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Onderwerp: ZA Important information for all international participants travelling...

ZA Important information for all international participants travelling to South Africa

We look forward to welcoming you to South Africa for the **Tug-of-War World Championships in Mossel Bay**.

Please take note of a **new South African Customs requirement that came into effect on 1 July 2026**.

The South African Revenue Service (SARS) now requires **all travellers entering or leaving South Africa to complete an online Traveller Declaration before travelling**. This applies to foreign visitors, including athletes travelling to sporting events. (South African Revenue Service)

Don't worry – it is a simple process!

The declaration is **not a list of everything in your suitcase**.

SARS confirms that you **do NOT need to declare ordinary personal belongings for your own use**, such as normal clothing, toiletries, personal electronics and other everyday travel items. (South African Revenue Service)

You need to declare items that require Customs attention, for example:

- Goods being brought into South Africa for **commercial/business purposes**
- Goods exceeding the applicable duty-free allowances
- Restricted or prohibited goods
- Large quantities of goods that are not clearly for personal use
- Goods being brought into South Africa **temporarily** and which require Customs processing
- Certain amounts of cash/currency or other financial instruments
- A foreign-registered vehicle being temporarily brought into South Africa

Most of you should have nothing to declare.

For a normal athlete travelling with personal clothing, sports clothing and ordinary personal belongings for the Championships, **there is generally nothing additional to declare beyond completing the online Traveller Declaration**. (South African Revenue Service)

When must I complete it?

You should complete the declaration **within 24 hours before your departure for South Africa.**

If your journey involves connecting flights, you should complete it within 24 hours before the **last flight/leg directly to South Africa.** (South African Revenue Service)

Where do I complete the declaration?

Use the official SARS Traveller Management System:

SARS Online Traveller Declaration:

Complete your Traveller Declaration here

You can also access the system through the official SARS Traveller Declaration page:

SARS Traveller Declaration – official information

There is also a **South African Traveller Management System (SATMS) mobile app** available through the relevant app stores. (South African Revenue Service)

What information will I need?

Have the following available:

1. Your **passport**
2. Your flight/travel details
3. Your contact details
4. Details of anyone travelling with you, where applicable
5. Details of any goods, currency or other items that actually require declaration.
(South African Revenue Service)

VERY IMPORTANT – save your confirmation!

Once you have submitted the declaration, SARS will send you a **confirmation by email.**

Please **save this confirmation on your phone.** We also recommend taking a screenshot of it.

You may be asked to show it when you arrive at the South African airport. (South African Revenue Service)

What happens when you arrive in South Africa?

After collecting your luggage, follow the instructions given in your SARS confirmation and proceed through the appropriate Customs process.

If you have **nothing that requires declaration**, follow the instructions for your particular declaration.

If you are unsure whether something needs to be declared, **declare it or ask a SARS Customs official**. It is always better to ask than to inadvertently fail to declare something.

Travelling with children?

Every traveller, including children and infants, must be covered by a declaration.

A parent or legal guardian can complete the declaration on behalf of a child. (South African Revenue Service)

If you forget to do it before your flight

Don't panic.

SARS states that you **will not be refused entry simply because you did not complete the online declaration before arriving**. Customs officials and, where available, self-service terminals can assist you at the port of entry.

However, **we strongly recommend completing it before you travel** to avoid unnecessary delays at the airport. (South African Revenue Service)

In short

Before travelling to South Africa:

- ✓ Complete the SARS Traveller Declaration online
- ✓ Do this within 24 hours before travelling
- ✓ Have your passport and travel details available
- ✓ Declare anything that actually requires Customs attention
- ✓ Save the SARS confirmation email on your phone
- ✓ Bring the confirmation with you when you travel

For most participants travelling with normal personal belongings for the Tug-of-War World Championships, **the process should be quick and straightforward**.

We look forward to welcoming you to South Africa and wish you a safe journey to the **2026 Tug-of-War World Championships!**