

USOA 2019 USA Spearfishing Nationals



Lake Mead, Nevada
June 7th, 2019

Table of Contents

DIRECTOR MEMO

USOA BOARDS

EVENT INFORMATION

1.1 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

1.2 LOCATION

1.3 DIVE AREA/BOUNDARIES

1.4 TEAMS

1.5 REGISTRATION

1.6 ENTRY FEE AND DEADLINE

1.7 SCORING SYSTEM

-

1.8 TOURNAMENT RULES

1.9 Nevada Spearfishing Rules

1.10 Miscellaneous Information

DIVING CONDITIONS

CONTACT INFORMATION

LODGING AND BOAT RENTALS

Director Memo

On behalf of the Underwater Society of America, we would like to welcome you to the 2019 USA Spearfishing Nationals. We hope Lake Mead will present a challenge to all competitors with a very rewarding outcome. We also hope everyone enjoys the wonderful opportunities Lake Mead and its surrounding communities offer. We wish all competitors the best of luck and most of all, a safe competition filled with great camaraderie among everyone.

Brandon Miller
2019 USOA Nationals Tournament Director

USOA Board Tournament Director

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1 Event Information

1.1 Tournament Schedule

The 2019 Spearfishing Nationals will consist of:

June 5th

5:00pm - ***Mandatory Meeting/Briefing**

Location – The Railroad Pass banquet room

June 7th

8:30am - ***Pre-Competition Meeting**

9:00am - Travel Time Begins

9:30am - Competition Starts

3:30pm - Must be out of the water/on team boat

4:00pm - ****All competitors must be inside the start/stop markers**

4:00pm - Weigh-In starts

7:00pm - Social Hour. We welcome everyone for drinks and socializing 7pm-8pm at the Railroad Pass banquet room.

8:00pm - *****Awards Ceremony to be held at the Railroad Pass banquet room**

*** All competitors are required to attend the meetings/briefings**

**** All competitors are required to be inside the start/stop markers no later than 2:30pm.**

The official launch/staging area will be the no wake zone marked by buoys at the mouth of the Boulder Harbor.. This area will be monitored at the start and end of the tournament.

***** Awards Ceremony includes a free desert bar. Everyone is encouraged to eat dinner before the awards.**

1.2 Location

The 2019 Spearfishing Nationals will be held at Lake Mead, Nevada. We have chose this location due to the great diving opportunities and close proximity to Las Vegas, Nevada. Las Vegas offers a major internal airport within 35 minutes of Lake Mead.

The Railroad Pass Hotel and Casino will be our hosting hotel located in Henderson, Nevada. This is a small Casino with lots of charm and only 10 minutes from the Lake.

Our mandatory meeting/briefing will be here in the Railroad Pass banquet room Wednesday night June 5th from 5-7pm, this meeting is Mandatory for all competitors.

Our awards ceremony will also be here in the banquet room June 7th from 7-10pm. Please join us for social hour between 7pm-8pm followed by cash bar and awards at 8pm.

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 800-654-0877

www.railroadpass.com

Boulder Harbor Launch Ramp is where we will base the tournament out of on tournament day. This site will host our pre-dive meeting, launch and weigh-ins.

1.3 Dive Area/Boundaries

The event is limited to the lower basin of Lake Mead. The boundary will be approximately the end of Bearing Cove straight across to the south of Flamingo Reef



1.4 Teams

- * All Men's teams will consist of three (3) competitors.
- * Women's Team and Mixed Team will consist of two (2) competitors
- * Woman's Team (if enough for at least 2 teams from 2 councils)
- * Mixed Team (if enough for at least 2 teams from 2 councils)
- * Each Team will need a observer on the boat. The Teams boat captain may be used as the observer

1.5 Registrations

The 2019 US Spearfishing Nationals registrations will be on the RMSA website:
<http://rockymountainspearfishing.org>

For insurance purposes, every competitor will be required to be a member of USOA and of an official registered council/club of USOA. All divers, boat drivers must sign a USOA waiver of liability. This can be done in advance on the new USOA website.

