

## INTRODUCTION

This Section of the manual is intended to assist instructors to achieve a consistent level of Club training. This guide is not a stand-alone training manual and instructors should refer to other sources such as the SAA Instructor Manual and other recognised publications.

## CLUB QUALIFICATION STANDARD & TRAINING SEQUENCE

The Club's qualification standard shall be at least equal to those stated by the SAA (with any additions felt appropriate by the Club). There is no minimum age for the snorkel training but a minimum age of 12 years is required by the Association for SCUBA training and, therefore, to attain the SAA Club Diver qualification. The Club may consider junior applicants between 12 and 18 years of age providing that the club complies with the **SAA Policy for Diving & Young People**

## DIVING QUALIFICATION GRADES

### Elementary Diver Trainee (EDT)

An EDT must complete all pool and relevant classroom training, as set out in the SAA Qualification Record Book and Guidance Manual, to the satisfaction of the Club Diving Officer before being taken on their first open water dive. A trainee must dive with an Open Water Instructor or above and must not dive at a depth greater than **10m**.

### Elementary Diver (ED)

An Elementary Diver is fully pool trained but inexperienced in open water. When diving in open water an Elementary Diver must be accompanied by at least a Dive Leader or higher. If the Elementary Diver is receiving any training or examination during the dive, it must be under the guidance of at least an Open Water Instructor. An Elementary Diver may Dive to a maximum Depth of **20m whilst under Instruction for OWD**.

### Open Water Diver (OWD)

An Open Water Diver has additional practical experience. The Open Water Diver must be accompanied by a minimum of a Dive Leader or higher. If the OWD is receiving any training or examination during the dive, it must be under the guidance of at least an Open Water Instructor. An Open Water Diver may dive to a maximum depth of **35m whilst under Instruction for Club Diver**.

### Club Diver (CD)

A Club Diver is qualified to dive in open water and may dive with other certified to Club Diver or higher. A Club Diver is not considered to have sufficient experience to dive with divers of Elementary or Open Water standards in open water. If the Club Diver is receiving any training or examination during the dive, it must be under the guidance of at least an Open Water Instructor. A Club Diver may dive to a maximum depth of **50m whilst under training for Dive Leader**.

### Dive Leader

A Dive Leader has additional practical experience and knowledge, and has proven their ability to lead divers underwater. A Dive Leader may dive with any grade of certified diver. If the Dive Leader is receiving any training or examination during the dive, it must be under the guidance of at least an Open

Water Instructor. A Dive Leader is not an Instructor and may not instruct in open water unless qualified as an Open Water Instructor or above.

**Dive Supervisor**

A Dive Supervisor is an experienced and responsible diver, with a proven ability to organise and lead diving expeditions. A Dive Supervisor is not an Instructor and may not instruct in open water unless qualified as an Open Water Instructor or above. For further details on the requirements for a Dive Supervisor see section 4.9

**Dive Master**

A Dive Master is a diver who has through nationally organised assessments proven to have a higher level of knowledge and ability. A Dive Master is able to organise a group of divers to achieve major tasks and projects underwater.

**SAA TRAINING & ASSESSMENT**

SCUBA training may commence without the need for Snorkel Training programme, see route 1. However, where individuals experience difficulties with Scuba training the Club may elect to follow the snorkelling training programme i.e. route 2 below:

Route 1	Route 2
1/1. Snorkeller ( <i>optional</i> )	1/2. Snorkeller
2/1. Elementary Diver	2/2. Advanced Snorkeller
3/1. Open Water Diver	3/2. Elementary Diver
4/1. Club Diver	4/2. Open Water Diver
	5/2. Club Diver

This guide lists the minimum assessment standards plus other optional exercises. The trainees may be encouraged to perform as many of these exercises as possible to increase their ability and confidence. Remember, that if a trainee is unable to complete any given skill, in order to ensure that they do not become disheartened, give them a break. Try them with something else in the training programme at which they can succeed, to keep their motivation going and return to the original skill later.

Remember that trainees need only be trained and assessed to the National SAA standard. This is the minimum requirement for each of the given grades. Your Club may elect to extend these grades and to have a higher or extended level of training to suit the needs and requirements of your Club. For this reason additional optional training exercises are included for your guidance. If your Club has an additional drill or theory module which you think the SAA training programme would benefit from please forward it for consideration to the National Diving Officer, care of Head Office or e-mail to [ndo@saa.org.uk](mailto:ndo@saa.org.uk)

**PROGRESSIVE TRAINING**

The exercises are usually a complex combination of simple skills. The instructor must analyse the complex exercises and break them down into a sequence of steps, each of which, when presented in the right order, will be easy for the trainee to master and understand. Don't just run through the full task and expect them to successfully perform it first time.

Many trainees may question the purpose of the exercises. It is important that the practical skills are developed on a foundation of theory; knowing how is quite often dependent upon knowing why.

Be mindful to instruct in a logical order. Tell them what they need to know, and why they need the knowledge, when they need to know it.

## SIGNALS

It is a simple fact that communication underwater is limited. All trainees are expected to learn the full range of Diver-to-Diver and Diver-to-Surface signals, many of which are employed during training. However, there are a number of situations during training where standard signals are not available, and therefore special signals are needed. The Association recommends the use of the CMAS and other recognised hand signals as shown in the SAA Instructor Manual.

## ENRICHED AIR [NITROX]

As long as certain criteria are met, the **SAA** will allow the use of Enriched Air for SCUBA training purposes. These are;

1. The additional theory Modules are covered during training (E10)
2. The Trainees must only dive on Air Tables until they are qualified as EANx Nitrox divers in their own right
3. The trainee must check the oxygen content of their cylinder prior to use.
4. The Instructor or Dive Leader must ensure that the candidate is never exposed to more than 1.4bar ppO<sub>2</sub>.
5. The Instructor or Dive Leader must be Nitrox certified and registered as such with the SAA