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Let  $\zeta$  be an  $n$ th root of unity and let  $F$  be a connected oriented surface of finite type having negative Euler characteristic. The Kauffman bracket skein algebra of  $F$  at  $\zeta$ ,  $K_\zeta(F)$ , is a finite rank module over its center  $Z_\zeta(F)$  that has no nontrivial zero divisors. Localizing at the nonzero central elements yields a division algebra  $\tilde{K}_\zeta(F)$  over the field  $\tilde{Z}_\zeta(F)$ . First we compute the dimension of the algebra as a vector space over  $\tilde{Z}_\zeta(F)$ . Next we compute the normalized trace

$$tr : \tilde{K}_\zeta(F) \rightarrow \tilde{Z}_\zeta(F),$$

coming from the action of  $\tilde{K}_\zeta(F)$  on itself by left multiplication. Finally we show how to construct bases for the algebra coming from a pair of pants decompositions of the surface. (Received September 19, 2018)