

# **Official Rules of the 2012 Big Bang! Open Tournament**

**INTRODUCTION** - The Big Bang! Open Tournament (“BBO”) above all is a social event and a time for people who enjoy Spearfishing to assemble together and enjoy each other’s company. In making the rules, we have made every effort to make the BBO as safe as possible. The website for registration information and announcements is [www.spearboard.com](http://www.spearboard.com).

**TOURNAMENT DATES AND LOCATION** – An optional Captain’s Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 19, 2012 between the hours of 5:30PM and 8:00PM. Tournament participants do NOT have to be present at the Captain’s Meeting if they have pre-registered, but are strongly encouraged to try to make the meeting. The location of the optional Captain’s meeting is at Tiki Waterfront Sea Grill, 200 E 13th St. Riviera Beach, FL 33404, Phone 561-845-5532.

The Captain’s Meeting will serve a couple of different purposes:

1. A last minute Q&A regarding rules will be done, starting at 7:00PM; and
2. Late registrations can be handled at this time for those who have not pre-registered.

The Tournament shooting will be held for two days starting Friday, July 20, 2012 and ending Saturday, July 21, 2012. Participants can start shooting upon sufficient light, and shoot each day until there is no longer sufficient light. In other words, there is no need to rush. You have up to two days to get your diving drops and/or to enjoy the full benefit of what you may have paid for with a charter boat. However, you are NOT required to hunt two days if you decide one day is enough.

Participants agree and promise that only fish shot on Friday and Saturday, July 20-21, 2012 will be presented for weigh-in. Voice stress lie detection examinations will be used randomly and selectively at the weigh-in to verify this promise and compliance with other rules. If requested, you agree to submit to such an examination.

The Weigh-in, Awards Ceremony & Expo will be on Sunday, July 22, 2012, at the Riviera Beach Marina, Tiki Waterfront Sea Grill and Newcomb Hall. This facility has a covered fish weigh-in area, a great restaurant and an air-conditioned spacious hall. The marina is on 13<sup>th</sup> St. off US Hwy. One, several blocks south of Blue Heron Blvd. in Riviera Beach, Florida.

The fish weigh-in will be from 9:30AM to 11:30AM. That means you can be in line anytime within that time frame. You may NOT use Sunday morning to dive for more fish. If you are not in line by 11:30AM, your fish will not be weighed and you will be disqualified. This rule is strictly enforced. If you make it to line at 11:31AM or after, you will be disqualified. The committee will tabulate winners from 11:30AM to 2:00PM, during which time participants and their guest may enjoy free beverages (beer, soda and bottled water), a fully catered meal, and chat with exhibitors. Mixed alcoholic drinks will be served at a cash bar.

**FORMAT** - This is an aggregate style fish tournament. As such, points are awarded for each fish turned in. One point or partial point is given for each pound or partial pound of the fish’s weight. For example, a 3.4 pound hogfish would be worth 3.4 points. Fish must be gutted. Do not weigh fish that you have shot with a powerhead. The weights at the scales will be calculated in pounds and ounces and will be converted to decimal weights for the scoring tabulation.

There will be a maximum of 20 points given per fish in every category. Points from all categories will then be added for your final point total (i.e., your “aggregate score”). After you have weighed your fish, you will be presented with a slip that you must sign, acknowledging that you accept the weights as stated on the slip. If you dispute your weight total, it must be done while at the weigh-in table. If you dispute someone else’s fish, you must do so at the time they weigh-in.

If ANY fish that you turn in is harvested on SCUBA, then you are not eligible to compete for the First Place Freediver Trophy.

**FREEDIVING TROPHY** - As mentioned above, there is a trophy for the First Place Freediver. This trophy shall be awarded to the freediver with the highest aggregate score of a freediver. Apart from the trophy, the winner shall take his turn at the prize table in accordance with his/her aggregate score, along with the SCUBA divers. In order to compete for this trophy, two things must happened:

1. You must circle or check “freediver” on the registration form, and
2. You must commit to freediving for the tournament, with no fish shot on SCUBA.

Apart from competition for the freediving trophy, freedivers shall compete based on the same rules and general format for the rest of the tournament, and shall take their turn at the prize table based on their overall aggregate score.

