

STAGE SET FOR EFC 136 AFTER INTENSE FINAL FACE-OFFS



Johannesburg, South Africa - 5 August 2026

The stage is officially set for EFC 136 following Wednesday's Official Weigh-In, where athletes completed the final formalities ahead of Thursday night's event at the WSB EFC Arena in Johannesburg. With championship contenders locked in and the final face-offs complete, anticipation is at an all-time high for one of the strongest fight cards of the year.

With security partner Night Guard positioned on stage throughout the proceedings, emotions ran high as several face-offs became physical, although all incidents were quickly brought under control before the athletes departed the stage.

Adding to the occasion was Knox Hydration, with Knox ambassadors Melissa and Dee joining athletes on stage throughout the official weigh-in.

Headlining the event, interim lightweight champion Adrian "Rayo" Sanchez (154.5 lbs / 70.1 kg) and challenger Bradley "The Nightmare" Swanepoel (155.0 lbs / 70.3 kg) both successfully made championship weight before sharing an intense but respectful final face-off. Swanepoel described the opportunity as the culmination of years of sacrifice, saying, "It's going to be one hell of a fight. I gave up other opportunities to do this and it means the world to us."

Sanchez welcomed his challenger before delivering one of the most memorable moments of the weigh-in, finishing his interview with an energetic freestyle performance as he declared his intention to remain EFC lightweight champion.

The co-main event between Godfrey Mkhwanazi and Sithembiso Hadebe continued to build into one of the most anticipated bouts on the card. Following a tense staredown, Mkhwanazi simply warned, "Now I'm mad," while Hadebe promised fans an all-action contest.

"It's gonna be a mess. We're just throwing hands until the end of the fight."

Further down the card, heavyweight rivals Jeremie Tshibala and Christopher Matukane produced the most heated confrontation of the afternoon, requiring Night Guard security to separate the pair after tempers flared during their face-off.

Middleweights Adei Volker and Joel Tiffo also needed to be pulled apart after an initially respectful staredown quickly became physical, while Coenie Lamprecht and Lecture Gumbi brought contrasting personalities to the stage, with Gumbi smiling throughout before Lamprecht immediately closed the distance for an intense head-to-head.

Elsewhere, undefeated featherweight Nasiphi Vellem towered over Lucky Magekha during one of the day's most visually striking face-offs, Marino Cutendana received a warm reception on his return to the EFC stage, and rising lightweight Grant Farrow exchanged words with Alex Kapinga ahead of Thursday night's meeting.

All athletes successfully made weight for their scheduled contests with the exception of Story Mpia Embombe, who came in at 128.6 lbs (58.3 kg), 2.6 lbs over the contracted flyweight limit for his preliminary bout against Siyanda Vilakazi.

Official EFC 136 Fight Card

Interim Lightweight Championship

Adrian Sanchez (154.5 lbs / 70.1 kg) vs Bradley Swanepoel (155.0 lbs / 70.3 kg)

Bantamweight

Godfrey Mkhwanazi (135.9 lbs / 61.6 kg) vs Sithembiso Hadebe (134.9 lbs / 61.2 kg)

Middleweight

Adei Volker (184.9 lbs / 83.9 kg) vs Joel Tiffo (184.8 lbs / 83.8 kg)

132 lb Catchweight

Coenie Lamprecht (131.7 lbs / 59.7 kg) vs Lecture Gumbi (131.9 lbs / 59.8 kg)

Featherweight

Lucky Magekha (143.5 lbs / 65.1 kg) vs Nasiphi Vellem (145.8 lbs / 66.1 kg)

Bantamweight

Rian Mario Dunn (135.5 lbs / 61.5 kg) vs Marino Cutendana (135.9 lbs / 61.6 kg)

Heavyweight

Jeremie Tshibala (264.2 lbs / 119.8 kg) vs Christopher Matukane (212.2 lbs / 96.3 kg)

Lightweight

Grant Farrow (155.5 lbs / 70.5 kg) vs Alex Kapinga (154.0 lbs / 69.9 kg)

Flyweight

Siyanda Vilakazi (125.9 lbs / 57.1 kg) vs Story Mpia Embombe (128.6 lbs / 58.3 kg – Missed Weight)

Flyweight

Denver Isaacs (125.8 lbs / 57.1 kg) vs Philani Ngqoyiya (125.7 lbs / 57.0 kg)

Middleweight

Seth van Aswegen (183.9 lbs / 83.4 kg) vs Wallace Okosso (179.0 lbs / 81.2 kg)

EFC 136: Sanchez vs Swanepoel for the Interim Lightweight Championship, presented by World Sports Betting, takes place on Thursday, 6 August, live from the WSB EFC Arena in Johannesburg.

The preliminary card broadcasts live from **15:30** on Discover Sport, with the main card live from **19:00** on SuperSport, SABC Sport, Discover Sport, DAZN and other international broadcast partners.

Tickets and broadcast information are available at www.efcworldwide.com.

About EFC® - The Extreme Fighting Championship®

Headquartered in Johannesburg, South Africa, EFC is a world leading mixed martial arts organisation. EFC produces 10 live events annually at sold out arenas. With over 200 athletes exclusively contracted to the organisation, EFC showcases the greatest warriors on the planet. EFC events are broadcast in over 120 countries around the world on numerous television networks in multiple languages. EFC programming is available weekly in more than 600 million television households globally, making it one of the most recognisable MMA brands in the world.

For more information visit efcworldwide.com or follow:

[Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [Instagram](#)