USOA membership dues - \$20

<http://www.underwater-society.org>

If you are unable to access the registration, please contact Tournament Director Brandon Miller immediately.

1.6 Entry Fees/Deadlines

- * The entry fee will be \$390 per men's team and \$260 for Women's/Mixed Team
- * The entry fee includes admission into the competition, nationals T-Shirt, and awards provided at the awards ceremony. Dinner is not included. All competitors are encouraged to have dinner with friends and family before the awards ceremony.
- * Entry deadline is May 1st, 2019

1.7 Scoring System

Striped Bass - This a very difficult game fish to find and shoot. It will make for a very challenging day of diving.

Points Worth - 3 points per fish with no points per pound.

Limit - There is a limit of 20 striper over 20", but most all your fish will be under 20". Unlimited fish under 20"



Tilapia – This is a ever growing invasive species in Lake Mead. They are typically found up shallow and are very spooky to movements and shadows.

Points Worth – 2 points per fish with no points per pound

Limit – Unlimited



Carp -This is the common carp and they are very abundant in this lake. These are rather easy fish to shoot, but top competitors will need to shoot over 100 fish to be competitive. The sheer weight and number of fish you will need to shoot and handle makes for a very different hunt and challenge.

Points Worth - 1 point per fish with no points per pound.

Limit - Unlimited (no size or take)



All contestants need to pick and weigh their biggest fish overall for tiebreaker and the Biggest Overall Fish Award. Each person may only weigh ONE fish.

1.8 Tournament Rules

These rules are designed to keep everyone safe and keep the event fair, and fun.

Nothing takes the fun out of diving, even in competitions, faster than those who choose to break the rules.

Any of these infractions of these rules will be grounds for disqualification, of an individual, or the team.

- * Poor sportsmanship.
- * There is NO chumming allowed at any time.
- * This event is freediving only. No scuba or underwater breathing apparatus allowed.
- * Muscle powered spearguns and spears only. No loaded guns out of the water at any time.
- * No free shafting or gaffing.
- * No detonating heads, power heads or the use of chemicals for stunning or killing fish shall be used.
- * No underwater propulsion devices are allowed at any time.
- * No restrictions on scouting before the tournament
- * There is no shooting fish in the tournament boundary area 30 days before the event. May 7th will be the last day competitors can shoot anything within the tournament boundary waters
- * Competitors must keep their edible fish (Striper and Tilapia) in a cooler on ice to keep safe for consumption
- * Competitors will keep their catches separated in well-marked containers. Fish need to be landed by each individual diver and fish may not be shared or traded.
- * Fish must be shot the day of the event during the hours of the event only.
- * All local, state, national rules must be followed as well as any rules implemented for the event.
- * Each Diver shall dive with a buoy and a dive flag. Dive flag on the buoy shall be no smaller than 8"X8" and dive flags on boats shall be no smaller than 12"X12"
- * In this boat based meet, all divers on a team will be aboard a single boat and the captain must be able to access any divers quickly and safely at all times. All divers MUST be visible to THEIR boat captain/observer at ALL times. Divers may not dive individually from their own boats
- * Electronics: lights, watches, GPS, Fish finders are all legal to use.
- * Teams shall check in before the start of the meet, and check out at the end of the meet to confirm their safe return.
- * Competitors meeting on June 5th is mandatory for all and there will be a roll call and introduction for each competitor by their Captain.
- * The event will start and stop with the use of a horn or signal device. Staging area is Boulder harbor launch ramp SW side of the lake. Time shall be kept on a GPS- cell phone time device.
- * You may not leave the diving boundaries except in the case of an emergency.
- * Each diver shall carry a legal fishing license for days they plan to hunt.
- * Hunting is allowed outside of the event area or below the Hoover Dam at any time leading up to the tournament. The water below the Dam is about 25 degrees colder, and the striper are much bigger
- * Divers must dive from a boat. No shore diving, diving from kayaks or jet skis.
- * Each Team will need an observer for their boat. The Teams boat Captain may be used as the observer
- * In the case of a tie in either team or individual aggregate, The winner will be the single largest fish. Each diver can select 1 fish only for his largest fish.

