

FSDA West Coast Council 2009 Spearfishing Tournament Rules

Please read all of the rules.

1) **Safety First.** This is a recreational series, we do this for fun. We are here primarily to enjoy each others company. Do not push your training limits or violate safe practice. The FSDA/WCC recommends that no competitors exceed the recreational diving limit of 130 feet depth.

2) **Points:** Each diver is to turn in **only their THREE largest fish** in each category, except AJ/Cobia/Cuda category, in which only one fish will be weighed. Fish are required to be gutted. A diver will receive one point per pound and one point per fish.

Grouper, AJ, Snapper, Cobia and Cuda over 20 pounds will count only as 20 pounds, for a maximum of 21 points per fish.

Hogfish, Sheepshead and Triggerfish over 5 pounds will count only as 5 pounds, for a maximum of 6 points per fish.

All points earned by all divers will be counted and accumulated for the entire series, regardless of their placement. For example, a last place fish will earn at least 2 points, one for the weight and one for the fish.

3) **Awards:** This year we are planning a total of four (4) day competitions with only the top three (3) day competitions counting toward the season-long Individual and Team competitions.

Day Competitions:

Individuals: Points will be totaled at the end of each meet, and trophies awarded to the three (3) highest scorers for that meet.

Largest Fish: A trophy will be awarded to the contestant with the largest fish in each category of each meet, for total of **five (5) largest fish trophies** per meet.

Series Competition 3 out of 4 Day Competitions:

Individuals: The top three (3) day competition totals for each diver will be totaled at the end of the year, and trophies awarded to the **top (5) individuals**, and the **top female** diver and **top junior** diver. A **Top Female** and **Top Junior** trophy will only be awarded at the end of the year if at least five (5) different female and/or junior shooters participate in any of the 2009 WCC series of tournaments.

Club Competition: Points will be totaled for the **top (10) divers from each club**, for each meet. Those points will be scored as **club points**. The top three (3) day totals for each club will be combined for the **season club point total**. The club with the highest **Season Club Point Total** at the end of the year will be **West Coast Council Club**

Champion, their clubs name will be engraved on the perpetual trophy, which will be awarded to the club at the FSDA annual banquet.

Largest fish Competition: Five (5) more trophies will be awarded at the end of the year to the contestants who scored the ***largest single fish in each category.***

Ties will be broken mathematically by dividing each contestant's total weight by the number of fish. The highest number will be the winner. In the case that only one of the tied contestants is present, then they will receive the award.

- 4) **Prizes for each meet:** Each tournament has a club sponsor. The club sponsor will provide a prize(s) at each tournament (\$200 minimum). Each participant who weighs at least one fish will be automatically entered into the drawing for the prize(s). A random drawing at the conclusion of the tournament will determine the winner(s) of the prize(s). Entrants must be present to win.
- 5) **Gear:** May be SCUBA or Freediving. Electronic gear is permitted. No power heads may be used.
- 6) **Tournament times:** The Tournament Host club representative will announce the official time at the pre-dive briefing. Tournaments begin at **7:30 AM**. All Anclote Ramp weigh-in line deadline times are 6:00 pm (even if it is a rain date). All other ramp tournaments will have a weigh-in line deadline of 7:00 pm. All fish and at least one diver from the team that boated them must be in the weigh-in line no later than the deadline time in order to receive points for their fish.
- 7) **Eligible fish for scoring:**

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Grouper | See size requirement below | 3 Total |
| Hogfish | See size requirement below | 3 Total |
| Sheepshead/Trigger | See size requirement below | 3 Total |
| Snapper | See size requirement below | 3 Total |
| AJ/Cobia/Cuda | See size requirement below | 1 Total |

- 8) **Fish requirements and penalties:** If a diver submits a short fish to the weigh in the diver will be automatically disqualified (DQ'd) for the day no questions asked. The diver will receive a zero for individual points and will not be eligible for any of the individual trophies for that meet.

