

2009 FSDA SOUTHERN OPEN SPEARFISHING & PHOTOGRAPHY TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION & WAIVER

Must be filled out completely. Please note that there will be absolutely no refunds.

Personal information (phone, Email) etc. is only for use internally by the FSDA for safety reasons.

I am over the age of 18. If not, my entry in this tournament is authorized in writing by my legal guardian. 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 understand that the FSDA may use photographs of me or my fish to promote spearfishing and this tournament and I agree to allow said use without compensation. I will read the rules of the tournament and I agree to abide by these rules. I hereby acknowledge that I am aware of the dangers involved in boating, breath-hold diving, scuba diving and spearfishing. I am aware that these 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 or death to others or myself. I agree that I, my survivors, beneficiaries, heirs or personal representatives, will not and may not seek any compensation, damages, legal costs or expenses, including attorney fees, from the, Florida Skin Divers Association (FSDA), the FSDA officers, the FSDA member dive clubs, the dive club officers, their members, or any FSDA individual members, all FSDA volunteers, WCC clubs 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.

*** Print Clearly or this entry will not be made. Make a Copy of the Completed Form for Your Records**

Name _____ Age _____ DOB _____ / _____ / _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) (_____) (Cell) (_____)

Email _____

Driver's Lic.(to validate Registration) Lic. # _____ State _____

Circle the Correct Category: JUNIOR: Yes or No MALE or FEMALE

Over 55 years Old (By June 20th): Yes or No

Boat Name _____ Other Divers on Boat: _____

Each person that signs below is affirming that he/she has read this complete waiver and agrees to all the risks involved in this activity and agrees to the liability waivers and releases that this document implies and expressly represents

Participant's Signature _____ Date _____

**If Entrant is a Minor, Witness Must is an Adult and a Parent or Legal Guardian must sign below.

Witnessed By _____ Date _____

Please also complete the following if participant is under 18 years old.

Parent or Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent or Guardian's Driver's Lic # _____ State _____

Witness for Parent _____ Date _____

Please note: Absolutely No Refunds will be considered. The event may be postponed due to small craft advisory in the Gulf of Mexico.

Registrants receive a free Sponsor shirt-while they last! Sign up early! Circle size wanted: S M L XL 2XL 3XL	
FSDA Membership required for FSDA Events. Dues are due Feb. 1. Juniors, age 15 or under are guests and not charged for dues. If not paid for 2009 please add in for your dues ----- \$ 15	
State Championship Spearfishing Tournament Pre-Registration - postmark on or before June 12 ----- \$ 60 Postmarked after June 12 ----- \$ 75 Junior Division (ages 10 to 15) ----- Age() ----- \$ 45	
State Championship Photography Tournament <i>Important - Note different start date! Film or Digital memory card must be turned in by the end of the Captains Meeting on June 19, 2009</i> Pre-Registration - postmark on or before June 12 ----- \$ 60 Late Registration after June 12 ----- \$ 75 Junior -----Age-()----- \$ 45 Please Circle which Category you are entering, one category only. <u>Digital Film Junior (Pt. & shoot film only)</u> Important! Entrants must bring their film or a digital camera with memory card when they register for entry number assignment and verification.	
Registration for Both Spearfishing and Photography Adult Pre-registration - postmark on or before June 12 ----- \$ 100 Adult Registration - postmarked after June 12 ----- \$ 110 Junior Div. (ages 10 to 15) no pre-registration required -----\$75	
The FSDA strongly encourages all spear fishermen to support fairness in fisheries management by joining the FRA or contributing to the Diver's Rights Fund. I want to join the <u>Fishing Rights Alliance (FRA)</u> ----- \$ 35 I want to contribute to the Diver's Rights Fund ----- \$ 15	
Please circle.....Cash.....or...Check...(#) -----Total \$ Paid	

(To be filled out by FSDA).....FILM ROLL NUMBER _____

Mail Registration form and Waiver, along with your check made out to: FSDA
 Mail to: Capt. Bill Hardman, 6193 Central Ave., St. Petersburg, FL 33710
FSDA State Championship Spearfishing Rules

Summary of recent changes for the Spearfishing Section:
 Rule 13 – No more than 2 Gags and 2 Red grouper turned in
 Rule 15 – “Senior Diver” Trophy for those over 55 years

