



2021 Southern Open Derby Rules

Welcome!

Safety First! This is a recreational event, we do this for fun. The primary goal is to enjoy each other's company. Do not push your training limits or violate safe practices. The Southern Open maximum **recommended** diving depth for this year's event is 130 feet.

When: Captain's meeting on Friday July 9, 2021, 7:00 PM(At Widow Fletcher's)

ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED FOR ONE MEMBER OF EACH BOAT

- Shoot fish AND weigh in on Saturday July 10, 2021
- In the water at 7:00 AM.
- Must be in weigh-in line 7:00 PM
- Awards presentation on Sunday July 11, 2021 at 11:00 AM
- Rain Dates July 16-18, 2021, same schedule of events

Where: Widow Fletcher's
4927 US-19, New Port Richey, FL 34652
There are boat slips available for a marine arrival.
Located at the end of the "Gulf Harbors north channel"

Gear: SCUBA or Freediving. Rebreathers are prohibited. No power-heads may be used.

Weigh-in Time: The weigh-in deadline time is 7:00 PM on July 10th, 2021.

Cooler with one boat/team representative must be in line at 7:00 PM

Cost: \$75 per diver **until** June 25, 2021--Early Registration
\$95 per diver June 26, 2021 until the captain's meeting July 9, 2021—Late Registration
\$20 FSDA dues for FSDA Non-Members,
FSDA membership required for tournament entry.

Registration is Online Only:

<http://so21.scseals.com/2021southern-open.php>

Divers under age of 18: Must submit a written waiver signed by parent or guardian in addition to online registration

NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED FOR ANY REASON--A lottery for prizes will be announced if both dates are canceled.

Catch: Fish must be freshly iced when presented at the weigh-in. Gutting is optional. All fish will be returned to the presenting diver/shooter.

Scoring: Each diver may turn in as many fish as allowed for each category, per stringer. Diver must declare their largest fish in each category to be weighed separately. One point per qualified pound will count toward the individual diver's aggregate score, up to twenty pounds per fish maximum **and** five points per fish. Exception: Lionfish—5 points per fish, 3 fish maximum (15 points) in this category.

Examples: A 19.54 lb hogfish is worth 24.54 points and a 21 lb hogfish is worth an even 25 points. A 35 lb grouper and five lionfish would be worth 25 + 15 lionfish points, total=40 points

Youth Division: Divers age 12 to 17 years old are eligible to compete for a special award given for most aggregate points. The Youth division is contingent on at least 5 youth divers registering 3 weeks before the tournament date of July 9, 2021

Individual honors—Diver of the Day: Points will be totaled during and up to the end of weigh in and are considered final at that time. Trophies are given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place highest aggregate score shooters.

Largest Fish: A trophy will be awarded to the contestant with the largest fish for the tournament in each category (by weight),_exception: Lionfish will be the greatest number of fish presented

Categories:

- 1) Pelagic (limit 1 per stringer)
 - Cobia (34" to fork)
 - Kingfish (24" to fork)
 - Permit (22" to fork)
 - African Pompano (24" to fork)
 - Barracuda (28" overall)
- 2) Grouper (limit 2 per stringer, any combo of listed species)
 - Black and gag (24" overall)
 - Red (20" overall)
 - Scamp (16" overall)
 - Graysby, Red Hind, Rock Hind (no size limit)
- 3) Snapper (Limit 5 per stringer, any combo of the listed species)
 - Cubera and mangrove (12" overall)
 - Mutton (18" overall)
 - Red Snapper (16" total length)

- 4) Hogfish (Limit 5 per stringer)
(14" to fork)
- 5) Smaller fish (Limit 5 per stringer, any combo of listed)
Porgy(12" overall)
Sheepshead (12" overall)
- 6) Lionfish (Limit 3 per stringer toward aggregate score, no size Limits)
First Place will be the greatest total number of lionfish per diver
5 points per fish, maximum 3 fish, 15 points toward aggregate score
Lionfish will not be measured or weighed

Ties: A tie for largest fish within a group or final score will be broken on the basis of whoever has the next largest fish weight. If there still is a tie, then the honors go to the shooter who weighed in first.

Disqualification: *If a diver submits a short fish to the weigh-in, the diver will lose that fish AND their largest fish for the day, no questions asked.* Divers are personally responsible for understanding and operating within all state and federal regulations. *In the event a diver is found to be in violation of state/federal law, the result will be disqualification for the individual tournament.* If a species is closed in Federal waters, then the species will not be allowed in the tournament.

Prizes: Prize table picks will be distributed in descending order of total aggregate score from first place until all designated prizes have awarded. Random raffles will be interspersed in the distribution at least once every 10 picks.

2021 Southern Open Waiver of liability

Must read completely. Please note that there will be absolutely no refunds. Personal information (phone, Email) etc. is only for internal use by the Suncoast Seals of Florida and FSDA.

PLEASE READ EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS AND Indicate you have read and understand by clicking "agree" in the online entry form indicating that THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND EACH STATEMENT.

_____ I have read the rules of the tournament and I agree to abide by these rules

_____ I am over the age of 18. If not, my legal guardian authorizes my entry in this tournament in writing.

_____ I hereby acknowledge that if weather conditions turn to small craft advisories or small craft warnings, it is my responsibility to monitor weather radio and seek safe harbor if conditions warrant.

_____ I hereby acknowledge that I am aware of the dangers involved in boating, breath-hold diving, scuba diving, handling all types of fish including Lionfish, and spearfishing in general. Further, I am choosing to participate in this event during the global COVID-19 pandemic and am taking precautions to protect myself and those around me.

_____ I am aware that these tournament activities require physical exertion and stress.

_____ I am aware that the boat captain is responsible for the safe operation of the boat and the safety of the passengers therein.

_____ I am participating in these activities with the full knowledge of, and the acceptance of all the risks these activities entail, and the dangers involved.

_____ I am voluntarily participating in this tournament.

_____ I willingly agree to accept the risk of injury, disability, physical and/or emotional suffering, property damage and/or death to others and myself.

_____ I understand that the Florida Skin Divers Association (FSDA) and the Suncoast Seals of Florida, Inc may use photographs and video of me or my fish to promote spearfishing and the tournament, and I agree to allow said use without compensation.

_____ I agree that I, my survivors, beneficiaries, heirs and personal representatives, will not and may not seek any compensation, damages, legal costs, or expenses, including attorney fees, from the FSDA, FSDA officers, FSDA tournament director, FSDA members, Widow Fletcher's , The Suncoast Seals, the FSDA member dive clubs, the dive club officers, their members, or any FSDA individual members, and all FSDA volunteers and any and all sponsors and advertisers of this tournament for any injury, property damage, or death, suffered by myself or others as a result of my participation in this spearfishing tournament.

*Each person that CLICKS "Agree" on the entry form is affirming that he/she has read this complete waiver and agrees to ASSUME ALL THE RISKS INVOLVED in this activity. Furthermore, by clicking "AGREE" on the registration form, the participant states that he/she understands this Liability Waiver, agrees to its terms and agrees of his/her own free-will.