**CATEGORIES** (See Notes Below Table)

<b>Fish Category</b>	<b>Minimum Size (Inches) and Location</b>	<b>Max. No. of Fish</b>
<b>Grouper</b>	24” Black anywhere 20” Red anywhere 20” Scamp anywhere 24” Gag Grouper anywhere	1 Fish Total
<b>Snapper</b>	12” Mangrove anywhere 12” Cubera anywhere 16” Mutton anywhere No Red Snapper on either coast	2 Fish Total
<b>Hogfish and Flounder</b>	12” Hogfish anywhere 12” Flounder anywhere	2 Fish Total
<b>Triggerfish, Porgy and Sheepshead</b>	14” for Triggerfish on East Coast Only 14” Porgy anywhere 12” Sheepshead anywhere	2 Fish Total
<b>Cobia or Jacks</b>	33” Cobia anywhere 30” Amberjack on East Coast Only Other Jacks allowed anywhere. (One Barracuda is allowed in this category for West Coast Registered shooters Only )	1 Fish Total
<b>Wild Card Fish</b>	See full definition below. (Note – West Coast Registered shooters have a maximum number of two barracuda that can be weighed in for all categories)	1 Fish Total
	<b>Fish Count</b>	<b>9 Fish Grand Total</b>

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

**ADVANCE EAST OR WEST COAST SHOOTING DECLARATION** - Each participant **MUST** declare where they will be hunting for **BOTH** days at the time of registration because of the disparity of species closures around the region. You may change your choice of East or West Coast Declaration up until 11 pm on the date of the optional Captain's meeting which is Thursday, July 19, 2012 via e-mail notification to enter@bellsouth.net and with the receipt of a response via e-mail. You must print out the e-mail response and bring it to the weigh-in for presentation to the weigh master in order for your shooting declaration change to be accepted. See Geographical Issues below which states you may not hunt in the Bahamas or any other foreign country.

**GROUPER CATEGORY** - Species of legal Grouper eligible for this category might include Black Grouper, Gag Grouper, Yellowfin Grouper, Yellowmouth Grouper, Warsaw Grouper, etc. as long as they are legal to harvest in federal or state waters where you are hunting. The Florida single-day

possession rules at the weigh-in location at Riviera Beach apply. For example, you may weigh in only one black or gag grouper.

**SNAPPER CATEGORY** - Species of legal snappers eligible for this category might include Cubera Snapper, Dog Snapper, Mutton Snapper, etc.

**TRIGGERFISH, PORGY and SHEEPSHEAD CATEGORY** – For 2012, Porgy has been added to this category because Triggerfish is closed to West Coast shooters. Triggerfish may be weighed in by East Coast registered shooters only.

**COBIA OR JACK CATEGORY** - Only one cobia or jack is allowed. Species of legal jacks eligible for this category might include Amberjack, Yellow Jack, Almaco Jack, etc. that are legal to harvest in federal or state waters where you are hunting. Because Amberjack is closed in the Gulf at the time of the tournament, we will allow (for this year only) the optional weigh-in of a barracuda in this category for West Coast registered shooters only.

**WILD CARD CATEGORY** – This category is designed to level the playing field due to grouper and snapper closures in various regions. Your wild card fish can be a barracuda or any fish now eligible in the above categories except you may weigh in only one gag grouper or black grouper total in order to comply with the East Coast possession limit where the weigh-in is located. West Coast Registered Shooters have a maximum number of two barracuda that can be weighed in for all categories and East Coast Registered Shooters have a maximum number of one barracuda as the Wild Card Fish. Contestants who weigh in barracuda have the option of donating these fish to scientists who will use them for fisheries research.

Therefore, you may still bring in nine fish as in the past and the maximum potential points will remain the same (9 x 20 = 180 points).

Note: fish measurement is based on the current measurement to fork or overall as required by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission no matter where the fish was harvested. Cobia, Jacks and Hogfish are measured to the fork. The weighmaster has the final say on all fish being weighed. Some good resources for current recreational regulations are the following websites:

[http://myfwc.com/media/2075522/saltwater\\_regulations\\_chart.pdf](http://myfwc.com/media/2075522/saltwater_regulations_chart.pdf)

[http://www.gulfcouncil.org/fishing\\_regulations/regulations\\_matrix/Site/Regulations\\_Matrix.html](http://www.gulfcouncil.org/fishing_regulations/regulations_matrix/Site/Regulations_Matrix.html)

<http://www.safmc.net/FishIDandRegs/RegulationsbySpecies/tabid/248/Default.aspx>

**PRIZES AND TROPHIES** - As stated, this is an aggregate tournament. There will be a nice prize table. A person's turn at the prize table will be determined solely by aggregate score total. All persons who weigh a fish will get a turn at the prize table. Winning a trophy will not yield an earlier turn at the prize table. You must be present in person to weigh your fish and collect prizes. Exchanges shall be at the discretion of the prize donors and prizes certificates must be claimed within one year of winning.

