Adelaide University Scuba Diving Club

c/- AU Sport & Fitness, University of Adelaide, SA 5005

Diving Code of Conduct

Aim

The aim of this code is to outline mandatory dive-related behaviours in order to ensure members contribute to the safe and appropriate conduct of dive activities.

Table of contents

Aim 1

Table of contents 1

1 Revision 1

2 Application 1

3 Breaches of this Code 1

4 Introduction 2

5 Rules 2

6 Guidance 3

7 Document control 4

8 Footnotes of Explanatory Text 4

1 Revision

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

2 Application

This code applies to club all members using the club's equipment or participating in dive events organised by the club.

3 Breaches of this Code

By becoming or continuing to be a member of AUSC, you agree to the provisions of this Code. A breach or alleged breach of this Code may be investigated by the AUSC Committee, and the results of such an investigation may be provided to the appropriate authorities, including AU Sport & Fitness, the appropriate University Representative and SA Police.

4 Introduction

The code consists of the following parts:

- **Rules.** Failure to follow provisions of the Rules section may result in suspension or permanent revocation of a member's club privileges, or mandated refresher training.
- **Guidance.** The Guidance section describes good practices, but the provisions are not mandatory. However, failure to follow the provisions of this section may constitute a breach of a Rules provision (e.g. posing a safety hazard to yourself).
- **Footnotes.** Explanatory text items are not formally part of the code and are provided to assist understanding.

5 Rules

1. **Safety is Everyone's Responsibility.** Members are expected to follow all club policies, guidelines and procedures, many of which exist to ensure the safety of members and equipment.
2. **Conduct.** Your conduct during club activities or while using club equipment must not:
   - Pose a safety hazard to others.
   - Compromise the enjoyment of the activity by others.
   - Constitute a risk of damage to a club boat, other people's equipment or club equipment.
3. **Equipment.** Every diver must be equipped with an exposure suit (e.g. wetsuit) suitable for the conditions, whistle or comparable device, timing device (watch, bottom timer or dive computer), depth gauge and tank pressure gauge (SPG or air-integrated computer). Every diver is to carry a dive light at night.
4. **Marine Environment.** Marine life and habitat is to be respected and every reasonable precaution is to be taken to avoid harm[1]. This includes using appropriate practices such as:

   - Maintaining buoyancy, trim, positioning and finning to avoid actual contact with marine life/habitat and disturbance with fin wash.[2]
   - Avoiding contact with jetty pylons, the bottom etc. Particular care is to be taken when steadying a camera.
   - Not walking on reefs or other sensitive areas.
   - Ensuring consoles, gauges and other gear are secured so they do not dangle and risk entanglement or damage to the marine environment.
5. **Alcohol and Drugs.** Do not use alcohol or drugs (including very highly caffeinated drinks) before or during diving activities. Substances and practices that affect blood chemistry (e.g. alcohol) or blood flow (e.g. hot showers) should be avoided after diving.
6. **Certification & Fitness.** All divers must be appropriately certified by a recognized training agency for the dive to be undertaken and physically fit to dive. "Fit" includes employing whatever aids (e.g. a prescription mask) might be required and managing medication that might have diving implications.

7. **Be Sunsmart.** Bring and drink an appropriate amount of drinking water, and use appropriate sun protection on boat dives. Divers may be refused boarding a boat if they are not suitably protected or equipped (e.g. hat, shirt and drinking water).[3]
8. **Instructions.** Follow the instructions of a dive's activity leader and, during boat activities, the instructions of the boat operator.
9. **Buddy.** Solo diving is discouraged on all club dives. Identify your buddy pre-dive, agree a dive plan (incl route, depths and duration), confirm hand signals, maintain buddy contact during a dive (including descent and ascent) and carry out appropriate "Lost Buddy" procedure if contact is lost.[4] [5]
10. **SMB.** Every diver diving from a club boat is to be equipped with an SMB and know how to use it.
11. **Dive Briefs.** Comply with depth limits, time limits, geographical limits, "no decompression diving" and other instructions (e.g. dive duration limit) provided during the pre-dive brief or by other means. If instructions include words to the effect of "descend along the anchor line", then you are, in the absence of a very good reason, to follow the anchor line until you reach the dive site.
12. **Laws.** Follow all laws and regulations including those concerning approaching or harvesting marine life.

