



## Code of Conduct

### 1 Aim

This Code of Conduct aims to set out the minimum standards for anyone involved in representing AUSC. It shall apply when playing, training or taking part in AUSC activities.

### 2 Scope

The Code of Conduct shall apply to all members of the Adelaide University Scuba Club who take part in club activities. It outlines to one's expected behaviour in terms of club events, both social and underwater; and towards others.

Different types of diving, such as cave diving, wreck diving, and other forms of technical diving, come with their own separate codes of conduct, which are additions to the basic code that all divers, regardless of certification level, should follow.

### 3 General

Members shall recognise that the AUSC is a club, not a service and reflect this in their behaviour. All members are expected to pitch in and help to the best of their ability.

**Courtesy to Volunteers:** The club is run by volunteers, and do their best in contributing to the club for the greater good. The club also has active volunteers coaching underwater sports, driving the boats, and filling up tanks using the club's compressor. Be polite and thank them for their help.

**Club Ambassador Behaviour:** If you are wearing AUSC uniforms or branding, be aware of your behaviour in the public, as you are an ambassador the club, and our reputation means a lot.

**Be Aware of Juniors:** Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity or where a power imbalance exists) with people under the age of 18.

**Policy Awareness:** It is a requirement that all members be aware and follow the club's policies. All club policies are available through AUSC's website. Any concerns or feedback is welcome, thus speak to a committee member.

### 4 Safety

**Safety is important:** Safety is everyone's responsibility. Members are expected to follow club guidelines and procedures which are in place to ensure the safety for members and equipment. Any member involved in an incident/accident whilst participating in a club activity should report it to a person of responsibility in the club as soon as possible. The committee keep a register of incidents to ensure learnings are undertaken.

**Drugs and Alcohol:** No person shall be take part in an underwater activity, or be on an AUSC boat whilst under the influence of alcohol (BAC > 0.05%), or illegal drugs. At other times, display responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs.

**Medication:** If you are taking prescribed medication, the obligation is on the participant to determine if the activity is suitable, and seek medical advice if unsure.

## 5 Environmental Awareness

**Respect Marine Life:** Avoid touching plants or animals underwater, and do not collect souvenirs of any type – even empty shells serve as homes for small aquatic animals. Enjoy watching animals from a respectful distance, and you'll help them while avoiding potential injuries yourself.

**Don't Interfere with the Ecosystem:** Divers should not feed marine creatures. Ordinarily harmless fish can come to identify divers as a food source and have been known to react violently when the food runs out.

**Never Litter:** Don't leave any form of rubbish behind, neither topside nor underwater. It's always a good idea to pick up any trash you find and dispose of it properly.

**However Take Zones are Acceptable:**

- Taking samples for marine research purposes is acceptable provided it is not against the law (i.e. not within marine parks, however having a permit would be satisfactory);
- Manually snare crayfish or collect abalone and other marine life in compliance with fisheries regulations, including boat, size and quantity limits for recreational fishers; and
- Legally fish, or spearfish on club trips in accordance with local regulation, however these activities are not acceptable from our boats, or near our divers.



## 6 Snorkelling / Scuba Diving

**Snorkel/dive within your level of competence:** All divers shall have the appropriate qualifications and experience to dive the site. If a member is unsure about the difficulty they should ask prior to diving. Although the club helps where possible, expect that there is not the level of supervision like there would from a commercial establishment. Although some members have training as dive professionals, they are not acting in any professional capacity whilst on AUSC trips.

**Dive Conscientiously:** No matter where you dive, work to maintain neutral buoyancy, use careful finning techniques, and never grab onto fragile underwater structures to keep yourself from drifting. This is vital for conserving coral reefs; even a slight bump can cause damage that can take years to restore.

**Understand Leader Responsibilities:** When an instructor or divemaster provides you with guidance, it is because these individuals have the responsibility to supervise all divers who are assigned to them – not because they're trying to stop you from having fun. It's up to them to ensure that divers are not placed into positions that could cause injury to themselves or others, as well as to ensure that divers do not damage the marine environment.



Similarly for trip leaders or boat handlers – their responsibility is for all individuals and the boat / other equipment, so if the weather is changing, or someone needs to get back onshore unexpectedly, follow their instructions.

**Take Responsibility for Your Own Gear:** It's up to you to keep your gear in good working order and to ensure that it doesn't dangle and cause the potential for entanglement; in addition, it is important to follow this rule to ensure that your equipment does not cause damage to underwater habitat.

**Be Courteous to Local Residents:** Divers often head out in the wee hours of the morning, launching boats and enjoying shore dives as the sun is just starting to peek over the horizon. Keep noise at a minimum in residential neighbourhoods and be mindful about where you park as well as where you change your clothes!

**Don't Interfere with Fishing Equipment or Harass Anglers:** Even if you disagree with common fishing practices, interfering is usually illegal and harassment can get you hurt and cause ire against the scuba diving community. The exceptions to this rule occur if you find yourself or another diver entangled, or marine life trapped in disused fishing gear such as a ghost net or tangled filament. Then, it's best to cut the animal free if you can do so safely. If you find illegal fishing activity, report it to authorities rather than interfering – this increases the odds that the perpetrator will be caught and successfully prosecuted rather than getting away scot-free and continuing to offend.

## 7 Underwater Hockey / Rugby

Players shall abide by the spirit and positive values of the game of underwater hockey / rugby, including those of fairness, respect, tolerance, equity, responsibility, safety and the maintenance of a high standard of personal behaviour and integrity.

**Play by the Rules:** Players must conform to the laws and regulations that govern Confédération Mondiale des Activités Subaquatiques (CMAS); Australian Underwater Federation (AUF); Australian laws and local laws while overseas.

**Never Argue with an Umpire or Other Official:** Without these people, you can't play underwater sports. Show respect and courtesy to referees and match officials, and comply promptly with any rulings, decisions or requests they make whether before, during or after a match.

**Control your Temper:** Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players doesn't help you enjoy or win any games. Don't use ugly remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability – you'll let down your coach, teammates and family if you do – & many such comments are actually now illegal.

**Be a Team Player:** It's a team game, treat it that way. Cooperate with your coach, the umpires and team mates.

**Respect Others:** Treat all players as you would like to be treated – Fairly. Take active responsibility to ensure the overall welfare and wellbeing of all other persons covered under this Code, particularly those under 18 years of age.

**Develop Yourself:** Play for your own enjoyment and to improve your skills.



## 8 Conflict of Interest

If a conflict of interest (a situation that has the potential to undermine the impartiality of a person because of the possibility of a clash between the person's self-interest and professional interest or public interest) should occur, the person with that conflict needs to declare this conflict to the appropriate people.

## 9 Breaches

By becoming a member of AUSC, you are agreeing to the conditions of this Code. Breaches or allegations of a breach of the Code shall be investigated by the AUSC Committee to the best of its ability, and shall be empowered to hand over such investigations to other authorities, including AU Sport, Office of Equal Opportunity, the appropriate University Representative and/or the Police.

## 10 References

AU Sport – *General Code of Conduct*, approved by AU Sport Board on 14 July 2014,  
<http://www.theblacks.com.au/Common/Filer.ashx?FID=4419>.

## 11 Document control

Revision (Date)	Person	Comments
0 (13/10/2015)	<b>Author:</b> David Warren <b>Reviewed:</b> Committee (via Meeting 13/10/2015) <b>Approved:</b> David Warren	Document released to club membership.