| ELIGIBLE FISH | REQUIRED SIZE LIMIT |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| AMBERJACK | 30" FORK |
| COBIA | 33" FORK |
| CUDA | 28" FORK |
| GROUPE (GAG) | 22" OVERALL |
| GROUPE (BLACK) | 22" OVERALL |
| GROUPE (RED) | 20" OVERALL |
| GROUPE (SCAMP) | 16" OVERALL |
| TRIGGERFISH | 14" FORK |
| HOGFISH | 12" FORK |
| SHEEPSHEAD | 12" OVERALL |
| SNAPPER (MUTTON & RED) | 16" OVERALL |
| SNAPPER (ALL OTHERS) | 12" OVERALL |

Allowable bag limits:

Gag grouper – 2/person

Red grouper – 2/person

Red snapper – 2/person

Grouper and Snapper Regulations can be found at the following link:

<http://myfwc.com/docs/RulesRegulations/HotSheetMAY2009.pdf>

All fish must be legally taken and ***landed by the diver who is awarded the points.*** The “weigh-in line” will constitute the physical location for the close of the meet. The weigh-in line location will be announced at each meet at the pre-dive briefing. All fish must be *physically in the weigh-in line by the deadline time.* If you have any question about where your fish must be at by the deadline time, ask the Tournament Host club representative at the morning meeting. All competitors’ fish entries must be gutted, presorted, on individual stringers, and iced properly.

- 9) **Launch Ramps:** *All pre-registrants can skip the mandatory early morning check-in but they still have to wait until 7:30 am to leave their dock. All participants and/or boat representatives who have NOT pre-registered must sign in with the Tournament Host club representative prior to the start time and leave from the host ramp either by boat or car, not before the starting time.*

Please remember that these are public ramps. Entrants may be disqualified for any acts or behavior that endanger others, violate navigation laws, or embarrass the WCC. ***Depart and approach ramps in a courteous manner.***

- 10) **Boundaries:** The east/west boundary will be the west coast of Florida, with no north or south boundaries. No competitors shall approach or dive closer than 200 feet of another anchored boat posting a dive flag, except on wrecks, in which case you must approach courteously without endangering divers.
- 11) **Eligibility:** Clubs: Application for membership must be approved by a majority WCC (West Coast Council) vote. All competitors must be members of the FSDA. Individuals who are not members of a WCC club may enter as independents for two tournaments only, unless the top three scoring clubs authorize more dives by a vote. Independents

compete in the individual competitions only and are only eligible for single event trophies not for yearend trophies. If a participant joins a WCC club before the last meet then they would be eligible for a yearend trophy. (If the participant joins a WCC club their individual points will NOT count towards that club's season club point total.) Junior participants must be under the age of 18, minimum age 12.

- 12) **Tardiness/Disqualification:** The weigh-in line location and description is addressed above. The Tournament Host club representative maintains the official time and is therefore charged with the enforcement of the following rules: **In order to receive points for the fish to be weighed, all fish must be present in the weigh-in line before the deadline time for the corresponding ramp.** Any participant presenting fish in the weigh-in line after the deadline time will result in disqualification. Also, adding fish to a participant's stringer after the deadline time will result in disqualification. If a boat is disabled (operating other than normal performance), one person from that boat may bring in all entries to the weigh-in. Any cases of cheating shall result in disqualification and loss of both individual and team points for the year and a ban from the following year's competition. Infractions of the tournament rules, i.e. rough play or un-sportsmen like conduct will result in a disqualification.
- 13) **Meet cancellation:** We will make our best effort to run the tournaments on their scheduled dates. However, **"Small Craft Advisories/Warnings"** posted as of 11:00 pm Thursday before the day of the tournament will result in automatic postponement to the next rain date. The WCC Chairmen may also decide to postpone the meet if other unfavorable dive conditions prevail. Consult www.spearfishingplanet.com, Florida Gulf coast section to confirm a meet's cancellation. A meet may also be cancelled by a UNANAMOUS vote by all participating teams. All Teams MUST cast a vote to GO or NOT TO GO. A deferred vote cast to another team is not considered a vote. All teams must be in agreement to NOT GO! Only one team needs to make the call TO GO and the tournament is a GO. This can only be superseded by a vote from the WCC Chairmen.
- 14) **Entry fee: Adults: \$100.00 pre-registration, \$120.00 at the first dive for all four (4) dives, or \$40.00 at each dive. Juniors: \$75.00 pre-registration, \$90.00 at the first dive for all four (4) dives, or \$30.00 at each dive. (All pre-registration entries must be received BY April 30, 2009) Individuals may pre-register for a single WCC event (therefore not be required to attend the morning meeting) if their waiver and money are post-marked no later than the Friday (1 week prior to the meet) BEFORE the WCC meet.** Please make checks payable to the West Coast Council and should be sent to: **WCC Chairman, 3828 Foxcroft Court, Lakeland, Florida 33813.** Registration for the series can also be paid at the first WCC dive. No refunds will be given.

