



UNITED STATES NATIONAL SKINDIVING SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP BID 2020

*Sanctioned by the Underwater Society of America (USOA) - member of
World Underwater Federation (CMAS) and United States Olympic Committee (USOPC)*

Host: Palm Beach Freedivers (PBF)

Date: June 23 - 26, 2020

Location: Sandsprit Park, Stuart FL

Prepared by Scott Turgeon – Palm Beach Freedivers President & USOA Skindiving Spearfishing
Director

TO: Carol Rose - President USOA

FROM: Scott Turgeon - President Palm Beach Freedivers

Contact: Scott Turgeon (561) 827-6632, aquaticaddict@gmail.com

The Palm Beach Freedivers (PBF) is honored to submit this bid to host the 2020 USOA Skindiving Spearfishing National Championships. The Championship will be held the week of June 23 to 26, 2020. The Captain's meeting will be Tuesday June 23, tournament day Thursday June 25, contingency tournament days for bad weather Wednesday and Friday June 23 & 26, and awards banquet Friday June 26.

Location:

Sandsprit Park in Stuart, FL.

Located at: 3443 SE St. Lucie Blvd, Stuart, FL 34997

This location was chosen because of its abundance of fish, extensive public artificial reef program, relatively shallow diving, and reduced boat traffic (as compared to Palm Beach and areas south). Sandsprit Park is the closest boat ramp to the Stuart inlet and there are ample food & hotel options in the nearby vicinity. Stuart is only about 45 minutes North of Palm Beach International airport (PBI).

Competition:

The tournament will be held on a single day (Thursday June 25) with 6 hours of diving and ½ hour travel times at both the beginning and end of the dive time. The tournament day may be moved as early as Wednesday the 24th or as late as Friday the 26th as contingency days to accommodate for bad weather.

Schedule of Events

Tuesday June 23, 2020

7:00pm.....**Mandatory Competitor’s Meeting**
Location: The Twisted Tuna - 4290 SE Salerno Rd, Port Salerno, FL 34997
Meeting attendance is **MANDATORY** for **ALL Competitors**.
Boat Observers will be assigned at the meeting.

Thursday June 25, 2020.....**National Championship Tournament**

7:00am.....Roll call, assembly, and sign in at Sandsprit Park – 3443 SE St. Lucie Blvd.
7:30am.....Competitors and observers briefing.
8:00am.....Boats allowed to leave Sandsprit Park and proceed to seabuoy.
8:30am.....Start of ½ hour travel time. All boats at seabuoy will start at sound of horn.
9:00am.....Official dive time begins.
3:00pm.....Official dive time ends.
3:30pm.....All boats must be inside of seabuoy when horn blows ending tournament.
4:00pm.....All divers must be back at boat ramp and checked in with a tournament official.
4:15pm..... Weigh-in begins.

Friday June 26, 2020.....**National Championship Awards Banquet**

6:00pm – 10:00pm**Banquet and Awards Ceremony**
Location: The Twisted Tuna - 4290 SE Salerno Rd, Port Salerno, FL 34997

Diving Conditions:

- Visibility 10-50 feet typical
- Temperature 76-82 degrees but can get thermoclines on bottom in summer down to low 60’s.
- Depth 45-65 feet average but tournament zone goes out to 150 feet.
- Seas Tournament will be moved to contingency days (June 23 or 26) if seas over 3-5’.

<u>Current</u>	0 to 3 knots, usually slight but can be stronger deeper and further south in zone.
<u>Tides</u>	3 feet.
<u>Bottom</u>	Reef, sandy bottom, hard and soft coral, and abundant public artificial reefs.

Fish List

20 fish maximum. 1 point per pound + 1 point per fish. 16 point maximum per fish.

Grouper

Grouper - black or gag x1 (24" total length)

Grouper - red up to x3 (20" total length)

*total aggregate 3 grouper - only 1 can be black/gag.

