

FORMER TITLE CHALLENGERS COLLIDE

Steven Goncalves and Vince Bembe meet at EFC 138



Johannesburg, South Africa - 30 July 2026

Two of South Africa's most experienced featherweights will renew their pursuit of championship contention when Steven "Guts" Goncalves faces Vince Bembe at EFC 138 on Thursday, 8 October.

With a combined 31 professional bouts, both athletes have spent years competing against many of the best mixed martial artists in Africa and now return to the EFC Hexagon looking to reignite their title ambitions.

Representing Johannesburg's Apex MMA under Boyd Allen, Goncalves has established himself as one of South Africa's premier submission specialists. Six of his nine professional victories have come by submission, with rear naked chokes becoming a trademark throughout a career spanning almost a decade. A 39 year old veteran with a Muay Thai background, Goncalves has tested himself against elite opposition, including future UFC champion Ilia Topuria, while earning a reputation for resilience, technical ability and an unwavering willingness to face the toughest available competition.

Standing opposite him is Secunda's Vince Bembe, who arrives as one of the promotion's most battle tested competitors. Training under Cedric Doyle at Dominators Den, Bembe has challenged for both the EFC Featherweight Championship and the vacant EFC Bantamweight Championship, consistently competing against the division's elite. His eight professional victories have come through knockouts, submissions and decisions, highlighting a well rounded skill set built upon a dangerous kickboxing foundation and years of experience at the highest level of African mixed martial arts.

With both athletes having previously fought for EFC gold, victory at EFC 138 could provide the momentum needed to re-enter the championship conversation in one of the promotion's deepest divisions.

EFC 138 takes place on Thursday, 8 October at the World Sports Betting EFC Arena in Johannesburg. Tickets and broadcast information are available at:

<https://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.

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