

How to Fill Out an All Africa Record Application

These step-by-step instructions will make completing the record application much easier than catching the fish!

I am submitting this entry for: For which record(s) do you qualify? If the fish is heavier than the current all-tackle record, or if that species has yet to be submitted. If the fish is recognized as a line class species and is heavier than the current record for the line class used.

Species/Scientific Name: List the common and scientific names for the fish.

Weight: Was the fish weighed on a scale reading lb or kg? Check the appropriate box. Underneath, list the pounds and ounces, or the kilograms on the appropriate lines. If the scale weighed digitally, list the exact readout on the appropriate line. Take care to note if the scale readout is in pounds and ounces or decimal pounds.

Date of Catch: You have 60 days after the date of catch to submit your All Africa record.

Place of Catch: List the body of water, point of departure, state and/or country- anything telling us where the fish was caught.

Length/Girth: There are two-length measurements- the fork length (fork of tail to tip of lower jaw) and total length (extension of tail to tip of upper jaw or bill). The girth is the measurement around the body in front of the dorsal fin.

Method of Catch: What method of fishing was used to catch this fish? Some popular methods are trolling, bait fishing, bottom fishing, jigging, fly-fishing, casting and spinning. List the method best describing how you caught your fish.

Fighting Time: The time it took to catch the fish from hook-up to landing.

Angler Name/Address: Print your name neatly, and how you want it to read on certificates in the book. Your entire mailing address and daytime phone number are required. A fax number or e-mail address is helpful.

Equipment: Everything in this section must be filled in. If it does not apply to your record, enter "N/A" or "None Used." Anything left blank could result in a delay in processing your application.

Rod- Make/Tip length/Butt length: List the manufacturer's name and any other name associated with the rod. If it is a custom rod, list it either as custom, or by the name of the company or person who customized it. The tip length is measured from the center of the reel seat to the tip end of the rod, and must be at least 40 inches. The butt length is measured from the center of the reel seat to the butt end of the rod, and must be no longer than 27 inches. A photograph of the rod being measured is helpful.

Reel- Make/Size: List the manufacturer and the model number or name.

Line or Tippet: List the manufacturer of the line used, and the size as stated on the label in lb or kg. The line strength dictates the line or tippet class for which the record will qualify. If your line class is between two categories, list the higher category. Do not arbitrarily choose a category based on which current record is lighter than your fish. We base all maximum limits for records on the kilogram breaking strength, not the pounds. See the listing in the rules section for more assistance.

Length of Double Line: This is the entire length of double line used.

Backing/Size: If used, list the manufacturer as well as the size of the line used as backing.

Other Equipment- Gaff/Net, Leader, Hooks,

Lures/Fly/Bait: If used, list gaff or net here along with its length. If you weigh a fish in the net in order to release it unharmed, list the weight of the empty net as measured immediately after the fish was weighed. Photographs are very helpful.

List the trace or leader length here. For maximum size limits on leaders and double lines, please see the rules section.

List the hook manufacturer and size (if known), and number of hooks used, as well as the lure, fly or bait.

Boat: List all boat information here, as well as names, signatures and addresses of captain and mates.

Scales: Location: Where the fish was weighed, or where the scale was located.

Type: What kind of scale was used-handheld digital or spring, platform, hanging, etc. The manufacturer of the scale must be listed, along with its maximum load and weight increments. For example, if the scale has a maximum load of 50 lb, and weighs with increments every half-pound, then list it as 50 lb x8oz.

The date last certified must be in the 12-month period prior to the catch. A copy of the scale certification sheet is very important and must accompany the application. List the name of the company or person who certified the scale where appropriate.

The weigh master is the person who weighs the fish and reads the official weight. If the scale reads between two measurements, as in the case of non-digital scales, the lower reading is the official reading. Estimations are not allowed.

Witness to Weighing/Catch: Anyone witnessing the catch or the official weighing of the fish should be asked to list their names and addresses. Although not required, it is best that witnesses be disinterested parties. If no other witnesses to the weighing are available, list "none." List the number of witnesses to the catch where appropriate.

Verification of Species Identification: If an Ichthyologist or biologist identified the fish, a signature, address and title is required here.

Application Fees: Each application for All Africa line class or tippet class or All Tackle record is \$10 US, or the SA Rand equivalent on the day of application

Affidavit: For all anglers 18 years of age and older, a signature is required, along with that of a notary.

Additional Requirements: Photographs are required for each catch. A clear picture of the side view of the entire fish is mandatory for proper species identification. Photographs of the fish being weighed and measured are helpful, as well. If you are applying for an all-tackle record, this is all that is required. For line class records, a 30-50 foot section of line used is required. Wrap the line around a square of cardboard or on a spool. For fly-fishing applications, the entire leader- from the fly to one inch of the fly line- is required. It must be intact and wrapped on a square of cardboard. A complete description of the catch from hook-up to landing may be required.

This should cover everything you need to know to fill out an All Africa record application. If there are any questions, contact via e-mail on davelynn@iafrica.com or laumark@iafrica.com