Snapper - x10 (5 maximum per species)

Snapper - mutton (18" total length)

Snapper - mangrove, dog, schoolmaster, yellowtail, lane, mahogany, cubera* (12" total length)

*allowed 2 cubera over 30" per diver or vessel per day, whichever is less - included in 10 snapper total aggregate

Jacks

Amberjack x1 (28" fork)

Other Jacks - yellow, almaco, and rainbow runner x5 (16" total length)

Mackerel

King x2 (24" fork)

Spanish/Cero x5 (12" fork)

All Other Species

Sheepshead x5 (12" total length)

Porgy - any species x5 (12" total length)

Triggerfish - gray/ocean x5 (12" fork)

Bluefish x3 (12" total length)

White Margate x2 (12" total length)

Black Sea Bass x5 (13" total length)

Black drum x1 (14" total length)

Hogfish x1 (16" fork)

Cobia x1 (33" fork)

If a diver shoots more than 20 fish in a day, the largest fish will be disallowed until only 20 fish remain on the table. Also, if the total count of any species is exceeded, the largest fish in that category will be disallowed until the maximum number is met. All legal possession limits must be

adhered to. Any violation of State or Federal law will result in automatic disqualification of the diver. Every diver must possess a State of Florida Saltwater fishing license. Fish must be iced down and kept separated (separate coolers, stringers, etc.) while on the boat during the tournament. Fish appearing not fresh or improperly handled will be disqualified. Chumming and flashers are not allowed. Fish may not be upgraded. Once a fish is on the boat, it stays on the boat! Team members may help each other land fish but no other help is allowed between teammates - including no sharing/trading of catch. No loaded spearguns are allowed on the boat. All guns must be loaded and unloaded while in the water.

Points:

Each diver will receive one point per fish and one point per pound up to a maximum of 15 pounds per fish and a maximum score of 16 points per fish. Any fish over 15 pounds will only count as 16 points.

Observer:

Local teams are highly encouraged to bring their own knowledgeable observer. Observers should be intimately familiar with FL fishing laws and be knowledgeable about spearfishing in general - to best protect their team's interests. PBF will try to provide observers for any teams who need one but if there are not enough observers for each team to have one, PBF reserves the express right to assign observers as they see fit. Observers should be present (if possible) at the competitor's meeting and will be assigned to a Team at that time.

Protest:

In the event of a protest, protester must submit protest in writing within ½ hour of completion of weigh-in (preferably earlier!) along with \$50.00. The \$50 protest fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld. One representative from each Council/Club present at the weigh-in will have a vote on the protest committee along with any USOA officers present. The National Director will only vote in the event of a tie. Any decision of the protest committee is final. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and is grounds for immediate disqualification of a diver or entire team.

For more information please refer to: USOA Skindiving Rules (March 2018) and USOA Standardized Competitive Rules (March 2019).