- Safety First:** This is a recreational event. We are here primarily to enjoy each others company. Do not push your training limits or violate safe practice. The FSDA recommends that no competitors exceed the recreational diving limit of 130 feet.
- No Diver is officially entered** in the tournament until the FSDA has received a properly filled out and legibly printed –Waiver, Registration, and all fees have been paid.
- Spearfishing Tournament date:** Saturday June 20, 2009. Rain date is June 26, 27 & 28, 2009.
- Spearfishing Tournament times & location:** Gators on the Pass, 12754 Kingfish Drive, Treasure Island, FL 33706 (www.yagottagotoGators.com) **Pre-registration Ends:** Fri, June 12th. Divers can also register at local Scuba shops that are Southern Open Sponsors and approved as tournament registration locations. See the FSDA website for these registration locations.
Late registration: Friday June 20 from 7-8:15 PM @ Gators.

Mandatory Divers Meeting: Friday June 19th @ 8:30 PM at Gators. **At least one diver from each boat must be at the meeting Friday, June 19th. This mandatory rule is utilized to assure an equal start for all participants. LAST MINUTE RULE CHANGES AND THE OFFICIAL TIME WILL BE GIVEN AT THIS MEETING. ANY BOATS AND THE DIVERS ON THAT BOAT THAT DO NOT HAVE AT LEAST ONE REPRESENTATIVE WHO STAYS UNTIL THE END OF THIS MEETING WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFIED, NO EXCEPTIONS.** All Tournament Shooter Shirts and Mystery Tickets will only be given out at this meeting. If divers elect to send only one shooter from their boat to this meeting, it is their representative's responsibility to collect the tournament shooter shirts and mystery tickets for his/her boat mates. There may be an alternate East Coast Divers Meeting. For more information on an East Coast Divers Meeting, Contact Capt. Bill Hardman at (727) 344-3483.

Spearfishing time limits: All fish must be speared between 6am and 9pm Saturday, June 20th.

Weigh-in begins: Sunday June 21st 11:00AM. **All fish must be in line by 12 Noon**

Awards: Sunday June 21st at approximately 1:00 PM

- 5. Points:** Each diver is to turn in **only his THREE largest fish in each category, except the Amberjack/Cobia/Barracuda category where one (1) entry is permitted and no more than two (2) Gags and two (2) Red can be entered.** Fish must be gutted. A diver will receive one point per pound and five points per fish. Only one of your fish, regardless of species, can score up to 50 lbs. All other fish will score no more than 15 lbs. Each fish will receive 5 points in addition to the weight score. Ties will be broken mathematically by dividing each contestant's aggregate weight by the number of fish. The highest number will be the winner. In the event that only one of the tied contestants is present, that participant will receive the reward.
- 6. Prizes & Awards:** Trophies and prizes will be awarded on Sunday, starting at approximately 1pm, June 21st, at Gators. Prize table picks will be based on the total points. First place finisher (State Champion) will have first pick at the awards table and receive a trophy.
- 7. Mystery fish tickets:** **ALL PARTICIPANTS' MYSTERY TICKETS WILL ONLY BE GIVEN OUT AT THE MANDATORY DIVERS MEETING ON FRIDAY JUNE 19th.** Spearfishing and photography contestants will receive 1 mystery ticket each. A diver who enters both competitions will receive 2 mystery tickets. Each ticket will allow a competitor a second chance at the prize table if his ticket number is drawn. Each Volunteer will also receive one ticket (at the weigh-in on Sunday). Mystery Ticket drawing will begin after the fifth place diver has selected their prize and will continue until all prizes are gone.
- 8. Eligibility:** Both men and women divers are welcome to participate. Divers under the age of 18 MUST have a signed release from their legal guardian. This is a "Good Sportsmanship Tournament"; therefore, any individual who is or has been deemed by the FSDA to have exhibited "Un-sportsmanship" behavior in any previous spearfishing event is prohibited from being eligible to enter this event. **No Diver is officially entered** in the tournament until the FSDA has received a properly filled out Waiver, Registration, and all fees have been paid. **All divers must be current FSDA members. The \$15.00 FSDA dues for 2009 can be paid with a diver's registration. Note: FSDA dues must be renewed February 1st of each year.** Junior division (ages 12-15) are guests of FSDA and exempt from FSDA membership requirement.
- 9. Registration:** Pre-registration for spearfishing is \$60 and must be post marked by June 12, 2009. Pre-registration for photography is \$60 and must be post marked by June 12, 2009. Divers can compete in both spearfishing and photography for a discounted price of \$100. Late registration will be \$75 for each category, or \$110 for both. A special discounted rate is offered for Junior participants; see the registration form for details. All spearfishing competitors must possess a **Florida salt water fishing license** at registration. Florida law exempts Junior shooters (those under 16 years) from this rule.
Mail Registration form and Waiver, along with your check to FSDA to: FSDA c/o Bill Hardman, 6193 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, FL 33710. For questions, call (727) 344-3483.
- 10. Junior Division:** Divers 12 to 15 years old may enter the Junior division, but are not required to. Junior competitors must be certified divers and have a signed release from the parent or guardian. Just like the Adult participants, all Junior participants should not exceed any depth or dive in any conditions that they are not trained or certified to dive. All Junior shooters must be properly supervised by an Adult. Minimum age to enter this tournament is 12 years old. A trophy will be given to the top Junior division for photography and spearfishing finishers. Juniors can also win the Women's and Largest Categories.
- 11. Fish & Photographs:** Fish remain the property of the competitors. Images taken by FSDA volunteers may be used by the FSDA to help promote future tournaments, publicity and other related diving activities.

