

U.B.H.675 Branch Diving Rules

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1. General

For the purpose of these rules, a member shall be defined as a full Branch Member, and full B.S.A.C. Member, and will include any guests diving with the Branch.

1. Acceptance of Branch Membership shall be deemed acceptance of these rules.
2. Application and interpretation of these rules shall be the responsibility of the Diving Officer.
3. In exceptional circumstances outside these rules, it shall be the responsibility of the Diving Officer, or his representative to apply these rules or as nearly as possible with due regard to safety.
4. All branch diving shall be carried out to the recommendations of the B.S.A.C, with regard to all limitation imposed by individuals qualifications.
5. Additions, amendments and deletions to these rules shall be the function of the Diving Committee, of which the Diving Officer shall be the Chairperson and will have right of veto. A two thirds majority shall be required for any alteration to be approved.
6. Approved additions, amendments and deletions shall be forwarded to the Executive Committee by the Diving Officer, for ratification. The Executive Committee may refer any such changes back to the Diving Committee for further discussion.
7. The composition of the Diving Committee and entitlement to vote at the Diving Committee meetings shall be as prescribed in the Constitution.
8. The provision of diver training will be the responsibility of the Training Officer in conjunction with the Diving Officer
9. Diving expeditions are the responsibility of the Diving Officer together with the expedition organiser.
10. Maintenance of Branch equipment is the responsibility of Equipments Officer in conjunction with the Diving Officer.
11. The Diving Officer's assistants and deputies shall be appointed as necessary, in consultation with the Executive Committee.
11. Breaches of the diving rules shall be dealt with in the first instance by the Diving Officer who may refer them to the Executive Committee. Breaches of other branch rules shall be dealt with by the Chairman.
12. These rules shall not apply to members conducting their own private diving activities, and no responsibility for such activities shall be accepted by the Branch or any of it's officers.
13. The Dive Manager will have absolute discretion regarding allowing diving of an individual if it is suspected that the diver is under the influence of alcohol or narcotics.

2. Pool Rules

1. Do not dive into the pool; there may be someone with an aqualung beneath you.
2. Do not use diving equipment in the pool without the permission of the Training Officer or Diving Officer.
3. Do not engage in underwater endurance or breath holding competitions.
4. The pool is roped into two sections, one for free swimming the other for equipment - stay in the appropriate area.
5. Do not impede or interfere with other divers or swimmers.

6. All weights must be coated in plastic or other protective material (eg towelling or in weight pouches) to prevent damage to the tiles.

3. Lifeguards.

1. UBH675 is responsible for lifeguard provision for pool sessions.
2. Suitable qualifications include BSAC Sports Diver, BSAC Snorkel Lifesaver, PADI Rescue Diver or equivalent.
3. UBH675 will keep a record of qualifications with the membership details.
4. A rota to will be provided to provide cover for pool sessions. If a nominated rescue diver cannot attend a session, they must notify the training officer as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements.
4. The ratio of rescue divers to pool users should be 1:15.
5. If fewer than 10 people are using the pool, the rescue diver may be present in the water (ie swimming or training). Rescue divers using the pool must be vigilant to identify and react to any emergency situation.
6. If more than 10 people are using the pool, the rescue diver must remain on poolside in readiness to enter the water at any time.
7. No member is to use the pool without a rescues diver in attendance.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

The rescue diver will signal all pool users to clear the pool.

The rescue diver will enter the water and affect a rescue of the casualty. Other pool users should provide assistance under the direction of the rescue diver.

Reception should be alerted to the emergency at the earliest opportunity.

4. Conduct of Training, Drills, Tests and Exercises

Drills tests and exercises shall be defined as those practical parts of a divers' training requiring assessment, the successful completion of which is recorded in the diver's qualification record.

1. All theory examinations, pool tests and open water drills and exercises shall only be conducted by those divers who have obtained appropriate qualifications through the BSAC instructor training scheme and deputised by the Training Officer. Instructors will be limited to training to the level prescribed by BSAC.
2. Only BSAC qualified instructors shall be eligible to deputise for the Diving Officer in the conduct of such tests etc. as in (1) above.
3. Trainees working towards a diver qualification may taken on experience dives by Dive Leaders and above. Such dives will be approved by the Diving Officer and must be within the experience previously attained by the trainee.
4. No person shall receive instruction in the use of equipment without becoming a member of the British Sub-Aqua Club, unless prior approval is obtained from the Executive Committee. Participation in introductory dives (Try Dives) will be deemed to have prior approval if supervised by a Nationally Qualified Instructor.
5. It shall not be regarded a function of the Branch to provide swimming instruction.
6. Open water training will only be permitted after passing the appropriate pool training, assessments and essential lectures.