There will be a total of eleven (11) Trophies up for grabs (based on what has already been manufactured):

- 1.) 2012 Big Bang! Open Winner
- 2.) Best Freediver
- 3.) Largest Grouper
- 4.) Largest Snapper
- 5.) Largest Hogfish/Flounder
- 6.) Largest Trigger/Porgy/Sheepshead
- 7.) Largest Jack/Cobia
- 8.) Largest Grouper/Red Snapper
- 9.) Best Female Diver
- 10.) Best Junior Diver
- 11.) Best Boat

The 2012 Big Bang Open Winner (best overall aggregate score), shall be awarded his or her trophy, and have first pick at the prize table. The 2012 Big Bang! Open First Place Freediver shall be awarded his or her trophy, and go to the prize table in accordance with his/her aggregate score. All "Largest Fish" trophy winners will be awarded their trophy, plus take their turn at the prize table as dictated by their aggregate total. The Best Aggregate Female and Junior will get a trophy, and take their turn at the

prize table as dictated by their aggregate score.

**METHODS OF HARVEST** - Fish presented for weigh-in may NOT be powerheaded. Fish may be harvested either Freediving, or with use of SCUBA. In order to be eligible, the person weighing the fish must have speared and brought or sent the fish to the surface, without the assistance of another diver.

**JUNIORS** - Juniors between the ages of 12 – 17 years of age shall be permitted to participate, however, the following rules apply:

1. The legal waiver form must be signed by the junior's parent or legal guardian;
2. If parents/guardians are entrusting their child to dive on the vessel of a third person, he/she will ensure that proper paperwork has been executed and delivered to third party to enable him/her to consent for medical treatment for junior;
3. Juniors shall take their turn at the prize table based on their aggregate score, just like adults. As stated, the highest junior aggregate score also gets a trophy.

**LADIES** - Ladies will also have their prize table rotation determined by the overall aggregate score, in the same pool with men and juniors. There shall also be a trophy for the female diver with the highest aggregate score.

**BEST BOAT** - The 2012 Big Bang! Open will include a "Best Boat" award. In the interest of making this fair, a three person boat should be on equal footing with a six person boat. Consequently, the winner will be determined by the boat with the highest diver average aggregate score, based on the top three individual scores on each boat.

See the following examples to further explain the best boat rules:

1. Boat One has only two shooters on their vessel. Boat One is not eligible to participate in the best boat competition, because there must be at least three registered contestants on the boat to compete for best boat.
2. Boat Two has three shooters. Their aggregate total is 240. All shooters will be counted on Boat Two, because the top three shooters are counted, and 240 is their score.
3. Boat Three has six shooters. The top three shooters on that boat had the following scores: 90, 85, and 80. Their aggregated score is 255. The other three shooters are not counted, as only the top three are used to compute aggregate score.

Please fill in the NAME of the boat you will be on, which is located on the registration form. We cannot be responsible for a correct boat score if you do not name the boat you are on.

**MYSTERY PRIZE CHANCES** - Everyone who weighs a fish, even just a single fish, will get a single mystery Prize chance designation on the computerized weigh-in list. After the first 20 persons go to the prize table, mystery prize names on the computerized list will be called intermittently. If your name is called, you go to the prize table at that time. This will not affect your regular turn to the table based on your aggregate score, making it possible to go to the prize table twice.

**CATERED MEAL AND BEVERAGES** - One of the things that makes the Big Bang! Open Tournament such a great value is that we include a fully catered meal and non-alcoholic beverages for all participants.

You may bring family members (i.e., spouse/kids) and friends who did not participate or register in the tournament. The cost of the catered meal and beverages to non-contestants is \$20 per person.

Beverage is defined as water, soda and other non-alcoholic beverages that might be available. Beer is also available, and is free, but is in no way associated with registration or meal tickets. Beer is available for free to any adults age 21 or over, with no consideration necessary.

After the Captain's Meeting, there will only be a limited amount of meal tickets left for purchase. For this reason, we reserve the right to turn non ticket holders away on the date of the event. If you did not get an event ticket for a friend or family member by the end of the Captain's Meeting, do not assume that additional tickets will be available on the day of the weigh-in/prize ceremony.

The Catered Meal will take place after the weigh-in and start between 12:30PM and 1:00PM.

