FSDA State Championship Spearfishing Rules

- 1. **Safety First:** This is a recreational event. We are here primarily to enjoy each other's company. Participants should not push their training limits or violate safe practices. The FSDA recommends that participants Do Not Exceed the recreational diving limit of 130 feet AND/OR the maximum depth for which participants are properly trained.
- 2. **No Diver is officially entered** in the tournament until the FSDA has receives a properly filled out and legibly printed –Waiver, Registration, and all fees have been paid. FSDA has the right to reject any applicant.
- 3. Eligibility: Men, women and junior divers are welcome to participate. Divers under the age of 18 (juniors) 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 "Unsportsmanlike" behavior in any previous competition is prohibited from being eligible to enter this event.
- 4. Waiver: 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 \$20.00 FSDA dues for 2016 can be paid with a diver's registration. Note: FSDA dues must be renewed January 1st of each year. Junior division (ages 12-17) are guests of FSDA and exempt from FSDA membership dues for this event.
- 5. Registration: Adult: Pre-registration is \$65, Late Registration is \$75. Junior: Pre-registration is \$55, Late Registration is \$60.
- Licenses: All competitors are required by Florida Law to possess a Florida Saltwater Fishing license and must have said license during the tournament. Registration Form and Waiver must be completed on Tournament Hub via https://so2016.tournamenthub.io/. For questions, call (727) 638-6265 or email ruleh8ter@gmail.com.

Dates	Description				
05/19/16	Kick Off Party: Ferg's Sports Bar, 1320 Central Ave - St Petersburg, 6:30pm				
05/19/16	Early Registration: Entries must be registered by midnight on https://so2016.tournamenthub.io/ until 11:59pm, for				
	preregistration price				
06/03/16					
	geographical area. At least one diver from each boat must be at this meeting. This mandatory rule is utilized to assi				
	an equal start for all participants.				
06/03/16	Late registration: Late registration is available through Friday, June 3rd at 7:59pm on-line via				
	https://so2016.tournamenthub.io/. Late registrants attending any satellite captains meetings will be able to register via				
	electronic registration on https://so2016.tournamenthub.io/ and must have e-mail confirmation from tournamenthub.con				
	proof of entry and registration.				
06/04/16	Tournament Day: Statewide. All fish must be speared between Dawn & Dusk				
06/05/16	Weigh In: 10:00 am - Clearwater Yacht Club, 830 Bayway Blvd, Clearwater Beach. All fish must be in line by 12 noon!				
	Awards: Approximately 1pm				
06/25/16	Tentative Rain Dates - Weekend of June 24-26				

THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE CAN MAKE ANY CHANGES TO ANY RULE AT THE CAPTAIN'S MEETING. YOU HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE DIVER FROM EACH BOAT AT THE CAPTAIN'S MEETING TO BE AWARE OF ANY CHANGES. ANY 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 STAY UNTIL THE END OF THIS MEETING WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFIED, NO EXCEPTIONS.

Satellite meeting hosts must call the designated FSDA chair between 8:45pm- 9:30pm on June 3rd and leave a voicemail naming registered shooters and boat captains in attendance. Tournament Shooter Shirts, entry tickets and shooter bags will only be given out at main captain's meeting (Satellite locations must pick up their bags, entry tickets and shirt at the registrant check-in table at weigh-in). If divers elect to send only one shooter from their boat to this meeting, it is their representatives' responsibility to collect the tournament shooter shirts and entry tickets for his/her boat mates. To register an approved satellite location, contact FSDA officers at ruleh8ter@gmail.com no later than June 1, 2016. Satellite Locations will be posted on the Southern Open State Spearfishing Championships Facebook page and www.floridaskindivers.com as they are approved.

- 7. **Junior Division:** Divers 12 to 17 years old as of June 3, 2016, 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. Besides being the proper age, the shooter MUST check the "YES" box to the Junior inquiry on the registration form. The highest aggregate scoring "Juniors" will receive trophies to designate their accomplishments.
- 8. **Master Diver Division:** Any adult male or female participant that is 60 years of age or older, as of June 3, 2016 can elect to be entered in the State Senior Spearfishing Championship. Besides being the proper age, the shooter MUST check the "YES" box to the Senior inquiry on the registration form. The highest aggregate scoring "Seniors" will receive trophies to designate their accomplishments.
- 9. Woman Diver Division: Any woman (Adult or Junior) qualifies for this category. Trophies will be given to the highest aggregate scoring divers. To qualify, the participant MUST be female and MUST check the box for "Female" on her registration form. The highest aggregate scoring "Women" will receive trophies to designate their accomplishments.

