

To qualify as a Club Diver, the trainee must have achieved Open Water Diver Certificate. The trainee Club Diver must complete 10 qualifying dives following Open Water Diver qualification, at least 5 of which must be sea dives. No dives will be at a greater depth than 35m whilst under training. It is advised that qualifying dives should include experience of at least 5 of the following:

- Shore dive along a shelving bottom.
- Dive from a boat.
- Dive in freshwater.
- Dive in moving water (1 knot max.).
- Dive in seawater.
- Low visibility dive (less than 2 metres).
- Dive in cold water (less than 10 deg C).
- Dive from a Hard Boat.

Other types of dive which indicate a range of diving experience are also acceptable. Initial qualifying dives should be looked on as an extension to the training. Members need to be shown how to put into practice those things they have learnt during pool training. Later qualifying dives can be used to assess whether the member has reached an acceptable level of competence at:

- Water entry and exit from shelving/rocky beach or shore, jetty, piers, steps, small boats, gentle surf. (0.5m.)
- Buddy and equipment checks, dive briefings and debriefings.
- Surface swims in different water conditions with or without aid from B.C.
- Descent & ascent techniques, correct ascent rate with safety stop.
- Buoyancy adjustment by correct use of weights and buoyancy control techniques at depth.
- Correct buddy diving practices, keeping together, buddy monitoring, and signals.
- Action if separated.
- Mask removal, refitting and clearing.
- Use of alternate air Source.
- Horizontal sharing of air. Surface rescue and tow with AV.
- Small boat diving procedures, kitting up, entry, return to boat.
- Basic underwater navigation, awareness of position.
- Use of SMB and buddy line.
- Shore dive site selection, dive plan, choice of best [safe] entry & exit points, dive leadership.
- Correct use of decompression tables.
- Completion of Dive Record sheets.

CLUB DIVER

When a trainee has the Open Water Diver qualification, the Club Diver open water assessments may be carried out.

[Must be carried out over a number of dives]

M. CLUB DIVER

- M1. **Rescue a buddy diver on the surface.**
- M2. **Identify a suspected decompression problem.**
- M3. **Swim 250 metres on the surface wearing SCUBA breathing through snorkel.**
- M4. **Demonstrate correct buoyancy.**
- M5. **Demonstrate horizontal air donation both as donor and the receiver using an alternative air source.**

- M6. Demonstrate vertical donation from 5 metres to surface, including a 3 metre safety stop using AAS
- M7. Demonstrate on land two methods of recovering an unconscious diver from depth.
- M8. Demonstrate correct use of an SMB
- M9. Demonstrate correct use of a Delayed SMB

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE:

- M1. **Rescue a buddy diver on the surface**, tow for 50 metres applying AV at the correct rate, land casualty using assistance from a “passer by” and continue AV, explaining the use of chest compressions.
This assessment must not be carried out immediately following a dive.
When the rescue is made, the casualty's lifejacket should be inflated just enough to enable the trainee to simulate A. V. When landing the casualty, assistance may be given but only if asked for by the trainee, but the assistant “passer by” may only do what he/she is told. At no time should the person assisting take charge of the situation. The use of chest compressions should be explained fully but no attempt should be made to demonstrate it unless on a manikin. The casualty should offer no help or advice at any time during the rescue or resuscitation. Finally the trainee must explain aftercare.
- M2. **Identify a suspected decompression problem.** Candidate should be able to recognise the more common symptoms of DCI and explain the required actions to ensure recovery.
- M3. **Swim 250 metres on the surface wearing SCUBA breathing through snorkel.** It may be beneficial for the Trainee to alternate between swimming on the front and on the back – allows Trainee to recognise pro's and con's of each.
- M4. **Demonstrate correct buoyancy.** The Trainee should empty all buoyancy aids on the surface in the shallows, float at eye level, and be able to sink on exhaling and return to surface on inhaling. When submerged the Trainee should be able to hover in midwater near a visual reference with minimal fining.
- M5. **Demonstrate horizontal air donation both as donor and receiver using an alternative air source.** The exercise should commence with the buddies being approximately 5 metres apart. The correct signal should be given and both should respond promptly to obtain the correct position and contact. Once a regular rhythm has been established they should swim for approximately 50m, each acting both as a donor and a receiver.
- M6. **Demonstrate vertical air donation from 5 metres to surface, including a 3 metre safety stop using AAS.** Repeat M5 but making ascent, up a shot line or similar. Both candidates must breathe normally during the exercise and the ascent rate should be within the SAA guidelines.
- M7. **Demonstrate on land two methods of recovering an unconscious diver from depth.** Front grips and rear grips, inflation by jacket [suits are not 100% reliable as the neck seal may lose air.] Remind Trainee of correct ascent rate.
- M8. **Demonstrate correct use of an SMB.** Inflate prior to dive – reel out appropriate amount of line **DO NOT** clip on to jacket or other rings. A suitable tangle free dive site should be chosen for this exercise.
- M9. **Demonstrate correct use of a Delayed SMB.** Working with buddy show how to prepare, inflate and deploy buoy from depths whilst maintaining correct buoyancy. **DO NOT** attach buoy to diver. This should be practiced several times by the trainee in a pool environment before it is carried out in Open Water.

LECTURES

- C4. Underwater navigation.
- C5. Boat diving.
- C6. Dive planning.

KNOWLEDGE REVIEW

Must successfully complete a review of all theory and practical skills up to and including C6 (Exam papers are available from SAA Head Office)

OUTCOME

Club Divers may dive with other Club Divers or divers of a higher grade.