

16. Full Face Mask Diver

16.1 Introduction

The purpose of this course is to train divers with the necessary procedures, knowledge and skills to safely dive with a full-face mask.

16.2 Who May Teach

An active SDI Instructor that has been certified to teach this specialty.

16.3 Student to Instructor Ratio

Academic:

1. Unlimited, so long as adequate facilities, supplies and time are provided to ensure comprehensive and complete training of subject matter.

Confined Water (swimming pool-like conditions):

1. A maximum of 8 students per instructor.

Open Water (ocean, lake, quarry, spring, river, or estuary):

1. A maximum of 8 students per instructor; it is the instructor's discretion to reduce this number as conditions dictate.

16.4 Student Prerequisites

1. SDI Open Water Scuba Diver or equivalent.
2. Minimum age 18, 15 with parental consent.

16.5 Course Structure and Duration

Open Water Execution:

1. Two dives are required with complete briefs and debriefs by the instructor.
2. The Dive plan must include surface interval, maximum no-decompression time, etc. to be figured out and logged.

Course Structure:

1. SDI allows instructors to structure courses according to the number of students participating and their skill level.

16.6 Administrative Requirements

Administrative Tasks:

1. Collect the course fees from all the students.
2. Ensure that the students have the required equipment.
3. Communicate the schedule to the students.
4. Have the students complete the:
 - a. *SDI Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk Form*
 - b. *SDI Medical Statement Form*.

Upon successful completion of the course the instructor must:

1. Issue the appropriate SDI certification by submitting the *SDI Diver Registration Form* to SDI Headquarters or registering the students online through member's area of the SDI website.

16.7 Training Material

Optional Materials:

1. *ERDI Full Face Mask Student Manual* or eLearning.
2. *ERDI Full face Mask Knowledge Quest* or eLearning.
3. *ERDI Full Face Mask Instructor Guide*.

16.8 Required Equipment

Basic open water scuba equipment as described in section three of this manual.

16.9 Approved Outline

Instructors may use any additional text or materials that they feel help present these topics. The following topics must be covered.

The following topics must be covered during this course:

1. Purpose:
 - a. Diver safety.
 - b. Communications.
2. Advantages:

- a. Increased diver safety:
 - i. Contaminated water.
 - ii. Winter diving.
 - b. Communications.
 - c. Corrective lenses.
3. Disadvantages:
- a. Increased air consumption.
 - b. Buoyancy.
 - c. Bulky.
4. Types:
- a. Appropriate/Inappropriate.
 - b. Scuba quick connect/disconnect.
 - c. Surface supplied.
5. Techniques/Procedures:
- a. Donning:
 - i. In water vs. out of water.
 - ii. Strap adjustment.
 - iii. Skirt seal.
 - b. Diving with a full-face mask:
 - i. Equalization.
 - ii. Buoyancy.
 - iii. Removal and replacement underwater.
 - iv. Alternate air source use.
 - v. Spare mask.
 - vi. Surface options.
 - vii. Surface valve.
6. Underwater Communications:
- a. Types of communication equipment:
 - i. Push-to-talk (PTT).
 - ii. Voice activated (VOX).
 - iii. Hardwire/Tether.

- iv. Battery Failure.
- 7. User/Field Maintenance and Care.
- 8. Authorized servicing/preventive maintenance.
- 9. After use.

16.10 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

Students are required to successfully complete the following:

- 1. Open Water Dive 1:
 - a. Dive plan.
 - b. Equipment setup.
 - c. Proper weighting.
 - d. Equalization techniques.
 - e. Clearing a partially flooded mask.
 - f. Remove and replace full face mask underwater.
 - g. Ascent and exit.
 - h. Log dive.
- 2. Open Water Dive 2:
 - a. Dive plan.
 - b. Remove mask and utilize alternate air source.
 - c. Alternate air source ascent.
 - d. Ascent and exit.
 - e. Log dive.
 - f. Proper donning and adjustment.
 - g. Establish buoyancy and demonstration of buoyancy control.
 - h. Successfully switch to a backup mask.
 - i. On the surface switching from open to close.
 - j. Free Flowing Full-Face Mask.