

LHPSSA DIVE TOURNAMENT RULES

2003-2004

The 2003/2004 dive season will consist of a Tournament Series consisting of six individual tournaments with a point system, and a year long Largest Species Contest with awards for the largest Hogfish, Lobster, Mutton Snapper and Bluewater Gamefish.

Tournament Series:

This series will consist of six individual tournaments with a point system for the largest eligible species caught during each tournament: Some tournaments will have multiple categories where one diver could win more than one category. The tournaments are open to free and scuba divers in Florida waters only as dictated by the tournament dates. The points established below have been designed to keep the tournament as competitive as possible. First, second and third place finishes will be awarded. The divers with the most points at years end will be awarded.

Tournament Dates:

1. Mini Season: July 30, Species: Lobster and Hog or Mutton.
2. Combination Dive Fish: August 23, Species: Lobster and Hog or Mutton.
3. Keys Tournament: August 30, Species: Lobster, Hog or Mutton and Grouper.
4. Interclub Tournament: October 4, Species: Lobster and Hog or Mutton.
5. Combination Dive Fish: January 24, Species: Lobster and Hog or Mutton.
6. End of Season: March 28, Species: Lobster and Hog or Mutton

Tournament Point System is as follows:

- 25 points for first place
- 15 points for second place
- 10 points for third place
- 4 points for participation to each diver or driver that did not place 1st, 2nd or 3rd as above.

Tournament Tie Breakers:

1. Most first place, or highest place finishes.
2. Most tournaments participated in.
3. Margins of victory, sizes or weights of species.

Largest Species Contest:

This tournament will be open all year, April 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004. It is open to all divers, free and scuba, and all waters are eligible. Divers must turn in their catch reports per club rules to qualify. Eligible species are: Lobster, Hogfish, and Mutton Snapper. Separate awards will be given for each species.

Largest Blue Water Gamefish Contest:

This tournament will also be open all year with all waters being eligible. This is a free dive category only and divers must turn in their catch reports per club rules to qualify. Eligible species are: Dolphin, Wahoo, Tuna and Kingfish. One award will be given for the largest of the above fish in this category, regardless of the species.

Other Awards:

1. Rookie Of The Year, an award recognizing the most improved or new diver.
2. Lady Diver, an award for the most competitive lady in the largest species category.
3. Junior Diver, an award for the most competitive junior in the largest species category.

Notes: Each diver is eligible for only one award.

All catches must be legal per the laws of the waters in which they were harvested.

Dive Tournament Safety Rules

In an effort to promote safety and fairness to all, the following rules will apply for each of our remaining club dive tournaments.

1. Start times for all tournaments will be 7:00am. Divers are not to enter the water until 7:00am. Weigh in time will be 2:00 pm unless otherwise noted and all boats must be at dock or within immediate vicinity of dock to qualify for weigh in.
2. Diving below 60 feet without proper certification and or experience is not permitted.
3. Each Diver is required to have their own computer or must properly log each dive.
4. Nitrox is not to be used without proper certification.
5. No more than 2 tanks are allowed per day. More than two dives is permitted providing the diver stays within the 2 tank limit.
6. There must be a driver or attendant in the boat at all times regardless of whether the boat is anchored or not.
7. Each diver is to provide and use their own equipment and each diver should have as part of their routine equipment the following items: whistle or other sounding device, inflatable "see me" sausage, and
8. A committee boat will be assigned for each tournament which is to be notified of any emergencies or other urgent matters of concern.
9. Free Dive rules are as follows: All those that apply above along with the following additions: Buddy system, one up and one down is to be used to minimize chances of shallow water blackout etc.
10. No alcohol or mind altering drugs are to be used by divers until after their dives are completed for the day.
11. All divers are encouraged to make safety their primary concern. When in doubt, always go with the safest possible choice or decision.

