



Official Rules for the 2011 Florida Keys Lionfish Derby Series

- 1) LIONFISH (*Pterois volitans/miles*) ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY, MAY BE ONLY BE TAKEN DURING THE DERBY. NO PREVIOUSLY CAUGHT OR FROZEN LIONFISH WILL BE ALLOWED, HOWEVER, PLEASE KEEP LIONFISH ON ICE. The Derby reserves the right to keep all lionfish for a "lionfish tasting" at the Awards Banquet and for research.
- 2) Derby teams must physically check in at the Captain's meeting to participate in the Derby. The team captain is required to be at the meeting and the other team members are strongly encouraged to attend.
- 3) A team can consist of one, two, three, or four people. Lionfish may be collected shore diving or diving from a boat. Multiple teams are permitted to dive from the same boat however a single team cannot use more than one boat to dive from.
- 4) Only legal means of capture, in areas where fishing is permitted, will be allowed. State and Federal fishing regulations and laws will be strictly enforced. ***Note: Florida Saltwater Fishing Licenses are required to collect lionfish in the state of Florida.
- 5) Lionfish collected for the derby may not be collected from the Sanctuary Preservation Areas (SPAs)- this rule applies to all participants including those who hold permits to legally remove lionfish from SPA areas.
- 6) To qualify for prizes, participants must be registered and show proper identification. All participants must sign and turn in a Legal Waiver Form prior to or at the Captain's Meeting to be considered registered in the Derby.
- 7) Non-refundable registration fees are \$120/team for the regular registration period (up until 6pm Wednesday before the Derby) and \$150/team for late registration (after Wednesday at 6 p.m. until the Captain's Meeting the Friday before Derby Day).
- 8) Safety: Each team will receive one pair of HexArmor puncture resistant gloves as part of their registration package. Protective gloves must be worn when handling lionfish. Participants are strongly encouraged to carry a thermos bottle on the boat containing hot, but not scalding, water for first aid purposes.
- 9) Derby hours: Sunrise until 6:00 pm Derby Day (Saturday). All fish must be present at Scoring Station (at designated derby location) between 4:00pm and 6:00pm to qualify for prizes.
- 10) Lionfish must be taken from Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Waters which extend from North Key Largo through the Dry Tortugas.
- 11) Prizes will be awarded for most lionfish, largest lionfish and smallest lionfish, and any other categories as decided by Derby Officials. All lionfish must be in whole condition (no 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.
- 12) Any live lionfish at Scoring Station will be euthanized prior to being measured.

- 13) All entrants agree to allow Derby officials and the FKNMS to take and use photos for media and promotional purposes.
- 14) The Derby takes place regardless of weather conditions. Captains make their own decision about whether to venture out.
- 15) Any decisions of the Derby officials and FKNMS are final.
- 16) In the event of a tie, the winning team will be determined by the earliest recording of its lionfish at the Scoring Station. All cash prizes will be awarded to Team Captain by bank check, money order, or gift certificate.
- 17) The Lionfish Derby is an honor system tournament with the captain being responsible for team compliance with the Rules.
- 18) Anyone found violating Derby Rules by the Derby Officials or FKNMS will be disqualified from receiving any Derby prizes.

**If you have any additional questions about Derby Rules, please
ask a REEF or FKNMS Staff representative.**