5. Use of Branch Equipment.

Maintaining and insuring the Branch equipment is the major expense for the club. These rules are intended to ensure we keep track of the kit and that it is available when members need to use it.

1. No uncoated weights to be used in the pool at any time.
2. Use of Branch cylinders will be charged to a kitty for each pool session, and refills refunded from the kitty. Members making use of cylinder are expected to take responsibility for ensuring they are refilled at reasonable intervals, ie one fill per three pool sessions. We will also try and keep a record of cylinder contents after use.
3. Branch cylinders used for open water training will be issued and returned full. If no full cylinders are available for issue, a

suitable refund will be made from the kitty.

4. Any Branch kit removed from the Morris Centre (including cylinders for fills) will be signed out and back in by a branch officer. Ocean diver trainees will have priority over the use of Branch kit. Where possible, each trainee will be assigned one full set of kit (BCD, regulators, cylinder) which will be for their exclusive use throughout training.

5. Branch kit will be available for use by qualified divers. To encourage members to buy their own equipment and encourage swift return, each item of kit borrowed will be charged at a nominal weekly rate.

6. Any kit not returned within two weeks of issue will incur an additional charge, except by prior arrangement with the committee.

(Suggest prices. Pool cylinders £1 per use, £3 per fill. Club kit £2 per item per week, rising to £5 per item for late returns)

6. Conduct of Open Water Diving Including Trips and Expeditions.

A Branch diving trip shall be defined as any diving activity conducted in open water organised by the Diving Officer or his representative, and available to Branch members with or without restrictions. Dive trips will include unfamiliar commercial inland sites and coastal trips involving boat hire where site selection will make use of the local knowledge of the skipper. Dive expeditions will encompass any trip requiring selection and research of potential dive sites prior to the trip.

1. All open water diving will be conducted under the supervision of a Dive Manager.

2. All open water diving will conform to the BSAC limits on qualifications and experience.

3. Although local dive sites do not require booking, any training may require booking the instructor's time. Do not cancel pre-arranged trips unless it is unavoidable.

7. Dive Trips.

The majority of the Branch's diving relies on commercial boat operators which have to be booked, often many months in advance. The club will be held liable for the cost of any unfilled spaces or cancelled bookings (other than due to weather).

1. The minimum qualification for organising a Dive Trip shall be Sports Diver under the supervision of a Dive Leader.

2. All monies for trips will be deposited in a dedicated Branch expeditions account.

3. A deposit of 50% of the projected cost of a dive trip will be paid within one calendar month of booking to secure a place. The balance of the cost will be paid 2 months before the trip. If a trip is cancelled and incurs the cost of a deposit for the boat, the cost will be shared by the divers who have paid a deposit.

4. Payment of a deposit places responsibility on the member to provide the full payment for the trip, or the provision of a suitably qualified replacement. Unfortunately, illness that prevents diving is not a valid excuse for not paying.

5. Dive trips will be closed as soon as sufficient divers have registered and paid a deposit. This number will be determined and advertised for each trip. Once a trip is closed, names can be added to a reserve list in case individuals drop out of a trip. If no reserve is available, the diver dropping out remains liable for the cost of the trip.

6. Dive trips will be advertised to Branch members and friends of the Branch (individuals and other clubs) as soon as the dates are known, including estimated cost and what accommodation arrangements have been made. Any unfilled spaces on the trip will be offered to other clubs or guests on discussion boards and skippers web-sites. Guests will be subject to the same rules of booking as members.

7. Guest divers will assume responsibility for their own Dive Management and will dive under their own training agency guidelines, unless alternative arrangements are made before the trip. Guests will be responsible for providing their own buddy and insurance, unless alternative arrangements are made before the trip. {need to check on this and our liability for qualification check- also difference between hire boat and our own}

7. Trips will sometimes be restricted above a certain qualification. Bookings will be accepted by less qualified divers who are likely to attain the appropriate qualification before the trip. It will be the trainee's responsibility to ensure the qualification is obtained before the trip.

8. Expeditions.

These are more adventurous trips that require considerable more organisation. Typically they would involve diving at sites not previously visited by the Branch or where Branch members will be responsible for coxing the boat, deciding and locating the dive site.

1. The minimum qualification required to lead a Branch Expedition shall be advanced diver.
2. The Diving Officer shall endeavour to appoint Expedition Leaders who are willing, competent and qualified to lead each specific expedition.
3. The Expedition Leader, in consultation with the Diving Officer shall endeavour to ensure that members of an expedition are competent and qualified to participate in that expedition, and to fulfil any specific duties allotted e.g. coxswain.
4. The rule above regarding bookings and deposits will also apply.