

# **La Paz World Cup Invitational**

## **2008**

### **RULES**

#### **I. DATE & DURATION OF CONTEST**

1. The meet will be held over five days, from the 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> of July, 2008.
2. Divers will leave the beach at the TBA time, and return by the TBA finish time.
3. Competition will take place on July 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, with the 16<sup>th</sup> being a rest day.
4. No panga is allowed to use any other launching point except for designated location and fleet, and boats that report back after the official limit will not be allowed to record any entry of fish that day. No boats shall leave the beach until all boats are present and capable of loading divers.

#### **II. DIVING RULES**

1. Divers must be freediving when they spear and land their catch. Artificial breathing devices must not be used to retrieve fish.
2. All divers must carry valid local fishing licenses (included in application fee) in the boat for the period of the contest. If spearfishing outside of the dates of the competition, all divers must purchase an additional license. Please advise us at the time of application if you require an extended license and we will be happy to help you arrange it.
3. Divers must propel themselves unassisted and without motors.
4. Diver must remain in the water and unassisted until the fish is subdued.
5. Divers must pull their fish to the surface while they remain in the water. Once the fish is subdued and at the surface someone may gaff it in the boat.
6. Diver must maintain contact with their float and/or line at all times. If contact is lost, they must re-establish contact while remaining in the water. No assistance may be provided, except for other divers or persons out of the water to inform the diver of the location of the fish or float. Additional spear guns may be handed UNLOADED to the diver capturing the fish; they must then be loaded by that diver to place a second or third shot.
7. Fish must be free swimming, and unrestricted by nets, traps, fishing lines or other devices.
8. Fish must not be in an artificial environment such as penned in bays or in close proximity to fish nets.
9. Fish mutilated by anything other than the spearfishing equipment of the applicant are not allowed.
10. Although all scoring is on an individual basis, contestants may choose their buddy, which will be respected for the duration of the meet. If no particular buddy is

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requested at time of application, organizers will allocate a buddy. Divers may trade partners during the event if all are in agreement.

11. Each contestant is required to provide a marked stringer in order to allow the panga operator to keep each contestant's catch separate.
12. Flashers and burley/chum can be dispersed, but must be captured and dispersed by the competitors themselves. If you take a fish that's not wanted for food, you can use that fish for burly the following day if you wish. There is no exclusivity on game fish attracted by the burly, we ask that divers use proper discretion when working the same area as someone making burly.
13. If you want a fish to count towards a world record, you must abide by the rules of the sanctioning agency, i.e.: IBSRC, IUSA. You should plan on using a tail rope of no longer than 9 feet to control the fish at the boat in order to qualify for a record.
14. No loaded guns out of the water.
15. Competitors must not discharge their guns for any purpose other than for underwater fishing or safety reason.
16. No boats shall leave the beach until all boats are present and capable of loading divers.
17. Official time shall be by GPS, and will be checked every morning at the divers meeting before loading.
18. Divers must be back on beach before the end of TBA time allowed each day or catches will not be eligible.

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#### III. EQUIPMENT

1. Spear guns: The gun must be loaded by the contestant with muscle power only. No assistance, explosive or compressed power is allowed.
2. Terminal gear: Reels, trail lines and floats are allowed.
3. A float, colored Red, Orange or Yellow is to be towed by each competitor. A dive flag must be fixed to each competitors float, or can be towed behind the float. It must be weighted so as to fly vertical at all times- even in windy conditions, and is to be used for the duration of the competition. Flag dimensions minimum size 300mm x 250mm with base a minimum of 200mm above the surface of the water.
4. A sheathed knife is to be carried by each competitor during the hours of the competition.
5. Each contestant's float and knife must be presented at the signing on area each morning, prior to the commencing of the day's event if requested.
6. Powerheads: The use of powerheads and indeed the importation of powerheads into Mexico **are strictly forbidden.**
7. Flashers: Flashers are permitted as long as they are not anchored or tethered to a boat. We ask that no one place any sort of fish attracting device, whether floating or anchored in the vicinity of the meet prior to or during the tournament. They're maybe FADS set up in advance, in which case the location will be made public, with LAT/LON given to everyone wishing for it. We ask that everyone please respect others flashers, and do not drop directly on them, but allow for reasonable distance from the flasher.

