



**CLEAR<sup>THE</sup> PATH**

## **DERBY RULES & WAIVER**

### **EVENT**

**Friday, June 28, 2024**

Mandatory Captain's Pre-briefing 6:30 PM at Cove Waterfront Restaurant, 1754 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Ct, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441. One member of the team must be present at the Captain's Pre-briefing. Those who don't check-in will not be eligible for participation as all teams **must** have a signed waiver from each team members by the end of the Captain's Meeting.

**Saturday, June 29, 2024**

Harvesting begins at first light and ends at 6:00 pm.

Weigh Station opens at 1:00 pm and closes at 6:00 pm at Cove Waterfront Restaurant, 1754 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Ct, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441 with awards immediately following weigh in.

Awards ceremony – 6:00 – 7:00 PM

### **TEAM REGISTRATION**

1. Registration will be available at [www.OperationLionfish.com](http://www.OperationLionfish.com). Payment is due at time of registration. Teams must read and understand the Rules prior to registering. By registering teams understand they will abide by the rules and those of the tournament director.
2. Non-refundable registration fees are **\$100** per team.
3. Teams must be registered by 7:00 pm on Friday, June 28, 2024.
4. Teams will be limited to 2 divers. More than one team may be present on the same boat or teams can also split up between multiple boats. Each member must declare a team name upon registration. Once registration is closed, teams are locked. Teams may not substitute participants during the tournament for any reason and will be subject to disqualification.
5. Team names must not be offensive in nature. "Offensive" will be determined by the Tournament Director and may require teams to modify their names at any time.

6. Registration includes entry into Operation Lionfish and Events including Captain Bouncer's Fishing Seminar, Friday night from 6:00 -7:30 pm at the Cove.

## **ACCEPTABLE FISH**

1. Lionfish (*Pterois volitans/miles*) eligible for entry may only be taken during the tournament hours. No previously caught or frozen lionfish will be allowed. Please keep all lionfish on ice.
2. 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.
3. 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. If the tail is damaged, scientifically-recognized standard length may be used as determined by the weighmaster.
4. Lionfish caught during the tournament may be donated for sampling, research or for consumption during the event days. Fish must be preserved on ice. All other lionfish not donated or sold must be disposed of properly by the individual capturing the lionfish.
5. Protective gloves should be worn when handling lionfish. Participants are encouraged to carry appropriate first aid kit specific for Lionfish stings.

## **TOURNAMENT HOURS**

1. Teams may start from any waters where lionfish are legal to harvest. Tournament Hours are first light until 6:00 PM on Saturday June 29, 2024.
2. All waters are eligible for tournament harvest. The tournament shall take place regardless of weather conditions. Captains make their own decisions about whether to venture out.

## **SCORING STATION HOURS**

Lionfish may only be taken during tournament hours and the fish must be presented to the scoring station. Scoring station will be located at the Cove Waterfront Restaurant. The Scoring Station will open on Saturday, June 29, 2024 from 1:00 – 6:00 pm. **All fish must be present at the scoring station by 6:00 PM to be counted.**

## **SCORING STATION PROCEDURES**

1. Teams must have lionfish in coolers and properly iced.
2. Team captain or designee must deliver the coolers to the designated scoring location and check in with the scoring station staff, who will verify the number of coolers and place tape across the lid of the cooler indicating the team name and number of coolers associated with the team. Teams need to declare at this time whether lionfish will be sold, donated or kept.

3. It is highly recommended that the team captain or team member be present when the fish are being counted and measured by scoring station staff. If there is a backup at the scoring station, team captain / member does not have to stand next to their coolers, but stay close enough where scoring station staff can locate them quickly.

## TOURNAMENT AWARDS

1. Prizes will be awarded for most lionfish, largest lionfish, and smallest lionfish based on the number of teams.
2. Only one winning entry per team will be allowed in EACH category. In the event of a tie the winning team or individual will be determined by the earliest check in of their lionfish at the scoring station.
3. Cash awards will be presented to the team based on the number of team entries.

<b>OPERATION LIONFISH PAYOUTS</b>			
<b>TEAMS</b>	<b>1-19 Teams</b>	<b>20 -39 Teams</b>	<b>40+ Teams</b>
<b>MOST LIONFISH PAYOUTS</b>			
<b>Place</b>	<b>Payout</b>	<b>Payout</b>	<b>Payout</b>
1ST	\$500	\$700	\$1,000
2ND	\$250	\$350	\$500
3RD		\$150	\$250
4TH			\$150
<b>BIGGEST LIONFISH PAYOUTS</b>			
1ST	\$250	\$300	\$400
2ND	\$100	\$150	\$200
3RD		\$100	\$150
4TH			\$100
<b>SMALLEST LIONFISH PAYOUTS</b>			
1ST	\$200	\$300	\$400
2ND	\$100	\$150	\$200
3RD		\$100	\$150
4TH			\$100

### Other Prizes & Awards:

- Each Dive Teams will receive 2 Operational Lionfish Long Sleeve Performance Shirts
- Divers who participate and provide 2024 FWC Lionfish tail verification can register for the coin for the extra lobster on mini season!
- Dive Teams will receive 2 tickets to a raffle for a Yeti Cooler
- Trophies & Sponsor Prizes will be awarded throughout the award ceremony along with cash prizes.

## **PAYMENT OF CASH AWARDS**

1. All cash prizes will be awarded by bank check.
2. For winners of cash awards a single check will be written to the Team Captain for the total of tournament cash awards
3. Checks will be written be given after the Awards Ceremony.
4. The Tournament accepts no responsibility for the division of any cash awards between team members.