13) **Schedule:**

| Meet # | Sponsor Club | Ramp Location | Deadline Time | Date |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Suncoast Seals | Anclote Ramp | 6:00 pm | Saturday, May 9, 2009 |
| 2 | Tampa Bay Spearfishing Club | Gulfport Marina | 7:00 pm | Saturday, June 6, 2009 |
| 3 | Florida Freeshafters | Anclote Ramp | 6:00 pm | Saturday, July 11, 2009 |
| 4 | St. Pete Underwater Club | Ft. Desoto Ramp | 7:00 pm | Saturday, September 12, 2009 |
| Rain #1 | TBD | TBD | TBD | Saturday, September 26, 2009 |
| Rain #2 | TBD | TBD | TBD | Saturday, October 3, 2009 |

15) **Host Club Responsibilities:** Host Club will be responsible for helping setup and run the tournament, which includes the following:

- Providing minimum of 2 club representatives to run morning registration
- Providing coffee and donuts in the morning
- Providing food and drinks during the weigh-in
- Providing and **RETURNING CLEAN** scales
- Providing tournament prize(s) (\$200 minimum)
- Compiling the entry lists
- **Providing weigh-master who is a member of host club**
- **Assisting with scoring results**
- Submitting scoring results in legible form to the Tournament Director the day of the meet
- Assure that the area is clean upon departure and assist the Tournament Director

16) **Rules/Protests:** At any time these rules may be expanded or modified by the WCC Chairmen if necessary, in the interest of safety, or for the benefit of the participants. Once the tournament series begins, any rule changes must be agreed to by both of the Chairmen and voted on by the top three scoring clubs. A majority will prevail. Protests may be presented to the Tournament Director at any time. The Tournament Director's decision will be final.

QUESTIONS? Contact:

WCC Chairman **Bryan Anderson:** (407) 375-9283 (speargun@gmail.com)
WCC Chairman **Trey Stickland:** (727) 776-5025 (trey.stickland@yahoo.com)

http://www.divefsda.com/WCC_Tournaments.htm

2009 FSDA West Coast Council REGISTRATION & WAIVER

I am over the age of 18. If not, my entry in the 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 hereby acknowledge that I am aware of the dangers involved in boating, breath-hold diving and spear fishing. 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 FSDA activity. 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 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, the West Coast Council (WCC), the WCC officers, the WCC member dive clubs, the dive clubs, officers, and their members, all the WCC individual members, and all FSDA and WCC volunteers, sponsors, or advertisers for any injury, property damage, or death, suffered by myself or others during or as a result of my participation in this FSDA activity.**

By signing below you are affirming that you have read this waiver, are agreeing to all the liability waivers, releases that this document implies, and expressly represents.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Diver: _____ | | |
| Address: _____ | | |
| City _____ | State: _____ | Zip _____ |
| Phone: () _____ | Work () _____ | |
| E-mail Address: _____ | | |
| Dive Club: _____ | (Parent/Guardian must sign below for Junior entry) | Age _____ |
| PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE | WITNESSED BY | DATE |

FSDA Membership dues are due Jan 1 of each year. (Jan. 1, 2009).

I have enclosed \$15 EACH to join the FSDA

I would like to dive only one WCC event and have enclosed \$40.....
(Circle the requested tournament)

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I want to register for all four (4) dives and have enclosed \$100 before 4/30/2009 or \$120 on or before 5/10/2009

I want to register as a Junior for all four (4) dives and have enclosed \$75 before 4/30/2009 or \$90 on or before 5/10/2009

The FSDA strongly encourages each participant to share responsibility for safeguarding their rights by supporting the Fishing Rights Alliance (FRA).

Total.....