

# EFC CONTENDER SERIES RETURNS!

Promising Another Action-Packed Showdown of Africa's Top MMA Talent

19 MARCH 2025



**Johannesburg, South Africa – March 19, 2025** – The stage is set for the highly anticipated second instalment of the EFC Contender Series, where Africa's most promising amateur MMA athletes will once again step into the spotlight in hopes of securing a coveted EFC professional contract. The ceremonial weigh-in and face-offs for tomorrow's event took place earlier today, with fighters making their final preparations for an action-packed day of competition.

This event serves as a prime opportunity for rising MMA stars to showcase their skills in front of EFC matchmakers and fans alike, with a packed fight card of 12 thrilling bouts set to deliver high-intensity action. The Contender Series will provide a platform for these athletes to demonstrate why they deserve a place on the prestigious EFC roster.

As Africa's leading MMA promotion, EFC has long been known for identifying and developing the next wave of MMA talent. With the launch of the Contender Series, EFC is reinforcing its commitment to building a direct pathway for talented amateur fighters to transition into the professional ranks.

"This series is an incredible chance to spotlight some of the most talented athletes across the continent," said Graeme Cartmell, EFC Vice President and Matchmaker. "We've already seen tremendous potential in the first series, and we're excited to witness the new talent stepping

up tomorrow. Our goal is not just to find skilled fighters, but to help nurture the next generation of stars who will represent African MMA on the global stage. We want to give these athletes the opportunity to grow and potentially follow in the footsteps of former EFC champions like Dricus Du Plessis, Manon Fiorot, Dalcha Lungiambula and Garreth McLellan.”

The Contender Series isn't only about offering fighters a chance to secure a contract; it's about providing them with the experience, exposure, and opportunities to succeed at the highest level of competition. By putting these athletes in a professional environment, EFC ensures they are prepared for the challenges they will face as professionals.

**EFC | CONTENDER SERIES** **AMATEUR BOUTS**

**MAIN CARD 19:00 CAT | 17:00 GMT | 18:00 WAT | 13:00 ET**

**MIKA NGOMANE VS HLOMPHO PHOMODI**  
CATCHWEIGHT BOUT - 143LBS

**SEBASTIAN FERREIRA VS JETHRO SWAN**  
CATCHWEIGHT BOUT - 163LBS

**GRANT FARROW VS SAM MBHELE**  
MIDDLEWEIGHT BOUT

**JOEL SMIT VS COENIE LAMPRECHT**  
CATCHWEIGHT BOUT - 139LBS

**JEREMIE LIKOBEBE VS IGNACIOUS NKOMO**  
CATCHWEIGHT BOUT - 159LBS

**PRELIM CARD 15:00 CAT | 13:00 GMT | 14:00 WAT | 07:00 ET**

**JJ KARAGIANNIDIS VS BRYN GWAVAVA**  
CATCHWEIGHT BOUT - 148LBS

**FREDERIK ELOFF VS MBASA KHOSA**  
HEAVYWEIGHT BOUT

**LINDA BARAZA VS BIANCA CAMPER**  
FLYWEIGHT BOUT

**LITHA MADIKIZA VS PJ MEISENHEIMER**  
FEATHERWEIGHT BOUT

**THAPELO MALATJIE VS SANELE SHABALALA**  
BANTAMWEIGHT

**SHERAZAAD DOLLIE VS KWAANZA ZONDO**  
BANTAMWEIGHT

**LUKE ACKERS VS BRUCE MAYASI**  
CATCHWEIGHT BOUT - 150LBS

**THURSDAY 20 MARCH**  
**WATCH LIVE AT EFCWORLDWIDE.TV**

Watch the ceremonial weigh-ins here:

[https://www.youtube.com/live/Y\\_2qP1oX\\_UY?si=DJVHReVLzWPgiyb2](https://www.youtube.com/live/Y_2qP1oX_UY?si=DJVHReVLzWPgiyb2)

## **EFC Contender Series 2 Ceremonial Weigh-in results**

(The guidelines for amateur MMA athletes competing at the EFC Contender Series restricts them from cutting weight and athletes weights have been checked daily prior to their bout)

### **MAIN CARD BOUTS**

#### **CATCHWEIGHT 143lbs**

Mika Ngomane 140.8lbs vs. Hlompho Phomodi (TBC)

#### **CATCHWEIGHT 162.8lbs**

Sebastian Ferreira 162.1lbs vs. Jethro Swan 161.1lbs

#### **MIDDLEWEIGHT 184.8lbs**

Grant Farrow 180.6lbs vs. Sam Mbhele 185lbs

#### **CATCHWEIGHT 138.6lbs**

Joel Smit 136.3lbs vs. Coenie Lamprecht 137.3lbs

#### **CATCHWEIGHT 158.4lbs**

Jeremie Likobele 164.4lbs vs. Ignacious Nkomo (TBC)

### **PRELIM BOUTS**

#### **CATCHWEIGHT 147.4lbs**

JJ Karagiannidis 149.4lbs vs. Bryn Gwavava 148.9lbs

#### **HEAVYWEIGHT 264lbs**

Frederik Eloff 216lbs vs. Mbasa Khosa (TBC)

#### **WOMEN'S FLYWEIGHT 125.4lbs**

Linda Baraza 122.4lbs vs. Bianca Campher (TBC)

#### **FEATHERWEIGHT 145.2lbs**

Litha Madikiza 148lbs vs. PJ Meissenheimer 139.7lbs

#### **BANTAMWEIGHT 134.2lbs**

Thapelo "Rasta" Malatjie 134.1lbs vs. Sanele Shabalala 132.9lbs

#### **BANTAMWEIGHT 134.2lbs**

Sherzaad Dollie 137.2lbs vs. Kwaanza Zondo 134lbs

#### **CATCHWEIGHT 149.6lbs**

Luke Ackers 149lbs vs. Bruce Mayasi 149.1lbs

This Thursday, 20 March, top amateurs will step under the bright lights to prove they belong. With EFC contracts on the line, expect fireworks as these hungry fighters battle to impress the matchmakers and earn their shot at the big leagues.

**The EFC Contender Series takes place Thursday, March 20, 2025, at the World Sports Betting EFC Arena in Johannesburg, South Africa, with the first bout scheduled for 3:00 PM (SAST)**