

6. Supervised Diver

6.1 Introduction

This course is designed to give students the necessary skills to conduct open water dives in conditions similar to their training under the direct supervision of a qualified and active dive professional.

6.2 Qualifications of Graduates

Upon successful completion of this course, graduates may:

1. Participate in dives under the direct supervision of a qualified and active dive professional to depths of 12 metres / 40 feet that do not require decompression, in conditions similar to their training. Appropriate surface support must be available.
2. Dive in groups of no more than four Supervised Divers per instructor.
3. Enroll in the *SDI Open Water Scuba Diver Course*. If the diver enrolls in the Open Water Scuba Diver Course within 12 months of certification as a Supervised Diver, they may follow the Supervised Diver Upgrade Procedure. *

*** See Supervised Diver Upgrade procedure #6.12 for certification requirements.**

6.3 Who May Teach

An active SDI Open Water Scuba Diver Instructor.

6.4 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.
2. Instructors have the option of adding 2 more students with the assistance of an active assistant instructor or divemaster.
3. The total number of students an instructor may have in the water is 12 with the assistance of 2 active assistant instructors or divemasters.

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.
2. Instructors have the option of adding 2 more students with the assistance of an active assistant instructor or divemaster.
3. The total number of students an instructor may have in the water is 12, with the assistance of 2 active assistant instructors or divemasters.

6.5 Student Prerequisites

Minimum age 18, 10 through 17 with parental consent.

6.6 Course Structure and Duration

Open Water:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 2 open water scuba dives and remain underwater for a minimum of 15 minutes on each dive, for a minimum of 40 minutes total bottom time.
2. Training depth must be between 5 to 12 metres / 15 to 40 feet; the maximum depth may not exceed 12 metres / 40 feet.
3. A maximum of 3 scuba dives per day are allowed including training and additional fun dives.
4. All dives must be completed during daylight hours, or under conditions that simulate daylight conditions.
5. Upon successful completion of the dives, the students must complete their logbooks and the instructor must sign off on the completed dives.
6. Instructors are not allowed to carry any photo or video equipment while conducting the Open Water dives.

Course Structure:

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

Duration:

1. The suggested number of training hours is 15.

6.7 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 / Regional Office or registering the students online through member's area of the SDI website.

6.8 Required Equipment

Basic open water scuba equipment as described in section two of this manual. The following material is required:

1. *SDI Open Water Scuba Diver* Manual and associated SDI Knowledge Quest Book (or *SDI Open Water Diver* Online Training course)
2. *SDI Open Water Scuba Diver Instructor* Guide

The following material is available and recommended:

1. SDI Logbook.
2. *SDI Open Water Scuba Diver* Video or DVD
3. *SDI Open Water Scuba Diver* PowerPoint Presentation
4. *SDI Confined Water / Open Water Teaching* slates
5. *SDI Skill Check-off* slate

Instructors may use any additional text or materials that they feel help present these topics.

6.9 Required Subject Areas

The following topics must be covered during this course:

1. History of Diving.
2. The Aquatic Environment:
 - a. Vision.
 - b. Light.

- c. Sound.
 - d. Heat loss.
 - e. Tides.
 - f. Currents.
 - g. Waves.
 - h. Surge.
3. Marine life injuries.
4. Physics and Physiology:
- a. Buoyancy.
 - b. Pressure.
 - c. Boyle's Law.
 - d. Air spaces:
 - i. Lung over-expansion problems.
 - ii. Equalization techniques.
 - e. Breathing air under pressure:
 - i. Decompression sickness:
 - 1. Repetitive dives.
 - 2. Safety stops.
 - 3. Emergency decompression.
 - 4. Omitted decompression:
 - ii. Nitrogen narcosis.
 - iii. Oxygen toxicity.
 - iv. Carbon monoxide poisoning.
 - v. Mixed gases.
 - vi. Hyperventilation, shallow water blackout.
5. Scuba Equipment:
- a. Mask, fins, and snorkel.
 - b. Exposure protection:
 - i. Wetsuits.
 - ii. Dry suits.
 - c. Buoyancy compensator device (BCD).

- d. Regulator:
 - i. Primary regulator.
 - ii. Alternate air source.
 - e. Cylinders.
 - f. Weight systems.
 - g. Underwater instruments:
 - i. Submersible pressure gauge.
 - ii. Dive computers.
 - iii. Dive watch.
 - iv. Depth gauges.
 - v. Compass.
 - h. Accessories
 - i. Dive flag.
 - ii. Rescue signal.
 - iii. Knife.
 - iv. Dive lights.
 - v. Equipment bag.
 - vi. Logbook.
 - vii. Slate.
6. Planning Your Dive:
- a. Diver fitness and overexertion.
 - b. Orientation to new or local diving environments.
 - c. Boat diving procedures.
 - d. Buddy system.
 - e. First aid.