- 12. Spearfishing Trophies:** NINE trophies will be awarded in this category:

- State Champion Spearfishing
- State Champion Junior Division
- State Champion Largest Grouper
- State Champion Largest Hogfish
- Southern Open “Senior Diver”
- State Champion Female Diver
- State Champion Largest Amberjack/Cobia/Barracuda
- State Champion Largest Snapper
- State Champion Largest Trigger/Sheepshead

13. Eligible fish: Categories, size and number that will be allowed, are:

Important: Do not bring undersize or illegal fish to the scale! Undersize fish will not be scored.

Category	Minimum Size	Max Qty
Grouper	Gag or Black, 23”, Red, 21”, Scamp, 18”.	3 (2 Gag & 2 Red max)
Snapper	Mango, 13”, Red or Mutton, 17”, Cubera 13”	3 (2 Red max)
Hogfish & Flounder	Hogfish: 14” to Fork Flounder: 14” overall	3
Trigger or Sheepshead	Triggerfish: 15” Fork Sheepshead: 13” overall	3
Amberjack or Cobia or Barracuda	AJ & Barracuda = 31” to Fork Cobia = 34” to Fork	1

14. All fish: Must be legally taken, **landed by the diver who is awarded the points**, and brought to the scales before the close of the tournament. No Powerheads may be used. The “Weigh-in Line” will constitute the physical location for the close of the meet. All fish must be physically in the weigh-in line by Noon on Sunday June, 21, 2009. All competitors’ fish must be PRE-SORTED, GUTTED, on INDIVIDUAL STRINGERS and ON ICE. Each stringer placed on the weigh-in table to be weighed, must be accompanied by the shooter’s first and last name for shooter weigh-in verification, No Exceptions. All fish turned in must be in fresh and whole condition. Fish that are shorter than Federal/State size regulations or that do not appear to be well iced and fresh cannot be weighed. All protest and disqualification decisions will be made by the Protest Committee (see rule 17).

15. “Senior Diver” Trophy: Any adult male or female participant that is 55 years of age or older as of June 20, 2009 can elect to be entered in our special recognition category as a “Senior Diver”. The highest scoring “Senior Diver” will receive a special trophy to designate this accomplishment. Please make sure to circle the “yes” prompt on your registration page if you qualify for this special recognition. A “Senior Diver” will be qualified to receive any and all other trophies and awards as any other tournament participant. This recognition does not receive a pick off of the prize table.

16. Disqualification is automatic for latecomers. Any cases of Cheating or Un-sportsmanship behavior will result in Dis-qualification. The Official Time shall be announced at the Friday evening registration and briefing. Official Time will be kept by a REACTOR WATCH “Reactor is the Official Timekeeper of the 45th Southern Open”. Boats are each diver’s responsibility. Breakdowns or running out of gas are not reasons for failing to return to the weigh-in line by 12 PM (Noon) on Sunday June 22th.

17. Protest: Any diver or tournament officer can file a protest with the Tournament Chairman. The protest committee consists of the FSDA President, the FSDA Vice President & the FSDA Secretary. The decisions of the protest committee are final.