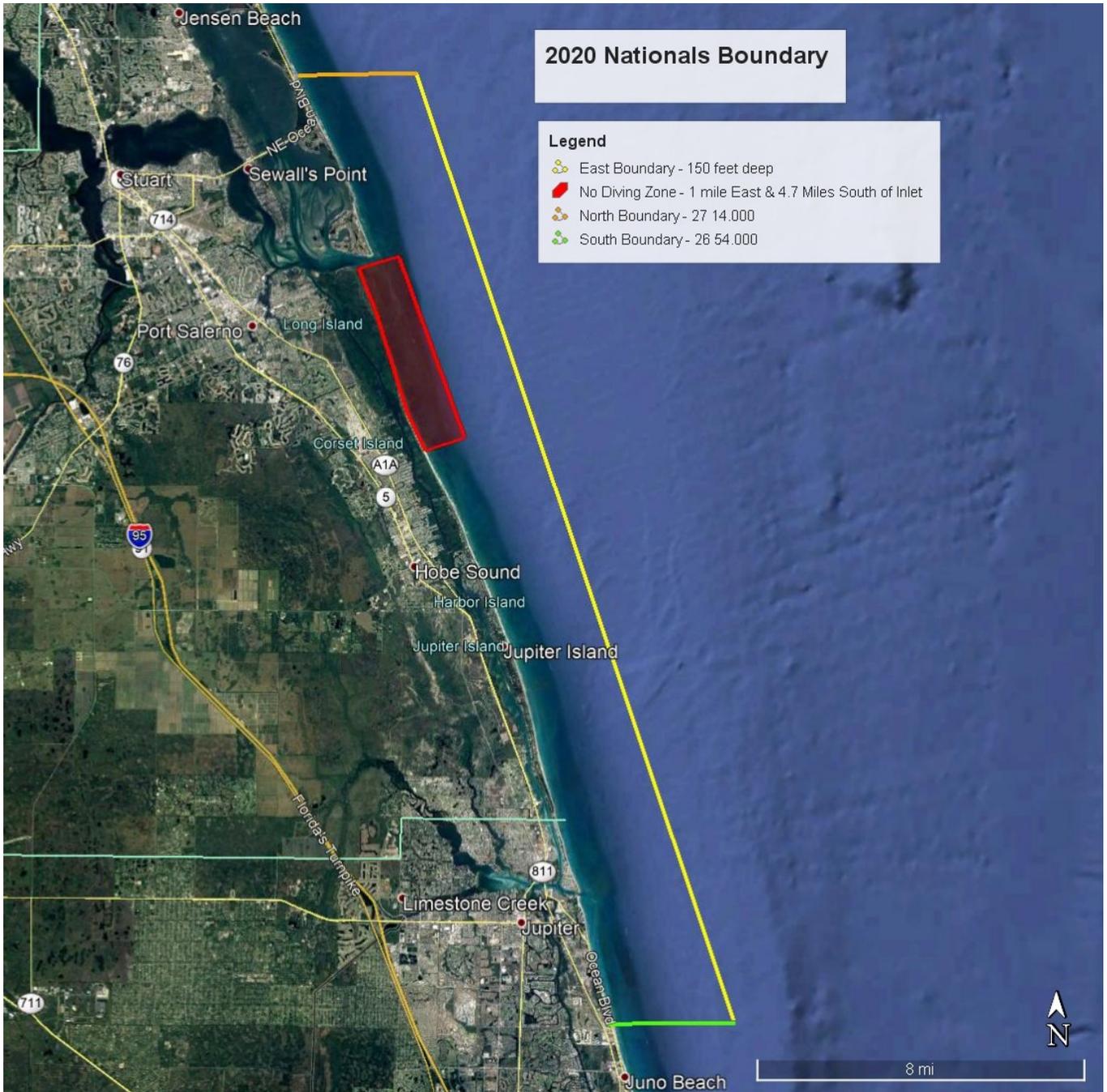
Eligibility:

Competitors must represent a USOA Club or Council in good standing which has been in existence at least 3 months prior to the National Championships and must be individually registered with USOA at least 30 days prior to the Championships. Competitors must be citizens or legal residents of the United States of America and must be at least 14 years old.

There are 3 team categories: Men's, Women's, and Mixed Team. A Men's Team is made up of 3 men, a Women's Team is made up of 2 women, and a Mixed Team is made up of 2 divers - either an adult male with adult female or an adult (male or female) with a junior (male or female under 18 yrs. old).

Entry Fees:

The entry fee is \$130.00 per competitor. Tournament t-shirt and banquet fees are separate. Anybody who wants can attend the awards dinner banquet on Friday, June 26 but must pay the \$50 banquet fee. Tournament t-shirts are \$20.00 each. **The deadline to register for the 2020 Nationals is May 31st.** Please see registration form at the end of this bid to register your team and order banquet tickets and tournament shirts.



Zone:

The 2020 Nationals zone is bounded on the North by 27 14.000, the South by 26 54.000, the West by land (no diving in the Intracoastal Waterway), and the East by the 150-foot depth mark. It is exactly 25 miles long. The tournament will be launching out of the Stuart Inlet. **There is a State Park that does not allow spearfishing.** It runs from the Stuart inlet to 1 mile offshore and 4.7 miles South. It is usually marked with yellow buoys but don't count 100% on the buoys being there. **All boats must have GPS tracking on and the track must be viewable at the end of day.** If there is a question as to a Team's location and they cannot prove their location through their track for the day, the Team faces possible disqualification at either the discretion of PBF or the Protest Committee. **No spearing of fish is allowed in the zone starting June 1.** You can carry guns in the zone while scouting due to the high likelihood of encountering aggressive bull sharks while in the water but any diver or team caught spearing fish in the zone after May 31 will be automatically disqualified.

