



Melbourne University Underwater Club

Diving Code

The intended purpose of this diving code is to set forth guidelines that promote safe and responsible diving as part of any Melbourne University Underwater Club (the Club) activity. The Club and the Club committee will endeavour to take all care to facilitate the safe conduct of any Club dive. It is the responsibility of each member to read, understand and follow this code and sign the risk associated activity prior to undertaking diving activities. Each member and each diver recognises that diving is a risk associated activity and that they, the individual, are solely responsible for their own safe conduct.

1. DIVE ORGANISATION

1 The President and/or the Safety Officer (or nominated delegate):

- 1.1** Shall be notified and approve all dive trips;
- 1.2** May question any aspect of the dive trip; and
- 1.3** If unsatisfied with any arrangement will withdraw their consent for the dive. Such a dive is no longer considered a Club dive and no Club equipment will be used.

2 The Dive Coordinator should:

- 2.1** Co-ordinate a dive program throughout the year;
- 2.2** Nominate a Dive Organiser(s) for each dive trip;
- 2.3** Ensure that dive trips are advertised to all members;
- 2.4** Ensure the President and/or the Safety Officer (or nominated delegate) approve each dive trip; and
- 2.5** Encourage dive planning prior to departure.

3 The Dive Organiser should:

- 3.1** Prior to the trip:
 - (a)** notify the President and Safety Officer and obtain their approval for the trip;
 - (b)** be informed and inform others of the weather forecast;

- (c) be aware of each diver's certification and/or MUUC diver rating ([see Section 2: Diving Practice, point 2.1](#)); and
 - (d) ensure that the activity disclaimer has been completed by each diver.
- 3.2** At the dive departure point/dive site:
- (a) assess the dive site;
 - (b) ascertain means of medical support and emergency communication;
 - (c) ensure emergency and safety equipment is available at the dive site;
 - (d) appoint a boat driver where appropriate;
- 3.3** After the dive:
- (a) report any incident or accident to the President and Safety Officer; and
 - (b) report any Club gear defect.
- 4** The Boat Driver should:
- 4.1** Be a competent and licensed boat handler;
 - 4.2** Ensure communication equipment is functional;
 - 4.3** Ensure all safety equipment is aboard;
 - 4.4** Ensure that enough fuel and oil is taken for a return trip;
 - 4.5** Obey relevant boating and port authority regulations;
 - 4.6** Ensure Fisheries regulations are adhered to;
 - 4.7** Set up the diver below flag, mermaid catcher and shot line where appropriate;
 - 4.8** Notify the President and Safety Officer of any accident or incident.

2. DIVING PRACTICE

The Club advocates the following safe diving practices:

- 1** Dive site assessment should be undertaken by the Dive Organiser and the Dive Organiser may abort the dive if in his/her opinion conditions warrant such action. No Club gear should be used if a dive is aborted by the Dive Organiser.
- 2** Divers should not exceed the recommended maximum depth of their qualification or provable experience.
 - 2.1** The Club advocates the use of the following diver rating system, training/experience guidelines and corresponding depth limitations in its activities. *HMAS Canberra is considered an Advanced Open Water Dive:*

MUUC Diver	Recommended	Qualification	Equivalent Experience
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Rating	Depth Limit		
Open Water Diver	18m	Trained by a recognised SCUBA training agency to the standard of Open Water Diver or have an equivalent certification.	N/A
Advanced Open Water Diver	30m	Trained by a recognised SCUBA training agency to the standard of Advanced Open Water Diver or have an equivalent certification.	Open Water Diver with at least 30 logged dives, 10 of which are to depths beyond 12m in temperate waters off boats.
Experienced Diver	39m	Certified by a recognised SCUBA training agency to beyond 30m.	Experience equivalent to Advanced Open Water Diver with at least 10 logged dives to depths beyond 24m in temperate waters.
Technical Diver	Beyond 39m	Certified by a recognised SCUBA training	The Club advises that technical

		agency to beyond 39m.	training is required for dives below the recreational diving limit of 39m and that no amount of experience can replace this training.
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3 A diver who does not have local dive experience (i.e. familiar with diving in temperate waters) should gain experience in local conditions and with unfamiliar gear during an introductory shore dive or a dive to a limit of 12 metres before undertaking any other Club dive.

4 Divers should complete all dives with a safety stop where it is safe and practical to do so.

5 Divers should plan to complete the dive with a minimum of 50 bar of breathing gas pressure in reserve.

6 Buddy Pairs should be formed and

(a) Prior to the dive:

- formulate and discuss an appropriate dive plan;
- inform the Dive Organiser or Boat Driver of the dive plan;
- perform buddy checks and be familiar with the operation of the other's equipment;

(b) During the dive:

- dive according to the dive plan;
- maintain buddy contact from the moment of entering the water until leaving the water;

(c) After the dive:

- report any incident or accident to the Dive Organiser and Safety Officer; and
- report any Club gear defect.

7 Decompression dives are to be avoided on all dives unless members are appropriately trained.

8 Drift and slack water dives require that:

- (a) At least one person capable of handling the boat stays on the boat throughout the dive;
- (b) The mermaid catcher is used; and
- (c) A line to a surface marker buoy is held onto by at

least one individual of the buddy pair or group in the case of a drift dive.

9 Night dives require:

(a) There be a light at the entrance and exit point of the dive; and

(b) Each buddy pair have 2 or more operational torches and at least one additional light source.

10 Alcohol should not be consumed by divers within 8 hours before a dive.

11 Cave Diving to cavern and sinkhole level will be carried out within the guidelines of the Cave Divers Association of Australia (CDAA). Cave diving to Cave and Penetration level is considered outside the realms of club diving. Therefore no club gear is to be used on such dives.

12 All Club dives will be planned and executed using internationally recognised decompression tables, or with the use of dive computers.

3. EQUIPMENT

1 Individual diving equipment must include:

- an alternate air source;
- buoyancy compensator;
- pressure gauge;
- adequate thermal protection;
- depth gauge;
- one submersible watch or bottom timer or computer.

2 Specialist diving such as night diving, deep diving, cave diving, penetration and wreck diving, shall include appropriate additional equipment as necessary; this might include torches, line and reels, and precautionary decompression tanks.

3 Members will not use any tank that is not in test on any Club dive or seek to obtain a fill for the tank from the Club.

4 On borrowing Club gear, members must:

4.1 Record each borrowed article on the appropriate form;

4.2 Use the equipment correctly;

4.3 See to its proper cleaning and storage while it is in their possession;

4.4 Report any defects to the appropriate gear officer, record the fault in the Equipment book and label the equipment including the nature of the fault and leave the equipment in the shed;

4.5 Promptly return gear after use.

5 No defective or damaged equipment shall be used, whether it be privately owned or Club gear.

4. MEDICALS

1 The Club policy is that members be medically fit to dive. The Club recommends that medicals are renewed within 5 years if under 30 years, within 3 years between 30 and 50 years and within 12 months if over the age of 50.

NOTES:

1 SCUBA certifications presently recognised by the Club are ANDI, AUSI, CDAA, IANTD, NASDS, NAUI, PADI, SSI, TDI, and any CMAS recognised course.

2 The Club Committee reserves the right to refuse permission to use Club equipment or participate in Club diving activity to any person subject to the Disputes procedure (Section 7 Melbourne University Underwater Club Constitution).

3 The Club Committee reserves the right to refuse permission to use Club equipment or participate in Club diving activity to any person who in the Committees' opinion demonstrates a disregard for this diving code in fact or spirit of intended purpose of promoting safe and responsible diving.