#### IV. LOCALITY

- 1.The area will cover the area from North end of Cerralvo to South of Cerralvo, including the "88" and LaReyna. A map will be handed to all constants and discussed on site at "pre-competition" meeting.
- 2.Any off limits will be discussed during the "pre-competition" meeting.
- 3.All boats available for contestants on meet dates will be 22-foot sport fishing panga, with local fishing captains provided. These boats are fairly basic, and are usually used for sport fishing in the area. These are the most accessible kind of boats in the area. They will be fairly comparable as far as speed. Each boat will carry a maximum of two contestants in order for each captain to maximize safety efforts for responsibility for surface supervision for the two contestants.
- 4.Upon arrival on site, a lottery will be held to allocate boats to contestants on a daily basis. This will ensure that there is no preference for boat or captain.

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#### V. SPECIES LIST

1. This meet will solely aim at pelagic fish generally abundant in less than 20 meters of water. Eligible fish will be:
  - ◆ Yellowfin Tuna / Atun de aleta amarilla (*Thunnus albacares*)
  - ◆ Dolphinfish / Dorado (*Coryphaena hippurus*)
  - ◆ Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solanderi*)
  - ◆ Yellowtail / Jurel de aleta amarilla (*Seriola lalandei*)
  - ◆ Skipjack Tuna / Barrilete (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)
  - ◆ Black Skipjack / Barrilete Negro (*Euthynnus lineatus*)
  - ◆ Striped Bonito / Bonito (*Sarda orientalis*)
  - ◆ AmberJacks / Pez Fuerte (*Seriola rivoliana*)
  - ◆ Crevalle Jack / Toro (*Caranx hippos*)
  - ◆ Sierra Mackerel / Sierra (*Scomberomorus*)
  - ◆ Rooster Fish / Pez de Gallo (*Nematistius pectoralis*)
  - ◆ All billfish, marlin and sailfish.
  - ◆ Milkfish / Ladyfish / Awa (*Chanos chanos*)
  - ◆ Barracuda
2. No species except for those stated in above list will be allowed to be targeted during the length of the competition, and **any competitor found to shoot bottom/reef fish will automatically be disqualified from the event.**
3. Each competitor may take 1 billfish of any species. This fish maybe presented or not, but competitors may not take another billfish after boating one. **Anyone shooting more billfish after landing and or presenting one will be disqualified.**
4. In view of the sensitive nature of spearfishing in the public eye, the organizers ask for all competitors understanding and cooperation by promoting a correct and conservative attitude.
5. All fish caught during the hours of the competition will be used for the meals; anything in surplus will be donated to a local charity. Competitors are allowed to take fish for home freezing.

#### VI. SCORING SYSTEM

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1. Minimum length is 24 inches from inside of fork to end of nose, with mouth closed for all eligible fish.
2. All scoring is on an individual basis and no teams are allowed.
3. Contestants are not to shoot more than 5 (five) fish, or more than 1 (one) per species, per day, whether recorded or not. These are the daily limits imposed by PESCA and anyone found exceeding these limits will be disqualified and may be reported to the local authorities.
4. A diver may submit as many separate species as they wish during the competition, with a maximum of 2 (two) fish per species. Once a competitor has recorded 2 fish of a species, he cannot record another fish of that species (No upgrading).
5. All eligible fish caught must be weighed in and measured each day at the certified scales, which will be at the headquarters. All competitors must sign - confirming species and weight of fish weighed in - with officials present at the scale. Once weighed, and pictures taken, boat captains will fillet all fish on-site, in order to make them more manageable.
6. Any contestant wishing to present any of the fish caught during the day must do so at the daily tournament meeting held at 7.00 pm. It is each contestant's responsibility to be personally present at the meeting in order to present his fish and receive points on site. Presentation will be done on a silent basis, IE ballot. On the last day of the meet, the contestants must present their fish at the time of weighing in.
7. Scores will be tabulated at the rate of 1 point per pound (lbs), or percentage of, to the closest .01lb.
8. There is a max weight of point value of 100 points for all billfish. No maximum weight for all other species.
9. In the event of a tied place, the competitor with the largest fish recorded breaks the tied place.