Artificial Reefs:

The State of Florida has an extensive public artificial reef program. Artificial reef GPS numbers and other information can be accessed from the following website:
<https://myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/artificial-reefs/>

Boat Rental:

Boats are available for rental from Premier Boat Club. Premier is only about a 5-10 minute boat ride (1.15 miles) to Sandsprit Park. Please contact the Manager Drew Hardy and let him know that you are a Nationals competitor and ask him about the tournament price and special early morning rental times.

Premier Boat Club
Drew Hardy - Fleet Manager
4905 SE Dixie Hwy, Stuart, FL 34997
Manatee Marina
772-220-1012
Drew@PremierBoatClub.com
WWW.PremierBoatClub.com

Palm Beach Freedivers is honored and excited to be hosting their 1st ever Nationals. We sincerely hope everyone has a great time and enjoys both the tournament zone and the surrounding area of Stuart. We wish all the divers best of luck and a fun and safe Nationals! Thank you.

Sincerely,
Scott Turgeon
President Palm Beach Freedivers
561-827-6632
aquaticaddict@gmail.com

SCOTT TURGEON Digitally signed by SCOTT TURGEON
Date: 2020.02.28 15:31:06 -05'00'

Team Registration Form

**2020 USOA National Spearfishing
Championships**

It is agreed that I, _____, am entering the Underwater Society of America United States Spear Fishing Championships at my own risk. I do hereby release the Underwater Society of America, sponsors, cooperating groups and individuals from any and all claims of liability arising by reasons of injury or other loss occasioned by me at any time before, during or after the meet.

Team Captain Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____
Signature: _____ Parent Signature: (if under 21) _____

Second Team Member Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____
Signature: _____ Parent Signature: (if under 21) _____

Third Team Member Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____
Signature: _____ Parent Signature: (if under 21) _____

Alternate Team Member Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____
Signature: _____ Parent Signature: (if under 21) _____

Council/Club Name/Team #: _____
Signature of Council/Club President: _____

Entrance Fee & Registration due by May 31, 2020.

Make Checks payable to: Scott Turgeon

Men's Team: \$ 390.00. Women's & Mixed Teams: \$ 260.00.

Mail Form & Check to Scott Turgeon, 348 SW Sun Circle, Palm City, FL 34990

Team Biography (with picture) is also due by May 31, 2018. Please email bio's to Scott Turgeon at: aquaticaddict@gmail.com and Scott.Turgeon@USDA.gov

Please limit competitor bio's to around 50 words per person. Be sure to list your team affiliation.

Contact: Scott Turgeon - President Palm Beach Freedivers (561) 827-6632.

Please make sure you have enclosed a check with this order form.

Palm Beach Freedivers is proud to offer the following apparel to help commemorate your 2020 participation in the U S National Championship in Stuart, FL.

ORDER FORM

Cost:

Short Sleeve T-Shirts \$20.00

Short Sleeve T-Shirts @ \$20 EACH

Size	NUMBER DESIRED OF EACH SIZE
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Small	
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Medium	
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Large	
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XL	
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XXL	
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Total:	_____
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Make checks payable to: Scott Turgeon Total cost of FULL ORDER: \$_____

Note: we have only a limited number of shirts to offer and by sending in your order now will guarantee the correct shirts and sizes you want. ORDER EARLY before May 31, 2020!

Mail to: Scott Turgeon, 348 SW Sun Circle, Palm City, FL 34990

2020 US Nationals Banquet Registration

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, and Zip: _____

The tournament will be held on Thursday June 25, 2020.

The Awards Banquet will be the following evening (**Friday, June 26, 2020**) from 6:00pm to 10:00 pm at **The Twisted Tuna**.

Time : 6:00 pm

Address: 4290 SE Salerno Rd, Port Salerno, FL 34997

Cost: \$50.00 per person

Please list total number in your reservation below. Total

number _____ X \$50.00 = \$ _____

Make checks out to: Scott Turgeon

Return by May 31, 2020

Mail to: Scott Turgeon 348 SW Sun Circle, Palm City, FL 34990

Competitors: please purchase your banquet tickets at time of your tournament registration! If others decide to join you later, extra tickets can still be purchased at a later date for the same price but there's a minimum seating number we must meet to be seated in the bigger, nicer room (with our own bar!!!!) that we are currently booked in so, please try to plan ahead and order all your tickets when you register for the tournament. Thank you.