SCUBA Diving

Activity scope
This document relates to student participation in any swimming activity below the water surface, using compressed air with self-contained underwater breathing apparatus.

Please note, there are separate guidelines for Snorkelling, Open Water and Snorkelling, Pool.

Special considerations
Two adults with the qualifications listed below must supervise this activity. At least one adult should be in the water. The second adult in the boat will need to be prepared to enter the water at any time.

An appointed dive supervisor is required to manage the dive operation and remain at the surface of the dive site while diving is taking place.

Supervisors should be aware of the Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling - Code of Practice 2011.

Minimum activity-specific qualifications for supervisors
- For a registered teacher, expertise (formal qualifications) in SCUBA diving. The teacher must hold a SCUBA instructor's certificate issued by a SCUBA instructor training organisation which complies with one of the following:
  - the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme (NCAS) standard for SCUBA Diving Coaches (Instructors) published by the Australian Coaching Council Incorporated, OR
  - the World Recreational SCUBA Training Council's Standard – minimum course content for recreational SCUBA instructor certification (USA) published by the Recreational SCUBA Training Council of USA, OR

- For a leader other than a registered teacher, one of the below qualifications:
  - Adults with the qualifications described if only one or no teacher with these qualifications is available:
    - Resort divers
      For SCUBA diving activities such as a non-certificate (resort) course where no SCUBA instruction is being undertaken, an appropriate SCUBA leadership certificate issued by a SCUBA instructor training organisation, OR
    - Entry-level certificate divers
      The leader must hold an appropriate SCUBA instructor's certificate issued by a SCUBA instructor training organisation that complies with the NCAS standard for SCUBA Diving Coaches (Instructors) published by the Australian Coaching Council Incorporated, OR
    - Certificated divers
      The dive supervisor must hold an appropriate SCUBA leadership certificate issued by a SCUBA instructor training organisation.

- If within one hour from definitive medical care, senior first aid qualifications are required.
- If beyond one hour from definitive medical care, an advanced wilderness/remote first aid qualification is required.
- It is recommended that one of the leaders holds an oxygen provider qualification such as Royal Life Saving Queensland’s Oxygen Equipment Resuscitation award.

Activity-specific equipment/facilities
- SCUBA equipment, including air cylinders, which comply with the requirements of Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling – Code of Practice 2011 including assembly, maintenance and use of equipment, and service record.
• A complete set of SCUBA equipment with octopus regulator for rescue operations.
• Dive flags (must be displayed at all dive sites).
• Oxygen equipment capable of delivering (or as near as possible to) 100% oxygen.

Activity-specific hazards/risks and suggested control measures
• Adhere to the Surf Life Saving Queensland Marine Stinger Risk Management Guidelines.
• Assess weather conditions before and during activity (e.g. temperature, storms).
• Select dive location considering the:
  o depth of water
  o tidal flow
  o currents
  o visibility
  o water temperature
  o underwater vegetation
  o marine life
  o protection from watercraft.
• Store and handle air cylinders carefully.
• Comply with the requirements of the Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling – Code of Practice 2011.
• Use a buddy system where two divers ensure they always are diving within a short distance of each other and watch out for one another.
• Divers should be advised:
  o how to adjust and fit masks and fins
  o how to clear water from the mask
  o what to do in the case of equipment failure.
• Check equipment to ensure it is:
  o in safe working condition
  o clean (oral/nasal equipment should be disinfected prior to reuse).
• Continually assess the threat of boats and other sea craft.
• Consult appropriate documents, such as zoning plans produced by the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing or other relevant authority.
• Ensure suitability and competency of students participating.
• Ensure SCUBA equipment is used.

Useful activity-specific links
• Australian Underwater Federation
• Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing – Zoning plans
• Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing – Marine parks management
• National Coaching Accreditation Scheme (NCAS)
• Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling – Code of Practice 2011
• Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011 (Qld)
• World Recreational Scuba Training Council
  http://www.wrstc.com/
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