

OPEN WATER DIVER (OWD)

The Trainee OWD must have achieved elementary diver certificate.

Must complete 4 qualifying dives in a safe open water dive site.

Dives must be under supervision of a dive leader or above.

All dives may be carried out at the same venue.

Maximum depth under training is 20 metres.

[Must be carried out over a number of dives]

L. OPEN WATER DIVER

- L1. Achieve neutral buoyancy with weight belt correctly weighted.
- L2. **Demonstrate correct use of a buoyancy compensation Device.**
- L3. **Dry suit divers display ability to right themselves when inverted.**
- L4. **Dive to a maximum depth of 20 metres.**
- L5. **Use an alternative air source.**

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE:

- L1. **Achieve neutral buoyancy with weight belt correctly weighted.** Demonstrate neutral buoyancy on the surface, floating at approx eye level with no air in jacket or suit and normally inflated lungs. Re-establish Neutral buoyancy at 3m on descent. If candidate fails to establish/maintain buoyancy at this stage, take them back to the surface and re-check weight. Repeat buoyancy skills in shallow water until this is mastered.
- L2. **Demonstrate correct use of a buoyancy compensator.** Establish and maintain neutral buoyancy at varying depths throughout the duration of the dive.
- L3. **Dry suit divers display ability to right themselves when inverted.** This **must** be carried out at the beginning of the dive and in very shallow water. Precautions must be taken to ensure that the candidate does not make an uncontrolled free ascent.
- L4. **Dive to a maximum depth of 20 metres.** Maximum depth of diving during Open Water Diver training shall not exceed 20m.
- L5. **Use an alternative air source.** Demonstrate ability to swap to an alternate air Source. Either buddy's Octopus or own independent air Source. Not buoyancy compensator cylinder or buddy breathing.

LECTURES

- C1. **Diving air and deep diving.**
- C2. **Diver rescue.**
- C3. **SAA Bühlmann System.**

KNOWLEDGE REVIEW

Must successfully complete a review of all theory and practical skills up to and including C3 (Exam Papers are available from SAA Head Office)

OUTCOME

An Open Water Diver has limited open water diving experience and must progress to club diver training to gain further skills. The maximum depth a qualified Open Water diver may dive to is **35m whilst under training for Club Diver**. They may only Dive with Dive Leader or higher grade divers.