

FSDA West Coast Council

2011 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 other's 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 largest fish in the quantities available for each category as listed on page 2 item #7. Fish are **NOT** required to be gutted. A diver will receive one point per qualified aggregate pound and one point per fish.

Grouper, AJ, Snapper, Cobia and Cuda over 20 pounds per qualified fish will count 20 pounds towards the aggregate total.

Hogfish, Sheepshead, Triggerfish, Mackerel, Lionfish and Lobster over 5 pounds per qualified fish will count 5 pounds towards the aggregate total.

For example, if two Hogfish are weighed in together, the aggregate total will max out at 10 pounds. If three Hogfish are weighed in together, the aggregate total will max out at 15 pounds, etc.

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 top three (3) highest aggregate scorers for that meet.

Juniors: A trophy will be awarded to the junior contestant with the highest aggregate score for that meet as long as there are 2 or more juniors in the event.

Largest Fish: A trophy will be awarded to the contestant with the largest fish in for the tournament day.

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 be awarded at the end of the year if at least five (5) different female and/or junior shooters participate in any of the 2011 WCC series of tournaments.

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 (**)***.

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.

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:** The WCC will provide four (4) \$50.00 gift cards for each tournament day. 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:**

Pre-registered Divers: Divers are allowed to **DEPART FRIDAY EVENING AND DIVE AT DAWN**.

Late Registered Divers: Divers registering after the pre-registration times need to attend the Mandatory Morning Registration Meeting at 7:00 AM at the Host Ramp.

Weigh-in Time: All weigh-in line deadline times are 6:00 pm (even if it is a rain date). The "weigh-in line" will constitute the physical location for the close of the meet.

By Car: Divers must be in the weigh-in line with their fish before 6:00 pm.

By Boat: Boats must have one registered diver check in with the tournament director (WCC Co-Chair) before the 6:00 pm deadline. If you have any question about where your fish must be at by the deadline time, ask the Tournament Director at the morning meeting.

7) **Eligible fish for scoring:**

AJ/Cobia/Barracuda **	See size requirement below.	1 Total
Grouper **	See size requirement below.	2 Total
Hogfish **	See size requirement below.	3 Total
Snapper **	See size requirement below.	3 Total
Sheepshead/Trigger **	See size requirement below.	3 Total
Mackerel (Spanish/King)	See size requirement below.	3 Total
Lobster/Lionfish	See size requirement below.	5 Total

8) **Fish requirements and penalties:** If a diver submits a short fish to the weigh in the diver will lose that fish and the largest fish for the day no questions asked. The diver will not be eligible

for any of the individual trophies for that meet. Divers are personally responsible for understanding and operating within all state and federal regulations.

ELIGIBLE FISH	REQUIRED SIZE LIMIT
Amberjack	30" FORK
Cobia	33" FORK
Barracuda	28" FORK
Grouper (GAG)	Gags will not be allowed until gag is open in Federal Waters.
Grouper (BLACK)	22" OVERALL
Grouper (RED)	20" OVERALL
Grouper (SCAMP)	16" OVERALL
Triggerfish	14" FORK
Hogfish	12" FORK
Sheepshead	12" OVERALL
Snapper (Mutton & Red)	16" OVERALL
Snapper (All Others)	12" OVERALL
Mackerel (Spanish)	12" FORK
Mackerel (King)	24" FORK
Lion Fish	ANY SIZE
Lobster (Spiny or Slipper)	3" CARAPACE FOR SPINY

Effective January 1, 2011, recreational harvest of gag grouper in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico is prohibited. This interim rule will be in effect for 180 days

Grouper and Snapper Regulations can be found at the following link:
http://www.myfwc.com/RULESANDREGS/Saltwater_Regulations_Grouper.htm

All fish must be legally taken and **landed by the diver who is awarded the points**. All competitors' fish entries must be presorted, on individual stringers, and iced properly.

9) **Launch Ramps:** 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 at the host ramp.

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.

Independents: 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 do not have to be members of a WCC club, but must pay FSDA dues to participate. 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 Director (WCC Co-Chair) maintains the official time and is therefore charged with the enforcement of the following rules: 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. The WCC Weather Committee will decide to postpone the meet if unfavorable dive conditions prevail. The Weather Committee's official decision shall be submitted no later than 4:00 pm the Friday Before the tournament. Consult www.spearfishingplanet.com, WCC section to confirm a meet's cancellation or call Aquatic Obsessions dive shop at 727-344-3483 between 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM the Friday before the tournament.

14) **Entry fee:**

Pre-registered shooters may leave the Friday night before the meet and will not need to attend the Mandatory Late Registration Meeting 7:00 AM in the tournament morning.

Pre-registration for all four (4) dives (at a discounted cost) must be received by April 30, 2011.

Pre-registration for individual tournaments must be received the Friday BEFORE the Meet.

Adults: All four (4) Meets; \$100.00 pre-registration, \$120.00 at the first dive
Individual Meets \$40.00 each.

Juniors: All four (4) Meets; \$75.00 pre-registration, \$90.00 at the first dive
Individual Meets \$30.00 at each.

Please make checks payable to the West Coast Council and should be sent to:
WCC Co-Chairman, 1509 Suffolk Street N. St. Petersburg FL. 33710.
 No refunds will be given.

15) **Schedule:**

Meet #	Sponsor Club	Ramp Location	Deadline Time	Date
1	Suncoast Seals	Anclote Ramp	6:00 pm	Saturday, May 14, 2011
2	Clearwater Hogs	Belleair Ramp	6:00 pm	Saturday, June 18, 2011
3	Florida Freeshafters/GCUH	Belleair Ramp	6:00 pm	Saturday, July 9, 2011
4	St. Pete Underwater Club	Ft. Desoto Ramp	6:00 pm	Saturday, September 10, 2011
Rain #1	TBD	TBD	TBD	Saturday, September 17, 2011
Rain #2	TBD	TBD	TBD	Saturday, September 24, 2011

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

- Providing one person to collect late registration forms and monies at Host Ramp at 7:00 AM the morning of the tournament.
- Providing food and drinks during the weigh-in
- Providing and **RETURNING CLEAN** scales
- Compiling the entry lists
- Provide weigh-master who is a member of host club &
- Assist with scoring results
- Submitting scoring results in legible form to the Tournament Director (WCC Co-Chair) the day of the meet
- Assure that the area is clean upon departure and assist the Tournament Director

17) **Rules/Protests:** 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. Formal protests must be presented to the Tournament Director (WCC Co-Chair) at the tournament. The Tournament Director's (WCC Co-Chair's) decision will be final.

QUESTIONS? Contact:

WCC Co-Chair **Malena Nelson:** (727) 481-5019 stoneshotdesigns@gmail.com

WCC Co-Chair **Dave Graham:** (727) 482-0000 iskydiveus@yahoo.com

<http://www.fsda-wcc.com/>

2011 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, 2011).

This is a FSDA event; all divers must be a member to participate.
I have enclosed \$20 EACH to join the FSDA, (if a member, write your number in the box.).....

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

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ADULTS: I want to register for all four (4) dives and have enclosed \$100 before 4/30/2011 or \$120 on or before 5/10/2011.....

JUNIORS: I want to register as a Junior for all four (4) dives and have enclosed \$75 before 4/30/2011 or \$90.00 on or before 5/10/2011.....

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

Total.....