

# 2011 St. Pete Open Spearfishing Tournament

## Rules & Regulations

*Last Minute Rule Changes Can Be Instituted at the Captain's Meeting*

**A. Primary Trophies** are awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in all seven (7) categories.

Women, Juniors & Freedive scoring includes all categories. Junior is 17 or under. Women's, Junior's, & Freedive divisions include all species included in the tournament list.

The aggregate score for all divisions is 1 point per pound. Maximum 20 points per fish.

**B. One prize pick per diver**, except holders of mystery tickets and group category tickets.

**C. Prize winners will be judged on largest remaining fish in each category, after previous winner's entries are deleted.**

**Prize pick order by species. Sizes based on Gulf of Mexico Federal Rules, All lengths are minimum required:**

1. Grouper - 22" black, 20" red, 16" Scamp. No Gag Grouper.
2. Snapper - 16" minimum overall for Mutton, 12" all other snapper overall. No red snapper.
3. Pelagic - 30" minimum to fork. (Amberjack, Wahoo, tuna, dolphin, kingfish, permit, African Pompano)
4. Hogfish - 12" minimum to fork.
5. Cobia and Barracuda - Cobia 33" min to fork, Barracuda min 28" overall.
6. Spiny/Shovel Lobster - 3" minimum on carapace for spiny. Whole. No holes in lobster.
7. Sheepshead - 12" minimum overall.

**D. A Group Category Ticket** will be given for each group category when one species from that category is weighed in. Each of the seven Group Category prizes will have a retail value of \$600.

**E. Five Mystery Tickets** will be given to each participant at the Captains Meeting.

**F. All local Florida & Federal rules**, size limits, license requirements, and bag limits apply. Federal Rules supercede local or State Rules. There are no boundaries.

**G. Both tank and free diving** are permissible. In order to be eligible, fish must have been caught by the contestant using a spear loaded or propelled by his/her own muscle power. Lobster may be grabbed or netted per Florida Marine Patrol and Federal regulations. No powerheads are allowed to obtain any tournament species.

**H. Scales will be open** for weighing fish at 6:00 p.m. Contestants must have their gutted fish and lobster in one of the weigh-in lines by **7:30 p.m. or they will be disqualified.** Fish must be brought to the weigh-in line (roped off area) on ice and in a proper container. **ALL FISH MUST BE PROPERLY GUTTED, CLEAN OF DIRT AND DEBRIS AND PROPERLY ICED DOWN. If any fish does not look fresh and/ or the catch looks like it was taken with an explosive device, that catch and the participant will be disqualified.** Fish must be weighed by at least one contestant from the same boat.

**I. No boat may approach** under power, without permission, within 150 feet of an anchored boat flying a diver's down or Alpha flag.

**J. Each contestant is requested to wear** an inflatable rescue device and all safety equipment that is standard for the sport.

**K. No contestant may receive assistance** with any fish until he/she has one hand on the boat. Contestants may help each other net lobster.

**L. When having catch weighed**, each contestant must have his/her **Numbered Weigh-in ID** available with his/her catch. **Immediately after each contestant's catch is weighed, it is each contestant's responsibility to VERIFY his/her catch and weights with the recording volunteers AND pick up a Group Category Ticket for each species**

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**weighed in. This recording area is located in the back of the weigh-in area.**

- M.** In the event a **boat becomes disabled**, all contestants catch and numbered weigh-in badges may be brought into the weigh-in area by at least one of the contestants from the same boat. This person must do Weight verification & Group Ticket pickup.
- N.** All **fish and lobster weighed** from any one contestant must be weighed at one time. No two of the same species will be weighed to see which is heavier. Only one fish per category, per participant can be weighed in. Tournament record fish will be re-weighed.
- O.** **All contestants must be present at the registration, unless they Advance Register.** If they Advance Register, his/her yellow copy of the Advance Registration Form OR his/her Advance Registration Confirmation number **must be presented by himself or one of the registered and paid members of his/her boat who is attending the Captain's Meeting.** **There will be no reimbursements for the tournament fees once paid by the participant. Sorry, No Exceptions.**
- P.** **Each contestant entering** this tournament has given implied and expressed consent for the St. Petersburg Underwater Club to use his/her name and/or likeness to promote the efforts of the St. Petersburg Underwater Club, the St. Pete Open and/or spearfishing.
- Q. DISQUALIFICATION:** A tournament participant can be disqualified from all aspects of this tournament and from any future St. Pete Open Tournaments for any of the following: **1) Infraction of tournament rules. 2) Rough play, unsafe or careless behavior. 3) Unsportsmanlike conduct during any three days of the tournament.**
- R. Decisions and interpretations of all these rules by the Tournament Rules Committee shall be final.** All rules violations and protests will be decided by a majority rule of the Tournament Rules Committee. This committee shall consist of: the current SPUC President, the current SPUC Vice-President; the current SPUC Secretary. If any member of this Tournament Rules Committee is involved in the dispute, then that member will be replaced by the current SPUC Treasurer or Last Year's SPUC President or other SPUC past presidents.