SPEARFISHING CHAIRMAN: Capt. Bill Hardman, 6193 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, FL 33710

FSDA State Championship Photography Rules

Summary of changes for 2009:
Rule 15: Only Three Photo Categories
Rule 15: Juniors only shoot non-macro film cameras

1. This is a 14-day contest. Competition begins at 6am on Sat. June 6th ends Friday June 19th. All competition photos must be taken during this period. This is an amateur contest therefore photographers earning more than 25% of their base income from photography are excluded.
2. FSDA Reserves the right to use all images as they see fit.
3. Registration, check-in and film entry assignment will be held at the following locations between June 5th and June 19th: **Aquatic Obsessions**, 6193 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, FL 33710, (727) 344-3483 or **Narcosis Scuba Center**, 926 Pinellas Ave N., Tarpon Springs, FL 34689, 727-934-6474. Registration may be held at other locations not available at the time this was produced.
Tournament Begins: Sat. June 6th at 6am. **Tournament Finish:** Friday June 19th , by 8:00 PM
Awards: Sunday June 21st at approximately 1:00 PM
4. Competitors shall provide their own 24 exposure print film (no slides) and/or digital card.
5. Entrants shall check-in and bring their film or digital card to the registration to receive an entry number. Digital entrants must bring their camera and card to the registration. All digital cards will be reformatted in the contestant's camera and witnessed by tournament officials. The officials will shoot the first picture on each card for identification purposes. The contestant can then shoot the next 24 photos consecutively for a total of 25 (this includes the first identification picture shot).
6. Film shall be returned at Capt. Meeting on June 19 by 8 PM & must bear its' original entry number. Digital entries shall be submitted via the card from the camera for downloading and developing. Officials will verify digital photos creation date. Competitors may turn in film for fellow participants. No late returns accepted.
7. FSDA will develop all film including prints from digital cards.
8. Digital Photo's – Only the first 24 digital photos shot by the contestant will be judged.
9. **No editing or deletions of any images are permitted. Files will be reviewed with equipment that can detect any changes or deletions that have been made. Any attempt at altering the original 24 photos will constitute cheating and the violator will be disqualified from this and all subsequent Southern Open Tournaments.**
10. Photos must be taken underwater and be of original/natural subject matter (no props) in a natural underwater environment in Florida coastal waters or Florida lakes, springs and streams. No photos will be accepted if taken in artificial environments such as aquariums, tanks, or man made ponds.
11. Photos showing any disrespect for the environment or marine animals, or showing animals viewed in an un-natural environment, location or grouping. will not be considered for judging.
12. Judges shall select the top photo(s) from each roll for judging. Contestants will recognize that photography judging is subjective and that the decisions of the judges are final.
13. The scoring system used for judging will be based on:
 - a) Technical Merit - focus, exposure, excessive backscatter.
 - b) Composition - subject, background, creativity, overall arrangement.
 - c) Impact - overall emotional appeal/interest.
 - d) Degree of Difficulty -shooting moving subjects, subjects requiring time/patience, etc.
- Points 1 – 10** will be assessed in each of those 4 areas. In case of ties during judging, judges will rely upon the picture displaying the greater degree of difficulty and composition to break the tie by adding an additional ½ point.
14. Photos will be displayed by approximately 1:00 PM Sunday, June 22nd.

15. Categories

a. Film Category: use of cameras, which do not possess built-in adjustments for exposure or focus, these cameras may use close up lenses.

b. Digital: Photographs taken with digital cameras.

c. Junior Category: Includes ages 12 to 15. Only fixed focus cameras without close-up or magnifying may be used in the Junior division. Junior's may participate in the adult categories if they choose to use equipment other than fixed focus cameras. Juniors may participate in the Digital category, but they then disqualify themselves from the Junior category if they elect to shoot digital. To register for an adult category the Junior must declare that category when registering.

16. Awards Photo awards begin promptly, Sunday, June 21st at 1:00PM, at Gators on the Pass. Photos and prize table will be displayed by 1:00 PM.

17. One (1) mystery fish ticket will be provided to each competitor.

18. Trophies will be awarded for Film, Digital and Junior categories.

19. Prizes: All photo contestants will receive a pick from the prize table based upon the total number of points in all combined photography categories. The pick of the prize table will start with the most points in any category down to the fewest points in any category. The first pick of the table will depend upon the ratio of Spearfishing contestants vs. Photography contestants and will continue in that ratio until all prizes are taken.

Film Category	1 st place trophy & pick from prize table	2 nd -last place, pick of prize table
Digital Category	1 st place trophy & pick from prize table	2 nd -last place, pick of prize table
Junior Category	1 st place trophy & pick from prize table based upon points	

PHOTOGRAPHY CHAIRMAN: Cindy Whitaker (727) 452-7603