### **REGISTRATION**

1. Pre-registration is \$85.00.
2. Late registration will be \$130.00. Registrations not received by Big Bang! Open by Wednesday midnight on July 18, 2012 are late. Late registration can also be accomplished at the Captain's Meeting on July 19, 2012 in addition to on-line.
3. Extra Meal Tickets: There will be a place on the Registration Form to order extra meal tickets for family and children.
4. Address and Fax: Enterprise Publications, P.O. Box 14067, North Palm Beach, FL 33408 Fax: 561-844-8190

**GEOGRAPHICAL ISSUES** - Given that this format is unique due to the weigh-in on the day after the shooting, there may be questions about hunting boundaries. In short, if you can drive your fish and be in the weigh-in line by the designated time, you can hunt in the Atlantic or Gulf, whether in Florida or out of Florida. You may not hunt in the Bahamas or any other foreign country. The Bahamas includes the various surrounding banks considered Bahamian Territory. You may not have someone fly your fish in from anywhere. Geographically diverse hunting locations will enable more Spearboard members to be involved.

**DISQUALIFICATION AND PROTEST** - We will have a protest committee available. It will be comprised of the lead weighmaster, the event owner, and a third person chosen by the event owner. Protests must be filed at the time fish are weighed (yours or someone else's). We reserve the right to disqualify individuals for suspect fish, unsportsmanlike conduct, or disruption. If you have a dispute, we will do everything possible to address it. We just ask for courtesy, and your participation in this event means that you will accept the committee's majority decision in a respectful manner, without further recourse. Persons not in line by the designated time will be disqualified, and this will be strictly enforced, especially in light of how liberal the weigh-in time is. "In line" means that you, or a member from your boat, are presently in line with your fish. By registering in the BBO, you agree to take a lie detector test should it be requested by the protest committee whether randomly or because of an issue.

**WEIGH-IN PROCEDURE** - In order to weigh your fish, your cooler must be inside the gated area surrounding the weigh-in scales area no later than 11:30 AM. At 11:30 AM, the gate will be closed and the weighmasters notified of the last person in line. If your cooler is still in your truck at that time, you will be disqualified regardless of when you arrived. This rule will be strictly enforced.

You must weigh your fish in person in case there are any questions about following the rules. We will have a lot of fish to weigh, and your cooperation is vital. After you arrive in the weigh-in area, please observe the following:

1. All fish must be gutted. This should be done before arriving at the tournament site. Ungutted fish will not be weighed.
2. Please make sure that your fish meet the minimum size for the tournament. Fish may shrink after they are harvested, and tournament size limits may be greater than the minimum size limits in the area where your fish were shot. Measuring devices are available for your use BEFORE you present the fish to the weighmaster. The line assistants will not measure or approve your fish for you. All fish must

qualify using OUR measuring device. Please refer to the tournament rules for minimum sizes. The weighmaster has the final say on all fish being weighed.

3. You may weigh only 1 grouper, 2 snapper, 2 hogfish/flounder, 2 porgy/sheepshead and 1 jack or cobia plus 1 wild card fish as explained above for a grand total of 9 fish.

4. Please make sure that your fish are presented by category in the following order: grouper, snapper, hogfish/flounder, porgy/sheepshead and jack/cobia, then your wild card fish.

5. You must select your two largest and heaviest fish in each category. The weighmaster will not and cannot assist you with this decision. It is not necessary to present your largest fish in a category first.

6. There is no need to remove zip ties from your fish. Excessively large and thick zip ties may be removed at the sole discretion of the weighmaster.

7. Be ready when it is your turn. If your fish do not meet ALL of the above requirements at the time that they are presented to the weighmaster, you can be asked to go to the back of the line.

8. After your fish are weighed, please sign your receipt and THEN retrieve your fish quickly to keep the lines moving.

The weighmaster has the final say on all weighed fish. If you have any questions, please ask one of the line assistants. Thank you for your cooperation!

**NOTICE** - The location of the weigh-in is at a public marina site. There are hazards associated with this location. Persons bringing children agree to supervise them and ensure that they are staying free of hazards, and otherwise are properly supervised.

**NO PETS ARE ALLOWED**

**PHOTOGRAPHY RELEASE** - I hereby grant for me and any attending dependents to Enterprise Publications/Productions permission to use the likeness in a photograph or video recording in any and all of its publications, including websites and television productions, without monetary or other consideration. I agree that these materials will become the property of Enterprise.

**RULE CHANGES** - BBO Rules generally may be changed until July 13, 2012 so that your dive plans can be formulated in advance unless there is a critical change. We do not anticipate major rule changes after that date. Any and all rule changes will be posted on [www.spearboard.com](http://www.spearboard.com). Registrants are responsible for making sure they have checked for rule changes up until 11 pm on the date of the optional Captain's Meeting on Thursday, July 19, 2012.