

Diving Standards (V3.0 – September 2013)

The following is intended as guidance on safe diving standards for both Club Members and Dive Managers planning diving activities but is not intended to be exhaustive: -

We've all heard "Plan the dive, dive the plan" throughout our training, but dive planning starts long before going to the Dive Site or on the trip. You must notify the Dive Manager if you intend to go along; particularly if you have a specific requirement for training, experience or depth progression, the DM needs to ensure an Instructor or suitably qualified, experienced & equipped buddy is available for you: -

- Dive Managers should be Dive Leader or above.
- All divers should have an AAS (Octopus).
- All divers should attend, participate in & understand the Dive Brief.
- All divers should understand the orientation of the dive site and have a bearing for the shore, where appropriate.
- All divers should be properly equipped with regards to the expected dive conditions (in terms of exposure/torches/location devices etc).
- All divers should check with their buddy and plan to dive to the lower of their or their Buddies Dive Qualification.
- If a diver intends to rely on a non-BSAC qualification of any kind, this should be approved by the D.O. before diving.
- All divers should undertake a pre-dive buddy check (Buoyancy-Air-Releases etc).
- All dives of 30m+ should have a redundant air source (Twins or pony) over the full depth range and adopt "Rule of Thirds" for air/gas management.
- **Consider redundancy at any depth for winter diving.**
- A DSMB should be carried on all dives of 30m+, or dives where surface craft or currents are expected.
- All decompression dives should be planned & approved by DM.
- No unplanned decompression dives (abort dive before entering deco).
- All dives of 30m+ must have a written and agreed Dive Plan (Club Dive planning sheet).
- The absolute maximum depth of club dives is 50m on Air.
- The absolute maximum depth on Nitrox is the MOD of the mix @ a PO₂ of 1.4
- Following the dive, the Lead Diver should de-brief to the DM with: -
 - ✓ Remaining gas
 - ✓ Total time
 - ✓ Dive time
 - ✓ Maximum depth
 - ✓ Any incidents, or issues.

Rebreather (CCR) Diving

- Dive Managers should be Dive Leader or above + hold Nitrox qualification.
- All CCR divers MUST hold a BSAC recognised qualification.
- All assembly & pre-dive checks must be completed by the CCR diver.
- CCR Diver must complete CCR Dive Sheet & hand to DM, containing: -
 - ✓ Scrubber duration remaining
 - ✓ O₂ pressure (minimum 80bar)
 - ✓ Diluent Gas & pressure (minimum 150bar)
 - ✓ Bailout gas %, size & pressure
- Bailout plan should be discussed/agreed with DM & Buddy
- CCR diver & buddy should carry a DMB & reel
- CCR Buddies (OC) should be 'experienced Sport Diver' (*currently using only divers with CCR Try-dive experience*)
- Dive plans must be discussed with DM & reflect the most conservative case from: -
 - Qualifications & experience
 - Gas MOD (OC or bailout)
 - Remaining absorbent
 - Gas usage
 - Oxygen toxicity limits (CNS% & UPTDs)
 - Decompression considerations (O/C)
 - Maximum agreed dive time
- Dive plan must be discussed with OC Buddy and include: -
 - Bailout requirements for CCR & Buddy
 - Bailout procedures to be followed
 - Emergency aids carried
 - Safety hazards (Hypoxia, Hyperoxia & Hypercapnia) signs & symptoms.
 - Maximum agreed dive time
- Shore party should be advised of Maximum dive times & difficulties of tracking CCR divers (no bubbles).

All BSAC members have implicitly agreed, when joining, to abide by the Safe Diving Practices & Diver's Code of Conduct which are in the Safe Diving booklet at <http://www.bsac.com/page.asp?section=1019§ionTitle=Safe+Diving> when involved in branch diving, which are defined on the BSAC document at <http://www.bsac.com/page.asp?section=1724§ionTitle=Dive+Definitions>.

Please don't hesitate to contact the D.O. if you wish to discuss any aspect of your personal development or club diving activities.