



2021 Earth Day Lionfish Derby  
Reef Environmental Education Foundation  
April 23-25, 2021  
**OFFICIAL DERBY RULES**

1. LIONFISH (*Pterois volitans/miles complex*) ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY, MAY ONLY BE TAKEN DURING THE DERBY. NO PREVIOUSLY CAUGHT OR FROZEN LIONFISH WILL BE ALLOWED. **PLEASE KEEP ALL LIONFISH ON ICE.** REEF reserves the right to keep 20% of lionfish presented at drop-off, for uses including "lionfish tasting," research and market development.
2. Teams can take up to 80% of their catch back after measuring to do what they like with it or donate it to REEF to use for education and outreach opportunities. Teams will need a FWC Salt Water Products license to sell the catch and can sell their fish to Salantino Seafood at the derby drop point or take fish with them.
3. **CAPTAINS MEETING:** The Captain's Meeting at **5:30PM Friday, April 23, 2021** online through Zoom, all team members are encouraged to attend. The team captain must attend the Captains meeting and 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 will be reviewed. **IMPORTANT:** This year we are allowing for remote attendance of the Captain's Meeting via Go To Webinar (details will be emailed out).
4. **PERMITS** - Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Florida Fish and Wild Commission have provided special permits for this derby to spear in certain zones. Teams that want to use the special permits provided for the derby **MUST** schedule a time to go to REEF HQ to receive instructions, pick up a permit and tournament flag to fish in those special zones and must carry those permits and flag on board their vessel while fishing in those zones. Email [lionfish@REEF.org](mailto:lionfish@REEF.org) to request a permit.
5. **WAIVERS:** Every team member must sign the Diving Participant Lionfish Understanding of Risk Form Online. If a team member does not sign the form online prior to the Captain's Meeting, the team member will not be considered entered in the Derby, even if registration fees were paid.
6. This has traditionally been REEF's "Local" Derby therefore fishing is only permitted in Monroe County Waters.
7. During this one day (Saturday April 24, 2021) fishing 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.
8. Lionfish may be taken during Derby hours and the fish are present at the drop-off by **10:00AM Sunday April 25, 2021.** Teams must report the location where the lionfish were removed from on their datasheet.
9. All existing federal, state, and local laws must be followed. Laws and regulations will be strictly enforced. 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 given to team prior to the Captain's Meeting must be present while participating in this derby
10. Teams will be limited to between 2-4 persons. To qualify for prizes, participants must be registered and show proper identification
11. Non-refundable registration fees are \$100 per team and must be paid by April 23, 2021 4PM (\$75 early bird registration through April 10, 2021).
12. 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 or heat pack.
13. Derby Fishing hours: **Sunrise until Sunset, Saturday, April 24, 2021.** All fish must be present at drop-off location by **10:00AM Sunday April 25, 2021.**

14. Drop-off times for fish measurement include;
  - Saturday April 24, 2021 4PM to 7PM and Sunday 7AM to 10AM at REEF campus, 98300 Overseas HWY, Key Largo, FL, 33037.
15. Coolers must be properly labelled with captain or team names and must contain enough ice to keep lionfish cold for as long as they are held at drop-off station. Completed datasheet must be dropped off with coolers.
16. Teams WILL NOT be allowed to gather at drop-off station. They can return to pick up their coolers and fish when texted/called by coordinators (within an hour).
17. All drop-off and pick-up interactions will be contactless or comply with social distancing guidelines outlined in REEF's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan which can be found on our website: [www.REEF.org/about/covid](http://www.REEF.org/about/covid) Please wear your mask!
18. Prizes will be awarded in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place for most lionfish, the largest and smallest lionfish.
19. Only one winning entry per team will be allowed in each category (no sweeping of a category).
20. If fewer than 3 entries are received in any category the remaining awards will be left as unclaimed.
21. During registration teams must choose to compete in one of two Divisions for the Most Lionfish Category
  - Apex Predators Division (More Competitive Division; Greater Prize Money)
  - Reef Defenders Division (More Casual Division; Lower Prize Money)
23. Final Prize will be based primarily on registration numbers. If there are not at least three teams registered in each division the two divisions will be combined. All teams will compete together for Largest and Smallest lionfish categories.
24. 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.
25. Any live lionfish at drop-off may be euthanized prior to being measured.
26. All entrants agree to allow Derby officials, REEF, FL DEP and the FKNMS to take and use photos for media and promotional purposes.
27. The Derby takes place regardless of weather conditions. Captains make their own decision about whether to venture out.
28. In the event of a tie, the winning team will split the prize money in the two next prize categories. If tied for third place they will split the prize money for third place.
29. All cash prizes will be awarded to Team Captain by bank check.
30. 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.
31. The Lionfish Derby is an honor system tournament with the captain being responsible for team compliance with the Rules.
32. 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.
33. Decisions of the derby officials are final.