## **ADHERENCE TO TOURNAMENT RULES**

1. The Lionfish tournament is an honor system tournament with all registrants being responsible for compliance with the rules.
2. Any violation of these rules resulting in disqualification will result in forfeiture of entry fee, prizes and cash awards, and at the sole discretion of the tournament officials, prohibited from entry in any future tournaments.
3. All decisions of the tournament director and rules committee are final.

## **PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES**

All entrants agree to allow tournament officials and Guy Harvey Resorts to use participant's name, awards, and photos for any media and promotional purposes.

**Rules are Subject to Change. All changes to the rules and final instructions are given at the mandatory Captain's Pre-briefing which takes place Friday, June 28, 2024.**



Mandatory Legal Waiver Form Needed For Both Team Members

Participants Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

BE ADVISED THAT THIS IS A WAIVER WHICH MEANS YOU WILL BE GIVING UP ALL LEGAL RIGHTS CONCERNING ANY COURSE OF ACTION AGAINST OPERATION LIONFISH, THEIR AGENTS, VOLUNTEERS, CORPORATE REPRESENTATIVES AND ALL INDIVIDUALS AFFILIATED WITH OPERATION LIONFISH BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT. IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR LEGAL POSITION BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT, YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY. PLEASE INITIAL NEXT TO EACH ITEM. YOUR SIGNATURE AT THE BOTTOM INDICATES AGREEMENT WITH ALL OF THE ITEMS, REGARDLESS IF ONE OR MORE OF THEM IS NOT INITIALED. IF YOU DO NOT AGREE WITH ALL OF THE ITEMS (PARAGRAPHS), DO NOT SIGN THE BOTTOM. PARTICIPATION IN THE LIONFISH DERBY IS CONDITIONED UPON YOUR EXECUTION OF THIS WAIVER. IF YOU DO NOT SIGN THIS WAIVER, YOU ARE NOT A PARTICIPANT IN THE LIONFISH DERBY.

1. OPERATION LIONFISH: Although the Derby is run by OPERATION LIONFISH in the context of this document, OPERATION LIONFISH shall mean the directors, members, volunteers, officers, advisors of WATERMARK MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC, GUY HARVEY OUTPOST, LTD, and all owners of property where the Derby is headquartered, where the official counting occurs, and all related acts.

2. Diving: In the context of this document, Diving shall mean free diving, snorkel diving, SCUBA diving, spear fishing, netting (or otherwise using any methods allowed under the rules) to harvest Lionfish while in or on the water.

3. In the context of this document, the word "I" shall mean me, my heirs, survivors, assigns, representatives, estate, legal guardian, attorneys in fact, or anyone else who may be empowered to act on my behalf. Or, if I am signing as the legal guardian of a registrant, then it shall mean my ward, me, my ward's heirs, survivors, assigns, representatives, estate, attorneys in fact, legal guardian, and anyone else who may act on behalf of my ward, principal, or minor.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ I understand the inherent risks associated with diving. When harvesting fish, I understand that the risk of injury or death is even greater. I have read the Derby Rules and agree to comply with them completely and waive my rights as to this activity against OPERATION LIONFISH.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that weather conditions may change rapidly, and that OPERATION LIONFISH is not responsible for my decision to participate in this event. OPERATION LIONFISH decision to NOT cancel the EVENT does not act as an endorsement of good weather or marine conditions. I will determine these conditions myself and assume all risks inherent with weather conditions.

Initials \_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge that Indo Pacific Lionfish have venomous spines that can inflict a serious sting and/or cause serious injury or death. I will wear protective gloves when handling Lionfish, and make every effort not to touch the spines, even after the fish are dead. I accept full responsibility for my handling of Lionfish and for all risks associated with this inherently dangerous activity.

Initials \_\_\_\_\_ I hereby acknowledge that OPERATION LIONFISH is in no way directing my activities, or otherwise acting as an advisor or principal. I assume all risks, not only associated with diving and harvesting Lionfish, but also boating and traveling.

Initials \_\_\_\_\_ I hereby acknowledge that not only can injuries and/or death occur from the risks of diving, but that diving is physically exerting. I agree that I am responsible for making decisions about my own physical condition in conducting these activities.

Initials \_\_\_\_\_ I hereby agree to waive my right to sue OPERATION LIONFISH, WATERMARK MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC, GUY HARVEY OUTPOST, LTD, WARFIGHTER SCUBA, and any of its affiliates, assigns associates, or sponsors by participating in the Lionfish Derby, for any injuries, death, emotional distress, pain and suffering, and all other forms of economic and noneconomic damages and all claims and causes of action. I waive any and all claims. I will hold OPERATION LIONFISH harmless from any claims brought on my behalf and agree to indemnify them in case of any claim made against them. Also, I hereby provide a full release for photo and television images.

Initials \_\_\_\_\_ I hereby acknowledge that in the event of any dispute pertaining to any activity associated with or arising out of OPERATION LIONFISH, that the laws of State of FLORIDA apply. Venue of any dispute shall be in the court closest to the incident that has jurisdiction of this matter. I further acknowledge that in any event of a dispute, the prevailing party shall be entitled to attorney's fees and costs as awarded by any FLORIDA court.

Initials \_\_\_\_\_ I hereby acknowledge that the official counting and awards setting is at Dixie Divers, and that there may be dangers or other hazards associated with that setting, as well as with a Safari that involves spear fishing and harvesting of Lionfish. I will watch my children, if applicable, and understand all hazards and take full responsibility for my children. I agree to read and follow all of the published rules of the EVENT.

Initials \_\_\_\_\_ I hereby acknowledge that there are no refunds of fees or purchases.

Participants Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_