead qualifying (over 300mm) fish will attract a penalty of 0.5 points to be deducted from team daily score.

11.5. The appointed Weight-Master shall have sole authority of assessing these penalty points. Any fish under 280mm will disqualify the entire team catch for the day**.** The measurement of fish is done in a straight line from the tip of the closed mouth to the tip of the tail. Fanning of the tail will be permitted and competitors will be briefed on this issue. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

11.6. A (boat) team is permitted to weigh in five (5) fish. They may not have more than five (5) fish in their live well at any time. Tournament officials may at any time conduct checks for violation of this provision. In the event a competitor having more than the above-described limit, Tournament officials shall cull the largest fish first, down to the limit described.

11.7. 1 point (fish-point) is awarded for every legal fish weighed dead or alive – to a maximum of five (5) fish per (boat) team. The five (5) fish limit of fish in your live-well shall take into account any fish that have been weighed; no “spare” fish shall be permitted at any time.

11.8. Boat / Team points shall be calculated by adding the weight of the fish caught by the individual (boat) Team, less any penalty points applicable, plus the fish-points.

11.9. The competition points of every member of a (boat) team will be added together to determine the total points of each team. This shall be done individually for each day and then accumulated to determine the final standings of the Tournament.

11.10. If two teams have the same number of points, the higher position will be awarded to the team that caught the most fish.

11.11. Should the number of fish also be the same, then a draw shall be announced.

11.12. The team representative must sign the weigh sheet at the weigh-in station. The results of each day must be presented to each Team at the Tournament Committee meeting each evening.

11.13. The scales shall be provided by the Zambia Sport Fishing Association and will be in good working order, calibrated by a recognized calibration authority (Company) and must be able to weigh to the second decimal. The weigh-in station must have a primary and a back-up scale. The fish caught will be weighed in the demarcated weigh-in station, prepared for that purpose.

11.14. Fish may only be brought to the scale in weigh bags. Teams must provide their own weigh bags and must rotate through the weigh bay with these bags only.

11.15. Only one angler from the team whose catch is being weighed at that stage, will be allowed in the demarcated weigh-in station area.

**12.** **COMPLAINTS & OBJECTIONS**

12.1. Each team captain agrees to report any violation or infraction of these Mulungushi Dam Challenge Rules and Regulations to the Tournament Director, within 30 minutes of the end of that days fishing. No discussion or correspondence will be entered into, after the time limit has been exceeded. If there is discovery of a contravention of any Tournament Rules after this period, the Tournament Committee will convene and will decide on the matter at hand.

12.2. Failure to report violations or suggestions to violate these Rules and Regulations, or false verification of weigh-in forms will also be cause for the matter to be forwarded to the Tournament Committee.

**13.** **GENERAL**

None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated Tournament official from approaching or boarding any competitor’s boat at any time during the official competition days.

13.1. All competitors must acquaint themselves with the contents of these Rules. Any violation of or deviation from these Rules due to ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse.

13.2. An Indemnity Form (provided by the Tournament Committee) as well as the Code of Conduct (Annexure A) must be completed by all participants.

13.3. Team members may not alternate during Tournament days (unless as per 13.4).

13.4 Should a member of a team be unable to fish after the day’s start due to illness or injury, the team may still weigh five (5) fish. Should a participant not be able to compete because of injury or illness, he/she may be replaced by a reserve angler.

13.5. The organizers must be informed of any team composition changes before the Tournament day starts.