13. **Assistance to Others.** In the event of an incident, accident or emergency, it is your responsibility to render assistance to the extent that your training, experience, and physical fitness allow, or to alert another diver qualified to render assistance.
14. **Breathing Gas Supply.** You must at all times to maintain a supply of breathing gas sufficient for you and your buddy to deal with unforeseen events (e.g. dealing with an underwater emergency or getting lost), safely ascend to safety stop depth, conduct a safety stop and ascend to the surface. As an aside, the club's committee might require a diver to explain why they ended a dive or returned a club cylinder with a very low cylinder pressure.[6]

15. **Diving w/out Computer.** If you are not personally carrying a dive computer, you must calculate your NDL, demonstrate to the Activity Leader how you have done this and dive within that NDL.
16. **No Deco Limit.** Divers are to adhere to NDL limits unless the Activity Leader approves the deco dive plan on the basis of the divers' certifications, skill, equipment and experience.

6 Guidance

1. **Dive Gear.** It is every diver's responsibility to ensure that their dive gear, including rental equipment, is in good working order and appropriate for the conditions to be dived.

2. **Lights at Night.** During night dives, carry a secondary light.[7]
3. **Briefings.** It is your responsibility to pay attention to pre-dive briefings.
4. **DSMB.** The club encourages divers to carry a spool so that an SMB may be deployed at depth.
5. **Safety Kit.** It is recommended divers carry a compass, SMB and a knife or line cutter.
6. **To Dive or Not to Dive?** In some locations divers may experience strong currents, tides and wave action, and poor visibility. It is every diver's right and responsibility to refuse to dive if they feel that conditions are beyond their or their buddy's current level of certification, training, experience, equipment or physical fitness.[8]
7. **Dive Computer.** It is recommended you own and use a dive computer. Ensure you know how to use the dive computer you dive with and understand the meaning of essential display data, warnings and alarms. Divers are not to rely on the dive computers of other divers.
8. **Conservatism.** Always dive conservatively. If you have not planned a decompression dive and received permission from the dive activity leader and boat operator for such, do not push your dive computer's "no deco" time to the limit.
9. **Rate of Ascent.** Maintain a safe rate of ascent as indicated by your dive computer.
10. **Safety Stop.** Complete a 3 minute safety stop at a depth of 4-to-6 meters at the end of every dive unless safety or other factors dictate that the safety stop must be abbreviated or omitted.

11. **Distraction.** Do not allow use of a camera or other task to distract you from appropriate dive procedure or techniques. Remember – you are diving first and doing everything else second.
12. **Rubbish.** Dispose of rubbish appropriately. This includes securing it against entry into the marine environment and not leaving it in a boat.

7 Document control

Revision (Date)	Person	Comments
0 13/04/2023	**Author:** Tim Brown **Reviewed:** Committee (via emails 26 Mar 2023) **Approved by Messenger:** April 2023	Released to members. To be incorporated into the process for new membership and renewing membership applications.
1 25/05/2023	**Author:** Tim Brown **Approved:** 25 May 2023	Amend prohibition on caffeine to avoidance of highly caffeinated drinks. Recommend against substances and some practices after diving.
2 27/05/2023	**Author:** Tim Brown **Reviewed:** Committee (via emails) 2023 **Approved by Messenger:** 2023	Absorbed elements from Diving Policy.

8 Footnotes of Explanatory Text

[1] "Harm" excludes the intentional harvesting of marine life, such as the collection of marine samples in accordance with an approved scientific program or taking scallops if approved by the activity leader and boat operator. Spearfishing is not to be conducted from a club boat.
[2] If you are unable to maintain trim and your fin wash is directed downward, then stay well off the bottom.
[3] Boat divers ought not to be surprised by on-the-day rules such as "No hat and water = no dive", which might be instituted by a dive activity leader for safety reasons due to weather or other conditions.
[4] In the absence of any agreed pre-dive variation, search for your buddy within a small area (small enough that two searching buddies are unlikely to not find each other) for one minute and, if buddy contact is not re-established, ascend to the surface in order to locate your buddy. A variation to the standard Lost Buddy procedure might be to include something such as "After the initial search, move to the bow of the wreck and search there for one minute before surfacing".
[5] The club does not formally provide dive guides like a charter boat or resort. An experienced member may offer to lead divers to or around a dive site, but in no way does this reduce the requirement for divers to dive as buddy teams and be responsible for themselves.
[6] Generally, 50 bar is the tank pressure that a diver should have upon completion of a dive without incident. This rule of thumb might be varied downward for dives conducted or ending in shallow water such as around the middle steps at Port Noarlunga.
[7] The secondary light should be bright enough to allow another diver to find you, and to enable you to read your computer, gauges etc.
[8] Seek advice or assistance from more experienced members, but remember that the club does not provide dive guides like you might expect at a dive resort. You bear primary responsibility for deciding to dive, planning the dive, your equipment, navigation around the site, buddy maintenance, your own dive practices etc.