- 10. **Points:** Each diver is to turn in their largest fish in each category, fully gutted. A diver will receive one point per pound and ten points per fish. All fish will score no more than 20 lbs for a maximum of 30 points per fish. Ties will be broken mathematically by dividing each contestant's aggregate weight by the number of fish. The highest number will be the winner. Lionfish Champion will be honored based on the most amount caught. A maximum of three lionfish will be counted towards points for other categories.
- 11. Spearfishing Trophies: Twenty-one trophies will be awarded.

State Men's Spearfishing Champion	State Master's Spearfishing 2nd Place	State Jack Champion	
State Men's Spearfishing 2nd Place	State Master's Spearfishing 3rd Place	State Barracuda Champion	
State Men's Spearfishing 3rd Place	State Junior Spearfishing Champion	State Kingfish Champion	
State Women's Spearfishing Champion	State American Red Snapper Champion	State Sheepshead Champion	
State Women's Spearfishing 2nd Place	State Grouper Champion	State Team Champions (up to 5)	
State Women's Spearfishing 3rd Place	State Hogfish Champion	State Mixed Team	
State Master's Spearfishing Champion	State Cobia Champion	State Lionfish Champion	

Prize table and order of picks: Picks from the prize table will begin with the first place overall spearfishing champion by total individual point score. After the top 5 picks, we will begin random picks of the table interspersed with rankings. All prizes are a bonus for the participants and the amount and type of prizes are dictated by the generosity of our sponsors. Participants must be present to accept a prize.

State Women's Spearfishing Champion*	State Junior Spearfishing Champion***
State Master Spearfishing Champion**	State Lionfish Champion****

^{*}State Women's Champion wins a Custom Outdoor Artwork and retains their pick of the table based on overall ranking

It's the shooters responsibility to ensure possession of their entry ticket, possession is required to pick from the prize table.

12. **Eligible fish:** Categories, size and number that will be allowed, are as follows:

Category	Species	Size	Total Allowable
Grouper	Gag, Black, Red, Scamp, Yellowfin, Yellowmouth (Overall Length)	State Minimum	4 Per Diver (mixed)
Snapper	American Red, Mangrove, Mutton, Cubera, Dog, Yellowtail, Vermillion. (Overall Length)	State Minimum	5 Per Diver
Hogfish	Hogfish (Fork Length)	State Minimum	5 Per Diver
Sheepshead	Sheepshead (Overall Length)	State Minimum	3 Per Diver
Jacks	Horse Eye Jack, Permit, African Pompano, Almaco, Legal Jacks	State Minimum	1 Per Diver
Mackerel	Cero / Spanish Mackerel	State Minimum	3 Per Diver
Cobia	Cobia (Fork Length)	State Minimum	1 Per Diver
Kingfish	Kingfish (Fork Length)	State Minimum	2 Per Diver
Barracuda	Barracuda	State Minimum	1 Per Diver
Lionfish	Lionfish	No Size Limit	3 Per Diver

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

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 3, 2016. 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 shooters first and last name for 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 12).

- **12. Disqualification** is automatic for latecomers. Any cases of Cheating or Un-sportsmanship behavior will result in disqualification. The Official Time shall be announced at the Friday evening registration and briefing. 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.
- 13. 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 Treasurer & the FSDA Secretary. The decision of the protest committee is final. 2016 Officers are FSDA President Dennis O'Hearn, Vice President Teresa Hattaway, Treasurer Bill Hardman and Secretary Bill Van Deman.

TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN Melody Engle, PO 248, Oldsmar, FI, 34677-0248 (727)638-6265

^{**} State Masters Champion wins a pair of Salt Life Polarized Sunglasses and retains their pick of the table based on overall ranking
***Junior Champion wins custom Daryl Wong / GR Tarr Speargun and retains their pick of the table based on overall ranking

^{****} Any Lionfish shooter that breaks the current State record of (18 7/8 inches) wins a \$450 Zookeeper Dive Rite Hunter Pac and retains their pick of the table based on overall ranking / A Lionfish shooter will also be randomly recognized to receive a custom monogrammed clear zookeeper from this event.