

3. Divemaster

3.1 Introduction

This program is designed to develop the skills and knowledge necessary for an individual to lead certified divers in an open water environment.

3.2 Qualifications of Graduates

Upon successful completion of this course, graduates may:

1. Assist an active SDI Instructor during approved diving courses provided the activities are similar to the graduate's prior training.
2. Supervise and conduct dives for certified divers and any specialized scuba diving activities that they have been trained in, provided the activities are similar to the graduate's prior training.
3. Plan and execute emergency procedures appropriate for the diving environment and activities.

3.3 Who May Teach

An active SDI Instructor.

3.4 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.

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.

3.5 Student Prerequisites

1. Minimum age 18.

2. Certified *SDI Advanced Adventure Diver* or equivalent; advanced certification must include verifiable experience in deep, navigation, night, and limited visibility specialties.
3. Certified *SDI Rescue Diver* or equivalent.
4. Provide proof of current First Response Adult and Child Emergency Care Provider and Oxygen Administration Provider (where local law permits) certification or equivalent. *
5. Provide proof of at least 40 logged dives (see 3.11 for number of dives/hours required for graduation).

* **Note:** First Response courses may be combined with the SDI Divemaster course by qualified instructors.

3.6 Course Structure and Duration

Open Water Execution:

The student must:

1. Give a minimum of 5 briefs/debriefs.
1. Show preparation, planning, and control in dive management and diving activities.
2. Guide a minimum of 4 dives with varying sites and environmental conditions.

Course Structure:

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

Duration:

1. A minimum of 40 hours; a minimum of 30 hours under the direct supervision of the SDI Instructor.

3.7 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 signed by a licensed physician.

Upon successful completion of the course the instructor must:

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

3.8 Training Material

Each candidate must have a set of required materials to be used during and after training.

Candidate:

1. *SDI Divemaster Manual* or eLearning.
2. *SDI Divemaster Slates*.

Instructor:

1. *SDI Divemaster Instructor Guide*.
2. *SDI Standards and Procedures* (online).

Optional Material – Instructor:

1. *SDI Divemaster Instructor Resource CD*
2. *SDI Divemaster PowerPoint Presentation*
3. *SDI Divemaster course checklist*.

3.9 Required Equipment

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

3.10 Required Subject Areas

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

1. SDI Standards and Procedures.
2. History of SDI.
3. Code of Ethics and Professionalism of an SDI Divemaster.
4. Products and Procedures:
 - a. How to place an order.
 - b. Yearly renewals.
5. Liability and Insurance:
 - a. Risk management.

- b. Waivers and releases.
 - c. Filling out an accident report.
6. Knowledge Development:
- a. Equipment.
 - b. Physics and physiology of diving.
 - c. Medical problems related to diving.
 - d. Use of dive computers and tables.
 - e. Diving environment.
 - f. Dive planning and dive management control:
 - i. Pool/confined water.
 - ii. Open water.
 - g. Problem solving:
 - i. Pool/confined water.
 - ii. Open water.
 - h. Underwater and surface communications.
 - i. Diver assistance.
 - j. Avoiding out of air and emergency situations.
 - k. Recommended safe diving practices.
 - l. Boat diving procedures.
 - m. Shore/Beach diving procedures.
 - n. Night diving procedures.
 - o. Accident management.
 - p. Emergency procedures:
 - i. First aid.
 - ii. Oxygen (O₂) administration.
 - iii. Cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
7. Leadership Development:
- a. Planning group dives.
 - b. Divemaster checks lists and logs.

3.11 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

Confined Water Requirements:

1. Watermanship skills:
 - a. 800-metre swim with mask, snorkel, and fins non-stop without the use of arms in less than 17 minutes.
 - b. 400-metre swim on the surface, non-stop, any stroke, without the use of swimming aids, in less than 10 minutes; swim goggles permitted.
2. Scuba skills - minimum equipment: all equipment required for a SDI Dive Leader:
 - a. In water, transport a simulated tired diver at a quick pace for 4 minutes.
 - b. Demonstrate a complete rescue scenario satisfactorily.
 - c. Perform underwater skills with and without a mask.
3. Swim on the surface, in full scuba equipment, using the snorkel, 100 Metres.
4. Bring a diver, simulating unconsciousness, up from depth, not greater than 6 Metres/20 Feet; at the surface swim them 100 Metres in less than 4 minutes.
5. Confined water skills:
 - a. Preparation and planning.
 - b. Briefing and debriefing.
 - c. Group control.
 - d. Problem recognition and solving.
 - e. Diving equipment assembly and disassembly.
 - f. Equipment inspection.
 - g. Entries/exits.
 - h. Proper weighting and buoyancy control.
 - i. Snorkel and regulator clearing.
 - j. Regulator recovery.
 - k. Controlled descents and ascents.
 - l. Underwater swimming.
 - m. Mask clearing.
 - n. Buddy system techniques.
 - o. Weight system removal and replacement.
 - p. Out-of-air emergency alternatives.

- q. Equipment care and maintenance.

Open Water Requirements:

1. Minimum of 10 open water dives conducted during DM training, for a minimum time of 20 minutes each. Candidates must have a logged total of 60 logged dives OR 50 logged dives and an accumulated underwater time of 25 hours in order to graduate. At least 30 of these dives shall include as wide a range of environmental factors as possible.
2. Training dives must not exceed 40 Metres/130 Feet.
3. Demonstrate, to an active SDI Instructor in open water, preparation, planning, group control, and problem solving for at least 3 open water diving activities from the topics outlined below.
4. Students must demonstrate all the skills required in previous courses at divemaster quality in leadership level equipment. Skills include:
 - a. Preparation and planning.
 - b. Briefing and debriefing.
 - c. Group control.
 - d. Diving equipment assembly and disassembly.
 - e. Equipment inspection.
 - f. Entries/exits.
 - g. Proper weighting and buoyancy control.
 - h. Snorkel and regulator clearing.
 - i. Regulator recovery.
 - j. Controlled descents and ascents.
 - k. Underwater swimming.
 - l. Mask clearing.
 - m. Buddy system techniques.
 - n. Weight /ballast system removal and replacement.
 - o. Scuba system removal and replacement.
 - p. Problem recognition and solving.
 - q. Out-of-air emergency alternatives.
 - r. Equipment care and maintenance.
 - s. Evaluation of navigational skills both natural and compass.

5. Students must practice and demonstrate, at DM quality, the use of a surface marker buoy (SMB) delayed or permanent.
6. Students must prepare an Emergency Action Plan for a dive site.
7. Students must prepare or draw a site map showing entry/exit point and key features.
8. Upon successful completion of the dives, students must complete their logbooks and the instructor must sign off on the completed dives.

Instructors are required to evaluate all the following skills and the candidate's ability to:

1. Satisfactorily complete the SDI Divemaster written examination, or online version with a minimum score of 80 percent and 100 percent remediation.
2. Complete all water requirements.
3. Demonstrate all skills from the Open Water Scuba Diver course while neutrally buoyant.
4. Demonstrate to an active SDI Instructor the ability to solve in-water and out-of-water diver problems.
5. Demonstrate mature and sound judgment concerning dive planning and execution.
6. Operate as a Divemaster in a wide variety of environments.