

# **AQUARIUS SUB-AQUA CLUB**

## **Diving Rules and Guidelines**

The clubs rules are kept to a minimum, they cover safety aspects and conditions imposed on the club by the SAA. The intention of the rules is to provide the club members with clear guidelines when planning dives.

1. No dive or diving related activity is allowed unless approval has been obtained, in advance, from the club Diving Officer.
2. All diving activities will be under the control of the Diving Officer or a nominated Dive Marshal in the absence of the Diving Officer.
3. Club Dive Marshal sheets will be completed for every club dive and will be handed to the Diving Officer or nominated club officer for retention after the dive.
4. All trainees and any qualified diver under instruction or assessment in an open water environment must be under the direct supervision of an Open Water Instructor or above.
5. No one below the grade of Club Diver may dive without the direct supervision of a Dive Leader or above.
6. No one under the age of 18 may dive without the direct supervision of an adult nor may they act as dive leader.
7. Dives with planned decompression stops must not be made by divers below the grade of Dive Leader, this does not include the mandatory 1 minute stop at 3 metres required on all dives.
8. Dive depths are restricted as follows;
  - Under 14 years old                      15 metres
  - Under 16 years old                      20 metres
  - Under 18 years old                      30 metres
  - Trainee Diver                              10 metres
  - Elementary Diver                        20 metres
  - Open Water Diver                        25 metres
  - Club Diver                                 35 metres
  - Dive Leader and above                 50 metres

The depths listed above are the maximum allowed after the individual diver has gained sufficient experience, increase in diving depths must always be gradual and build on previous dives.

9. All dives will be planned using the SAA Bühlmann Decompression system and be restricted to using only the air decompression tables, unless the member is a nitrox qualified diver when the SAA Bühlmann Nitrox system may be used.
10. The use of nitrox is only permitted by this club provided the diver holds a SAA(CMAS) nitrox diver award or has registered their nitrox qualification with SAA head office.

The club does not permit the use of mixed gas diving other than oxygen enriched air (Nitrox).
11. All divers should familiarise themselves, including buoyancy checks, with their diving equipment in the swimming pool before using the equipment in open water conditions.
12. No diver will enter the water without first;
  - Advising the Dive Marshall of the dive plan
  - Performing a full buddy check with their dive partner
  - Reviewing signals with their dive partner
  - Providing the Dive Marshall or their assistant with their start of dive details as required on the club dive log sheet – it is the individuals responsibility to ensure that these details are recorded for every dive.

13. On commencement of the dive the diver will signal the start of descent to the shore/boat party
14. On completion of the dive the diver will;
  - Signal OK to the shore/boat party
  - Provide the Dive Marshall or their assistant with their end of dive details
15. The standard separated divers procedure is that a diver should look for their buddy more no more than 60 seconds. If not located within that time a normal safe ascent, including safety stop(s) should be made. This procedure may be altered if agreed between the dive buddies and the Dive Marshall before the dive.
16. When diving in the sea the following should be observed:
  - Each diver must carry a surface detection aid (SDA). One or more of the following is acceptable:
    - Delayed Surface Marker Buoy
    - A folding flag – Yellow is the best colour
    - Electronic Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB)
    - Flares or Distress Smoke
  - When diving from the “Club” RIB a minimum of one Delayed SMB will be carried per buddy team.
  - A delayed SMB must be deployed on ascent unless using a shot/anchor line or SMB.
17. All dives in open water require the diver to have an additional air source as follows:
  - A minimum of an “octopus”.
  - An additional ‘pony’ cylinder of not less that 3 litres is recommend when supervising a trainee diver in open water
  - An additional ‘pony’ cylinder is recommended when diving below 20 metres
  - For dives below 30 metres a ‘pony’ cylinder or twin set must be used.
  - The standard ‘pony’ is likely to prove inadequate below 35 metres and care should be taken to ensure that any air reserve is matched to the dive planned.
18. All club members are expected to act in such a manner so as not to bring the club into disrepute. This includes, but not exclusively, a members behaviour whilst involved in;
  - All diving activities, see SAA Diver’s Code of Conduct
  - Whilst in accommodation or on a camp site booked in the club’s name or directly connected with the club’s name.
  - Social gatherings either undertaken as part of diving activities or as an occasion in its own right.
  - Weekly pool and lecture sessions
  - Regional or National run courses

## 19. SAA DIVER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

### SITES ON SHORE

#### Do:

- **Seek advice** on possible dive sites by contacting the Regional Representative for that area
- **Obtain permission** before diving in private waters, estuaries or harbours.
- **Always obey local bylaws and harbour rules.**
- **Remember other users** and have consideration for them.
- **Use litter bins** or take it home with you.

#### Do not:

- **Overcrowd public beaches.**
- **Obstruct** car parks and slip ways.
- **Leave equipment lying around** on public beaches where it can be a danger to other people.
- **Offend** other beach users by running your compressor within earshot.
- **Spoil the site** by leaving litter.

### YOU AND THE WATER

#### Do:

- **Mark your boats** with your SAA Number for identification purposes.
- **Obtain permission** to launch your boat from the Harbour Master, local yacht club or authorised council officials.
- **Inform the coastguard** of your intentions and book out and in with them.
- **Display the International Code Flag "A"** at ALL times when divers are in the water.
- Whenever practical divers should **use a surface marker buoy** to indicate their position.
- **Obey ALL regulations** regarding the catching of fish and crustaceans.

**Do not:**

- **Dive in shipping fairways** or in traffic congested areas.
- **Dive around fishermen's lobster pots.**
- **Leave the "A" Flag up** when travelling to and from the dive site.

When out in a boat always **keep a look** out for other divers and swimmers and give them plenty of room.

*Infringement of any of these rules can lead to the immediate suspension of the member by the Diving Officer, Dive Marshall, Training Officer or any member of the clubs committee. In the event any member being suspended the members conduct will be reviewed by the committee at the next committee meeting, the member will have the right to be represented at that meeting.*