



REEF 6th Annual Sarasota Lionfish Derby Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium, Sarasota, FL

July 14th 2019

OFFICIAL DERBY RULES

1. LIONFISH (*Pterois volitans/miles*) ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY, MAY ONLY BE TAKEN DURING THE DERBY. NO PREVIOUSLY CAUGHT OR FROZEN LIONFISH WILL BE ALLOWED. HOWEVER, **PLEASE KEEP ALL LIONFISH ON ICE**. REEF reserves the right to keep all lionfish presented at scoring station, for uses including "lionfish tasting," research and market development.
2. Teams with a FWC Salt Water Products license will be offer the opportunity to sell up to 80 percent of their catch the day of the derby to Halpern's Steak and Seafood. A valid license and completed Halpern's vendor form will be needed for the sale.
3. **CAPTAINS MEETING:** The Captain's Meeting at **6:30PM Friday, July 12th 2019** is mandatory for the team captains, and all team members are encouraged to attend. The team captain must be one of the four participants in the derby, but does not need to be the captain of the boat. Safe collecting and handling techniques and derby rules and permits will be reviewed. **IMPORTANT:** This year we are allowing for remote attendance of the Captain's Meeting via Go To Meeting (details will be emailed out). To get approval to attend the captains meeting remotely a member of the team must call REEF Headquarters and speak with Alli Candelmo 305 856 0030***
4. **WAIVERS:** Every team member must sign the Legal Waiver Form and the Lionfish Understanding of Risk Form. If a team member does not sign the forms and fails to bring the forms to the Captain's Meeting, the team member will not be considered entered in the Derby, even if registration fees were paid.
5. Only legal means of capture in areas allowing use of those gear types will be allowed. All existing federal, state, and local laws must be followed. State and Federal laws will be strictly enforced. All permits issued at the Captain's Meeting must be present while participating in this derby.
6. During this single day event only lionfish may be taken by pole spear with paralyzer tip, hand net or hook and line. No chemicals, traps or other collecting mechanisms are allowed.
7. Lionfish may be taken from any waters in the invaded region as long as the collection occurs during Derby hours and the fish are present at the Scoring Station by **1:00PM Sunday July 14th 2019**. Teams must report location where the lionfish were removed from on their datasheet.
8. All existing federal, state, and local laws must be followed. Laws and regulations will be strictly enforced.
9. Teams will be limited to 4 persons. To qualify for prizes, participants must be registered and show proper identification. All participants must sign a Legal Waiver Form and a Lionfish Understanding of Risk Form to be considered registered in the Derby.
10. Non-refundable registration fees are \$120 per team, with up to four people participating in each team.
11. Protective gloves should be worn when handling lionfish. Participants are encouraged to carry a thermos bottle on the boat containing hot, but not scalding, water for first aid purposes.
12. Derby hours: Sunrise until Sunset July 12th, 2019, Sunrise until 1:00PM July 14th, 2019. All fish must be present at Scoring Station (Mote Marine Lab and Aquarium) at **1:00PM Sunday July 14th, 2019**.



13. Prizes will be awarded in 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place for most lionfish; and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for the largest and smallest lionfish.
14. The Golden Fish Award will be run as a raffle. All officially entered teams are eligible. For each team checking in at the scoring station by **1:00PM on June 14th** (all team members must check in), a single ticket will be issued, regardless of the number of lionfish removed, for a \$1,000 cash drawing occurring at the awards ceremony. A team member must be present with the ticket to win.
15. Only one winning entry per team will be allowed in each category (no sweeping of a category).
16. If fewer than 3 entries are received in any category (or 4 in most), the remaining awards will be left as unclaimed.
17. All lionfish must be in whole condition (no missing heads or tails). Largest and smallest fish will be determined by total length of the fish, in millimeters, measuring from tip of snout to tip of tail.
18. Any live lionfish at Scoring Station may be euthanized prior to being measured.
19. All entrants agree to allow Derby officials, REEF, FL DEP and the FKNMS to take and use photos for media and promotional purposes.
20. The Derby takes place regardless of weather conditions. Captains make their own decision about whether to venture out.
21. In the event of a tie, the winning team will be determined by the earliest check in of its lionfish at the Scoring Station.
22. All cash prizes will be awarded to Team Captain by bank check.
23. Winning participants will need submit a prize form and W9 form prior to receiving prize money greater than \$600. The Derby Officials will be available to split the team's purse to their needs as long as they provide a valid W-9 form for each recipient and return the disbursement form. Prize money will be awarded by bank check at the awards ceremony.
24. The Lionfish Derby is an honor system tournament with the captain being responsible for team compliance with the Rules.
25. Anyone found violating Derby Rules by the Derby Officials will be disqualified from receiving any Derby prizes and prohibited from entry in any future derbies.
26. Decisions of the derby officials are final.

LIONFISH DERBY AWARDS

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
MOST	\$1,000	\$500	\$250	\$125
LARGEST	\$500	\$250	\$150	-
SMALLEST	\$500	\$250	\$150	-
GOLDEN FISH*	\$500	-	-	-

*Golden fish award is a raffle for each team that checks in
Generous in-kind prizes will also be awarded to the winning teams