6.10 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

Students are required to successfully complete the following skills:

1. Swimming evaluation (Must be completed prior to any scuba skills taught):

SDI Standards and Procedures

Part 2: Diver Standards

- a. Distance swim of 200 metres non-stop using any stroke without the use of mask, snorkel, or any swimming aids, or 300 metres nonstop using mask, snorkel, and fins.
- b. Survival swim / float of 10 minutes.

Note: If an exposure suit is worn for any of the above skills, the wearer must be neutrally buoyant at the surface.

2. Scuba skills:

- a. Scuba system assembly and disassembly.
- b. Weight system adjustment with proper weighting.
- c. Removal and replacement of weight system on the surface.
- d. Removal and replacement of weight system at depth. *

3. Pre-dive check of self and buddy.

4. Partial mask clear at depth.

5. Full mask clear at depth.

6. Breathing and swimming underwater without a mask.

7. Buoyancy compensator device (BCD) use:

- a. Inflation and deflation (oral/power) at the surface.
- b. Inflation and deflation (oral/power) at depth.
- c. Removal and replacement at surface.
- d. Removal and replacement at depth. *

8. Buoyancy Control:

- a. Hovering.
- b. Controlled ascents.
- c. Controlled descents.

9. Regulator use:

- a. Breathing, clearing, and recovery at the surface.
- b. Breathing, clearing, and recovery at depth.

10. Underwater swimming; proper use of fins.

11. Entries and exits:

- a. Controlled seated entry.
- b. Giant stride entry.
- c. Shallow water exit.

d. Deep water exit.

12. Snorkel use:

- a. Adjustment.
- b. b. Clearing; blast method.
- c. c. Regulator snorkel exchange at the surface.
- d. d. Surface snorkel swim in full equipment.

13. Computer use:

- a. Reading and understanding data.
- b. Understanding functions of computer.

14. Use of gauges.

15. Underwater communications.

16. Rescue techniques:

- a. Tired diver tows.
- b. Cramp relief.

17. Out-of-air emergencies:

- a. Controlled swimming ascent.
- b. Alternate air source use; air sharing with a buddy while making a controlled ascent.

*** To be completed in confined water only**

In order to complete this course, students must:

1. Demonstrate mature and sound judgment concerning dive planning and execution.
2. Satisfactorily complete the *SDI Open Water Scuba Diver* Knowledge Quest or equivalent SDI electronic / online learning exam. Instructors may use additional exams that can be found on the *SDI Open Water Scuba Diver Instructor* Resource CD.
3. Complete all open water requirements safely and efficiently.

6.11 Open Water Global Referral Procedures

SDI Instructor to any Active SDI Instructor Procedure:

1. An SDI Instructor sends a student that has completed the academic and confined water portion of the *SDI Open Water Scuba Diver* course to a second SDI Instructor to complete the open water requirements with a *Global Referral* Form.

2. Once the student has completed the open water requirements, the SDI Open Water Scuba Diver Instructor signs off that the skills listed on the back of the referral form have been completed.
3. The student takes the signed form back to the original SDI Confined Water Instructor to have their card issued.
4. The SDI Open Water Scuba Diver Instructor completes the SDI Student Registration Form with the names of both instructors and sends it to SDI Headquarters to have the certification card issued with both instructor names on the card. The SDI Instructor may also use the online registration system, or in-store card printing system if available.

SDI Instructor to any Active Instructor Procedure:

1. An SDI Open Water Scuba Diver Instructor sends a student that has completed the academic and confined water portion of the open water course to any other active instructor from any dive training agency to complete the open water requirements with *Global Referral Form*.
2. The open water instructor signs off that the skills listed on the back of the referral form have been completed.
3. The student takes the signed form back to the original SDI Confined Water Instructor to have their card issued.
4. The SDI Confined Water instructor completes the *SDI Student Registration Form* with the names of both instructors and sends it to SDI Headquarters to have the certification card issued with both instructor names on the card.
5. The SDI Instructor may also use the online registration system, or in-store card printing system if available.

6.12 Supervised Diver to Open Water Scuba Diver Upgrade Procedure

For any SDI Supervised Diver to upgrade to SDI Open Water Scuba Diver, the following requirements must be met:

1. Student must have been certified as a SDI Supervised Diver within the past 12 months.
2. An additional academic review and/or confined session is not necessary but may be added at the instructor's discretion.
3. Complete a minimum of 2 Open Water dives, the instructor may use their discretion with reference to the skills needed to complete the dives.