



Snorkelling Policy

Aim

The aim of this policy is to communicate expectations and requirements for participating in snorkelling activities. The purpose of this policy is to ensure snorkelling safety. Snorkelling and surface support activities are voluntary and participants assume responsibility for all associated risks.

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1 Revision

This policy is to be maintained and reviewed by the AUSC Committee.

2 Application

This policy applies to all members who participate in snorkelling activities.

Note: Snorkelling is defined as the intent to stay within the surface to 5 m window. If there is intention on diving below this depth, then the participant must refer to the requirements contained within the *AUSC Freediving Policy*.

3 Requirements

- Snorkelers must either swim:
 - alone and stay within 15 metres (45 feet) of the boat / shore (or jetty structure); or
 - with a buddy and stay within 5 metres (15 feet) of their buddy.
- When swimming underwater, snorkelers should adopt “one-up”, “one down” (buddies alternate and wait at least 30 seconds after their buddy surfaces before swimming underwater themselves).
- On boat dives, snorkelers must stay within a reasonable distance of the boat, dependent on the surface conditions.
- Applicants who require training and/or are weak swimmers should talk to the Boat Handler / Committee Member.
- Hyperventilation prior to breath hold diving is dangerous and not permitted.

4 Training

It is recommended that snorkelling certification is obtained, but not a necessity. Numerous organisations offer snorkelling certification, such as SSI, BSAC, etc.

5 Equipment

- An exposure suit is recommended suitable for the water temperature, and should be able to maintain buoyancy at the surface with minimal effort;
- Mask and fins should be worn;
- Whistle and signalling device should also be carried;
- When weights are used, they must be capable of quick release and the snorkeler must be positively buoyant at the surface.

6 References

Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre (2015) – *BMSC Snorkel Policy*, http://www.bamfieldmsc.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/SD_Snorkel_Policy_Waiver_ClearanceV03.pdf, accessed 8/11/2015.

Scuba Schools International (2015) – *Snorkeling*, <https://www.divessi.com/snorkeling>, accessed 8/11/2015.

Wikipedia (2015) – *Snorkeling*, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snorkeling>, accessed 8/11/2015.

7 Document control

Revision (Date)	Person	Comments
0 (10/11/2015)	Author: David Warren Reviewed: Committee (via Meeting 10/11/2015) Approved: David Warren, President	Document released to club membership.