**VII. LIABILITY**

1. All competitors must be insured by a recognized Insurance Policy for death and injury due to the obvious hazards involved in the sport of freediving and spearfishing. We recommend DAN insurance.
2. The competitor will exempt and relieve 20Fathoms, and its directors, agents or representatives from liability for personal injury, property damage or wrongful death caused by negligence or for any other reason. By signing the application and the liability waiver, the contestants will confirm that they have read and understood

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the rules of the competition and will assume the risk of personal injury, property damage or wrongful death upon him or her.

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#### VIII. PRIZES

1. Grand prize individual to be CASH, approximate ???????? US dollars.
2. The top three scoring contestants will receive trophies. Additional prize structure to be confirmed.
3. The “pangero” who accumulates the most points caught on his boat over the five days of the event will be given a \$300.00 US cash prize.
4. On the final day, each competitor will hand in a “score card” stating the three captains that they found most helpful and knowledgeable. These are to be ranked from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> place. First place gives 50 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place 30 points and third place 20 points. The pangero who accumulates most points wins a cash prize of US\$300.00. This is in addition to previous mention prize.

#### IX. AWARDS BANQUET

1. An Awards Banquet will be held for all contestant, boat captains and officials at headquarters on the night of the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, 2008.
2. Dress is informal.

#### X. REGISTRATION

1. All applicants must be over eighteen years old.
2. All contestants must submit an application form and a disclaimer prior to be accepted for participation in the meet. Registration fee is USD\$1,7450 all inclusive per participant.
3. This fee will include the following:
  - ◆ Airport Transfer from La Paz International Airport (from San Jose Del Cabo will be additional cost, approximate 100\$ US)
  - ◆ 6 nights accommodation at La Ventana (double occupancy)
  - ◆ 5 days panga rental for event days with boat captain supplied
  - ◆ All meals
  - ◆ Fish license for period of event
  - ◆ Welcome Reception
  - ◆ Awards Banquet
  - ◆ Event T-shirt
  - ◆ Beer
4. Payment schedule:
  - ◆ Organizers must receive a deposit of USD \$500.00 prior to April 1st, 2008.

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- ◆ The balance of USD \$1,245 must be received by May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
- 5. All payments and applications must be sent to:
  - Dennis Haussler
  - 1666 Maryland St.
  - Redwood City, CA 94061-2425 USA
- 6. No refunds will be issued unless the organizer cancels the event.
- 7. Bad weather days, resulting in no boat use may or may not result in a refund.

#### **XI. CANCELLATION OF THE COMPETITION**

- 1. Unsuitable weather is the only reason for cancellation of a designated contest day.
- 2. A designated contest day will be considered valid if competitors dived for a period in excess of 5 hours - uninterrupted - whether they had done so at their discretion or not.
- 3. In the event of the entire cancellation of the contest due to weather, all monies received for entries will be held in trust until all expenses are paid out after the close of the competition. The balance will be divided up equally and returned to individual contestants by post within 2 months of the cancellation of the meet.

#### **XII. PROTESTS**

- 1. Protests may be registered by any contestant, official or event organizer.
- 2. Protests must be registered in writing to the event organization within 2 hours of the end of each day's fishing. It must be dated and carry the name and signature of the person protesting.
- 3. A jury will be composed of one representative from each participating country, the event organizers, and one other person. Any contestant who is the subject of protest or presents protest must be excluded from the jury in that case.
- 4. In the case of exceptional circumstances for which no provision has been made in the Rules, the Jury may, on protest from the competitor concerned, use its discretion to lift a disqualification and impose a different penalty.