THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESERVE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS

Hosted by Agri-Expo, the championships aim to recognise and reward quality while showcasing outstanding preserve products. The competition focuses on fruit and vegetable preserves. An expert panel of judges will adjudicate all entries through a blind tasting process conducted under strict procedures, followed by an independent audit.

1. IMPORTANT DATES

Entries Open:	4 May 2026 (Online via www.preservechamps.co.za)
Entries Close:	29 May 2026
Product Delivery:	21, 22 & 23 July 2026 (Agri-Expo, 11 Queen Street, Durbanville)
Judging:	29 July 2026
Awards Ceremony:	27 August 2026

2. ENTRY FEE

The entry fee for the 2026 SA Preserve Championships is:

R150.00 per entry (excluding VAT)

- Entries will only be accepted for delivery once Agri-Expo has received proof of payment.
- Entry fees are non-refundable in the event of withdrawal, disqualification or non-delivery of a product.
- Entry fees are payable to Agri-Expo. Once an entry has been received and accepted, a tax invoice will be issued.

3. PRODUCT AVAILABILITY

Any product entered must be commercially available to the public in their respective markets at the time of entry. A prize or award may be withdrawn if this requirement is not met.

4. NUMBER OF SAMPLES TO SUBMIT PER ENTRY

Three samples must be submitted per entry. This allows judges to resolve ties or disputes where necessary.

5. VARIOUS BRAND NAMES – SAME TYPE OF PRODUCT

Entrants manufacturing the same type of product under different brand names may enter these products in the same class, provided there are significant ingredient and/or manufacturing

differences between them. Agri-Expo reserves the right to request product specifications should it suspect insufficient differentiation.

6. SAME PRODUCT – MULTIPLE ENTRIES

The same product may not be entered more than once in the same class or across multiple classes.

7. RETAIL BRAND NAMES

Manufacturers producing retail/house brands should enter the product(s) under their company name, using the retailer's name as the brand name.

8. PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

No brand name or manufacturer identification may be visible on any product submitted for judging. Products should be packed in plain, unprinted and unbranded containers where possible. Only the identification labels supplied by Agri-Expo after entries close may appear on the product and its outer packaging.

9. PRODUCT CONTAINERS

Exhibitors may submit products in the original containers (glass, tin, plastic, etc.). Products do not need to be re-bottled for entry. A clearly visible "Best Before" date must appear on each container.

10. SUFFICIENT ENTRIES PER CLASS

Position prizes will only be awarded if a minimum of three products have been entered in a class. Products will nevertheless be judged regardless of entry numbers. An award may be awarded in such a class if a product qualifies for it.

11. PRODUCTS ENTERED IN INCORRECT CLASSES

It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to ensure that products are entered in the correct class. Exhibitors are encouraged to contact Agri-Expo at the time of entry if uncertain.
The Chief Judge reserves the right to reallocate products to the appropriate class once reviewed.

12. TIES

In the event of a tie, the final decision rests with the Chief Judge.

13. PRODUCT STANDARDS

All entries must comply with applicable South African regulations and food safety standards. Manufacturers must be able to provide proof of compliance upon request by Agri-Expo.

14. PRODUCTS FROM OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA

Products manufactured in other countries are not allowed to enter. Entries must be 100% South African in origin; only South African products are allowed to take part in this competition.

15. PROMOTION OF SA PRESERVE CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNING PRODUCTS

Exhibitors awarded an SA Champion Award must make available at least six units of the winning product to Agri-Expo for promotional purposes during the following year, should the need arise.

16. SA CHAMPION AWARD

An SA Champion Award is awarded to the highest-scoring product in each class, in accordance with the official SA Preserve Championships scorecards.

17. AWARD STICKERS TO BE USED

Exhibitors who win SA Champion Awards as well as the Product of the Year may use the official sticker to promote their award-winning products for a period of 12 months. This applies exclusively to the SA Champion Award winners and the Product of the Year winner.

Option 1: For printing directly onto your product label at your own cost, artwork may be purchased from Agri-Expo. This artwork is only provided if you redo the product label to form part of your labelling, not for the purpose of printing your own stickers.

Option 2: Official award stickers may be purchased directly from Agri-Expo for application to products. All collections must be accompanied by proof of payment submitted in advance. No refunds will be issued once stickers have been collected.

18. PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

The product achieving the highest overall average point will be awarded the title: South African Preserve Product of the Year.

19. JUDGES' REVIEW AND FEEDBACK

Agri-Expo aims to support and promote quality awareness. For this purpose, judges are required to provide written comments on each product evaluated. These comments will be reviewed by the Chief Judge and made available to Agri-Expo for feedback to producers. Producers will receive feedback within two months after the conclusion of judging.

20. DAMAGE AND LOSSES

Agri-Expo shall not be held liable for any loss or damage, financial or otherwise, arising from participation in the SA Preserve Championships, including but not limited to product delivery, handling or competition results.

21. RULES AND AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPETITION

Agri-Expo reserves the right to amend the rules of the SA Preserve Championships in the interests of the competition and the South African preserve industry.