



305 LIONFISH DERBY 2025 RULES AND REGULATIONS

01. ELIGIBLE FISH

Lionfish (*Pterois volitans/miles* complex) are the only fish eligible for entry. All lionfish must be caught during the derby dates and cannot be previously caught or frozen. Keep all lionfish on ice to maintain freshness.

02. FISH HANDLING

Individuals can take back their catch after measuring and are free to handle the fish as they wish.

03. CAPTAIN'S MEETING

The Captain's Meeting will be held on Friday, April 4, 2025, from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Diver's Paradise Dive Center (4000 Crandon Boulevard, Key Biscayne, FL). Light refreshments will be served. All individuals must attend and must also participate in the derby. Safe collecting and handling techniques as well as derby rules will be reviewed.

04. SHIRT PICK-UP

Derby shirts can be picked up before the Captain's Meeting, starting at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 4, 2025—at the event location (Diver's Paradise Dive Center).

05. WAIVERS

All waivers must be signed by the diving participant. Failure to sign the forms before the Captain's Meeting will disqualify the participant, even if registration fees were paid.

06. LEGAL CAPTURE METHODS

Only legal means of capture are allowed in areas where certain gear types are permitted. All federal, state and local laws must be adhered to. All necessary permits must be presented at the Captain's Meeting. During the event, lionfish may only be caught using pole spears with paralyzer tips, hand nets, or hook and line. No chemicals, traps, or other mechanisms are permitted.

07. DERBY HOURS & COLLECTION ZONES

Lionfish may be taken from any waters within the invaded region, as long as collection occurs during derby hours and fish are dropped off by 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 6, 2025.

08. LEGAL COMPLIANCE

All participants must follow all relevant federal, state and local laws, which will be strictly enforced.

09. PARTICIPANT COMPETITION

To qualify for prizes, all participants must be registered and provide proper identification.

10. REGISTRATION FEES

Non-refundable registration fees are \$60 per team and must be paid by March 1, 2025.

11. SAFETY MEASURES

Participants must wear protective gloves when handling lionfish. It is encouraged to carry a heat pack or thermos with hot (not scalding) water for first aid.

12. DERBY FISHING HOURS

Derby fishing hours are Saturday, April 5, 2025: Sunrise to Sunset and Sunday, April 6, 2025: Sunrise to 12:00 p.m. All fish must be dropped off by 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 6, 2025.

13. COOLER REQUIREMENTS

Coolers must be labeled with the individual participant's name. The cooler should have sufficient ice to keep lionfish cold until drop-off. The host location will not provide ice.

14. DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIME

The drop-off will occur at Diver's Paradise, 4000 Crandon Boulevard, Key Biscayne, FL, on Sunday, April 6, 2025—10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

15. AWARDS CEREMONY

The awards ceremony will take place at Diver's Paradise, 4000 Crandon Boulevard, Key Biscayne, FL, at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 6, 2025. The ceremony will also be live-streamed. Individuals are not required to attend in order to win prizes.

16. PRIZE AVAILABILITY

If insufficient entries are received in any category, the remaining awards will be unclaimed.

17. PRIZE COLLECTION

If teams are not present at the awards ceremony, they must arrange to pick up their prizes in person at Diver's Paradise. Prizes will not be mailed.

18. FISH CONDITION

All lionfish must be in whole condition—no missing heads or tails.

19. MEDIA CONSENT

By entering the Derby, all participants agree to allow Derby officials, Diver's Paradise, North Florida Divers, and Florida Fish and Wildlife to use photos for media and promotional purposes.

20. WEATHER CONDITIONS

The Derby will take place regardless of weather conditions. Participants are responsible for their own safety and must make their own decision on whether to venture out.

21. TIE BREAKING

In the event of a tie for any category, the prize money will be split between the teams involved in the tie. In the case of a tie for 2nd and 3rd place, those prize levels will be combined.

22. CASH PRIZES

All cash prizes will be awarded to successful participant via Bank of America bank check.

23. W9 AND PRIZE FORMS

Winning participants must submit a prize form and W9 form before receiving prize money greater than \$600.

24. HONOR SYSTEM

The Derby operates on an honor system. All participants follow the rules.

25. DISQUALIFICATION

Participants found violating any Derby rules will be disqualified from receiving prizes and prohibited from entering future derbies.

26. OFFICIAL DECISIONS

The decisions of the Derby officials are final.

