

EFC CHAMPION VAN ROOYEN SIGNS WITH ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

Flyweight Grand Prix to Crown New King

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Johannesburg, South Africa – The Extreme Fighting Championship (EFC) proudly announces that reigning flyweight champion Willie van Rooyen has received and accepted an offer to join ONE Championship, Asia's most prestigious mixed martial arts organization.

Van Rooyen's move marks another monumental moment for African MMA, as yet another EFC champion steps onto the world stage to showcase the elite talent that continues to emerge from the continent's premier fighting promotion.

“EFC continues to be the home and proving ground for Africa’s greatest warriors,” said EFC President Cairo Howarth. “Willie has dominated Africa, defeating all challengers from across the continent and beyond. Now, he takes the next step — to conquer Asia. We’re proud to see the world continue to witness what EFC champions are made of.”

EFC: Launchpad of Global Champions

Van Rooyen’s signing with ONE Championship continues EFC’s legacy of producing world-class athletes who go on to conquer the global stage. Recent years have seen a wave of EFC champions rise internationally — From Bokang Masunyane in ONE Championship, to Dricus du Plessis capturing UFC gold.

Van Rooyen now follows the path recently taken by Edson Machavane, who earlier this year also relinquished his EFC Flyweight Title to join ONE Championship. Their journeys — along with many others — highlight EFC’s role as the proving ground for Africa’s greatest warriors, where champions are forged before taking on the world.

EFC Flyweight Grand Prix Announced

With Van Rooyen departing as champion, EFC will now launch an official Flyweight Grand Prix to determine the next king of the division.

Former challenger Tumelo Manyamala, recently returning from the UFC’s *The Ultimate Fighter* series, will face Lihle Ngamnthwini in one semifinal bout, while Ntando Zondi takes on Nathaniel Komana in the other.

Both matchups will take place at EFC 130, with the winners set to meet in early 2026 to crown the new EFC Flyweight Champion.

Upcoming Events: EFC 129 & Beyond

Before the Grand Prix begins, fight fans can look forward to an action-packed EFC 129 on November 6, now headlined by Boyd Allen vs Vince Bembe in a thrilling battle for the #1 featherweight contender spot. The winner will go on to challenge newly crowned champion Billy Oosthuizen.

The co-main event features Horatius Alonu vs Ziko Makengele — a potential welterweight title eliminator — promising fireworks as both men look to cement their place in EFC’s elite ranks.

Africa’s Champions, The World’s Future

Van Rooyen’s move symbolizes EFC’s enduring legacy as the platform where champions are made. As EFC athletes continue to shine globally, the organization remains

committed to developing Africa's best — athletes who carry the continent's warrior spirit into every arena they enter.

"We're incredibly proud of Willie and wish him all the success in ONE Championship," said Howarth. "EFC remains where Africa's best begin their journey — and this is yet another perfect example of that."