

SCUBA CLUB

at the

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

SAFETY RULES & REGULATIONS

The SCUBA club at the University of Tennessee safety committee will be composed of any three of the current club officers. It is their duty to insure that all members are familiar with the following safety rules. Failure to follow these rules will be considered a safety violation and will be dealt with according to the guidelines as set forth at the bottom of this document.

Before signing and dating this form at the bottom, each item in this list is to be initialed by the scuba diver, certifying that he/she has read the item and understood its meaning.

As a club member there are several rules that must be followed to insure the safest possible scuba diving. These rules are:

General

1. Each member must have a current release form and waiver on file and have paid all dues for the semester in question before any club equipment can be used.
2. Members should be certified by one of the nationally recognized certifying organizations such as NAUI, PADI, SSI or YMCA. Certification by other agencies will be considered as situations warrant.
3. A club member should be mentally and physically fit for the rigors of diving.
4. Scuba divers should be considerate of others in their pre-dive and post-dive activities.
5. All divers shall be environmentally conscientious both in the water and on the land.

Dive Equipment

6. A club member will dive only **AFTER** the club member has **FULLY** inspected the scuba equipment, whether the equipment is personal or the club's, and is sure it is functioning properly.
7. Dive equipment shall be returned in proper working order. If dive gear has failed during use, this should be pointed out to the club's equipment officer. The member to whom gear is checked out shall be responsible for damage or loss up to the replacement value of the equipment.

8. All dive gear that has been checked out to the club member shall be returned within one week of it having been checked out, unless other arrangements have been approved by the equipment officer or the president.

Dive Planning and Preparation

9. A diver should be prepared to handle diving emergencies in accordance with the level of their training.
10. The first aid kit and oxygen kit are required on all club dives.
11. It is the individual member's responsibility to gain knowledge of an area before snorkeling or diving in the area.
12. Plan all dives. Attempt to solve possible diving problems in advance. Plan your dive - dive your plan.
13. All divers should be familiar with the location of the nearest medical facilities and how to contact them, as well as being able to contact emergency medical services (EMS) and the Divers Alert Network (DAN). It is recommended that SCUBA club divers be members of DAN.
14. All SCUBA club members should strictly adhere to the rules of recreational scuba diving, in accordance with their level of certification, through each member's own personal conduct, behavior and continued diving education.

Diving Activities

15. A club member shall NOT snorkel or dive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
16. A club member shall never snorkel or dive alone.
17. A novice diver shall dive with an experienced diver if possible.
18. The number of dives will be limited to three per day as long as either table or dive computer limits have not been exceeded.
19. No two divers can share one dive computer. If starting a sequence of dives using a dive computer, all dives must be done with the computer. If the computer fails during or subsequent to a dive, the dive day is done. If starting a sequence of dives using dive tables, all dives must be done with the dive tables.
20. No diver shall try to influence any other diver into any dive activity.
21. Any dive is over when either buddy says it is over. No explanations are necessary.
22. Scuba dives shall be within the depth limits that the diver is trained or in training for:

Open Water Scuba Diver Certification – 60 ft.

Advanced Diver Certification – 80 ft.

Master Diver Certification – 100 ft.

Deep Diving Certification – 130 ft.

or to the Maximum Operating Depth for the percentage of oxygen in a Nitrox mix

23. No club function can involve diving for pay and no scuba club equipment may be used for such dives.
24. Scuba activity such as cave diving, ice diving, diving to depths greater than 60 feet, wreck dives in which the wreck is entered, dives in which decompression stops are required, and diving in adverse conditions shall not be done on scuba club equipment unless that specific specialty course has been taken or is being in the process of being taken.
25. When required by circumstances, the scuba activity leader, club officer, or club advisor can require a certified diver to cease diving activities and exit the water. Persons authorized with this power in addition to those mentioned above include but are not limited to: Boat Captain, Divemaster, Assistant Instructor, and Instructor.
26. Divers should be aware of BREATH-HOLDING with scuba equipment. Divers should breath continuously and normally throughout the dive. Exhale continuously on an emergency ascent.
27. All divers will fly a dive flag when divers are in waters that require it, such as navigable waterways.

Nitrox Policies

26. To use Nitrox, the diver must be certified to use Nitrox through one of the previously mentioned agencies or TDI or IANTD, see rule 2.
27. The Nitrox diver must never exceed the Maximum Operating Depth for the Nitrox mix being used, calculated at 1.4 atmospheres absolute of oxygen partial pressure.
28. The Nitrox diver must never exceed an oxygen exposure of 1.4 atmospheres absolute of oxygen partial pressure.
29. The Nitrox diver must never exceed NOAA oxygen limits.
30. Club Nitrox cylinders that have been cleaned for oxygen service may only be filled in house or by Rhea's Diving Services, unless approved by the equipment officer, president, or club advisor in advance.
31. A Nitrox diver is required to personally analyze his or her own Nitrox cylinder(s) for the oxygen percentage of the Nitrox contained in the cylinder. The Nitrox diver must also determine the Maximum Operating Depth for the Nitrox contained in the cylinder. Every Nitrox cylinder is required to be labeled with the diver's name, date, oxygen percentage in the cylinder, and the Maximum Operating Depth. In addition, the Nitrox diver is required to fill out the Fill Station Log for every Nitrox cylinder.
32. A buddy team shall always use the most restrictive or conservative factors for that team.

Violations of these rules will be dealt with in the following manner:

1st Offense: The scuba club member will be suspended from participation in the club.

This includes denial of equipment use. To be readmitted to the club, the suspended member will need to present to the club a presentation concerning the violated rule or regulation.

2nd Offense: Termination from club membership.

I have read and agree to abide by the above safety rules and regulations.

Signature _____ Date / /