**Please review the local rules that don't allow diving too close to marinas or floating tire breakwaters. Fishermen anchored in boats or fishing from shore need to be given room if they were there first. Please be courteous as we are always being watched and want to leave a good impression with the public

1.9 Nevada Spearfishing Rules

After speaking to local Dept Of Wildlife Warden, he asked that we review a few rules that should be made clear before you all get to Lake Mead and start scouting.

All these will be reviewed again at the Mandatory Competition Meeting June 5th, 5:00pm, Railroad Pass Casino.

* NO DIVE ZONES

There is a state rule that you can not dive within 1/2 mile of a harbor or swim beach.

That is equal to 880 yds or 805 meters. So please be aware of this and just stay away from the 2 marinas. Also there is a long swim beach area between the Boulder Harbor boat ramp (our staging area) and to the right – East to the LV Boat Harbor. This full length of beach is off limits for diving, it is also not that productive, so less area to scout.

There are a couple small bathroom floating docks, you may dive around them.

* FISHERMAN

Fishermen on shore and in boats anchored have the right to be there first and fish their zone. Please give them a wide berth and surface swim beyond their fishing zone before you start diving again. Being friendly to these fishermen is always a good idea to keep the peace.

Boats trolling where you're hunting, your dive flag should be respected by other boats but few recognize them so keep your eyes open for oncoming traffic in both directions. Try to make a friendly pass by, if boats need to troll past you. Just getting out of their way for 1 minute, it can avoid a lot of tension.

House boats hang out in lots of the coves and need to be avoided as well. Giving a 200 foot space keeps everyone happy.

* DIVE FLAGS

Diving around other competitors is fair game but not productive, give each other some space.

When picking up your divers, Captains should avoid other divers by 100 ft. Always approach slowly and carefully when all divers are on the surface.

All divers need to drag a red and white divers flag on a line not more than 100ft away, with them, everywhere.

All dive boats should also carry a divers flag to help other boats identify that divers are in the area. Captains of boats should be close enough to their divers for safety and to support them, while giving them enough room to focus on the competition.

* FISH

All fish need to be shot the day of the meet and be kept in separate containers with ICE.

Striped Bass you are allowed only 20 over 20". Most fish are just under 20", mark your guns and keep track. Unlimited under 20". Carp are plentiful and unlimited

****Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass are illegal to be taken by underwater spearfishing at any time
Razorback Sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) are a protected endangered species and not allowed to be taken by any means. Razorback Sucker is endemic to the Colorado River basin and are found in Lake Mead.
The Razorback Sucker is most notable for the sharp-edged bulge on the anterior part of its back, between the head and dorsal fin, giving rise to its common name. They prefer to live over sand, mud, or gravel bottoms. DO NOT get these confused with carp as they can be mistaken for carp in low visibility situations. Look twice before shooting any fish and have a definitive view of your target!****

!! DO NOT SHOOT !!



Smallmouth Bass



Largemouth Bass



Razorback Sucker

****Critically Endangered Species****

1.10 Miscellaneous Information

Diving Conditions

- * Water Temp: 65°-70° Fahrenheit
- * Visibility: 3'-15'
- * Depth: 5'- 45'
- * Air Temp: 80-100 degrees Fahrenheit

Note: Lake bottom will consist of various sandy/rocky/small pebble areas, ledges and standing timber throughout the dive area.

Contact Information

Tournament Directors

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Carol Rose
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Lodging

The Railroad Pass Hotel and Casino
Phone - 800-654-0877
www.railroadpass.com
Mention discount code "Spearfishing" to receive discount group rate during reservation.

Boat Rentals

Callville Bay
Phone – 800-255-5561
www.callvillebay.com
Mention "Spearfishing 2019" to receive a 10% discount on rentals

Las Vegas Boat Harbor
Phone – (702) 293-1191
www.lasvegasboatharbor.com
Mention "Spearfishing 2019" to receive a 15% discount on rentals

Also look for private guides at Lake Mead

