

Furness Diving Club – Initial Ocean Diver Training & Try Dive – Risk Assessment

The club's Diving Officer or DO is key to the safe and smooth running of the branch's diving and snorkelling activities.

The DO receives their authority from BSAC's National Diving Officer (NDO) and are to ensure that all diving and training activities are conducted safely and within the standards of the members' qualifications. They authorise all diving activities and assign Dive Managers to assist in controlling these activities.

Because of this level of responsibility, a DO needs to be an experienced diver, have a sound practical and theoretical knowledge of diving and must have zest for the task, patience, sympathy and understanding. Diving Officers need to be an Advanced Diver and ideally also an Open Water Instructor.

Risk Assessments form part of our Safe Diving culture.

This risk assessment, reviewed regularly, covers initial ocean diver training and experience dives plus try dives in pools and well-known sheltered water locations.

Any questions or comments regarding the assessment should in the first instance be addressed to the club's Diving Officer (duncan@hoadhill.co.uk)

Diver Training – Try Dives and initial Pool Training

Initial activities taking place in sheltered water or in the pool like all club diving should follow BSAC Safe Diving Practices ([BSAC's Safe Diving guide - British Sub-Aqua Club](#)). More specifically:

Training will only take place if supervised by BSAC qualified open water instructors who are members of Furness Diving Club. As such they will have completed an annual medical declaration of fitness to dive and will confirm, by their attendance at a training event, that they are fit to dive and instruct on the day.

A SEEDS (Safety, Exercise, Equipment, Discipline and Signals) briefing will take place before entering the pool followed by a Buddy (BAR) check prior to entering the water.

Persons entering the pool using SCUBA equipment should only do so with the permission of the person in charge on the day. The person could be the DO, Chief Training Instructor of a suitably qualified designated instructor.

At least one suitably qualified life guard, provided by the leisure centre, should be on duty before entry into the water. They should be aware and familiar with the activities taking place before them.

Pools should be configured to allow training to take place close to and in clear sight of the life guard.

In the event of a qualified life guard not being available in any particular pool environment a suitably qualified club diver could be asked to provide 'shore cover'. Any club diver should be qualified to Sports Diver standard and be at least 18 years old before being asked to perform any life guarding duties at a pool or in particular sheltered water. Sports diver qualification includes Basic Life Support however, this qualification needs to be regularly refreshed.

Training will only be carried out in small groups and will be supervised by an experienced Open Water Instructor within the ratios approved by BSAC. The club maintains four sets of training equipment on site. Only in date and certified compressed air cylinders are brought into the leisure centre as and when required.

Initial Try dives will have a maximum of two trainees per instructor. Further training, once skill levels are assessed, shall take place with not more than four trainees to one instructor. Trainees having problems with any exercise can be taught on a one-to-one basis.

Any trainee entering the water will have completed and signed a medical declaration and declared themselves fit to dive on the day. The first exercise on taking up training is to demonstrate their affinity to water by carrying out a swim test (OD requirement).

Where possible two club open water instructors will be in the water within the training area whilst training is ongoing to provide mutual oversight. Where only one instructor is available, they will ensure any trainee, under their supervision, is briefed and able to operate a BCD inflator in order to bring any casualty to the surface and know how to release their own and their instructors BCD.

**In the past Apex pool regs have not been serviced in line with manufacturers recommendations. Given a restricted budget and the fact they are tested each week by instructors and trainees during a buddy check, also the fact they are used in warm water and in less than 2m plus with close supervision the risk is considered manageable. 23/5/2023 authority was given to service regulator combos and these have been sent for full services, test and certification...*

Furness Diving Club – Ocean Diver – Try Dive and Initial Ocean Diving Training Risk Assessment
August 2023

Risk Assessment Reviewed January 2023 – Duncan Scott, Diving Officer Furness Diving Club

Hazard	Who	Frequency *	Severity *	Risk evaluation	Controls	Immediate measures to deal with consequences if risk does occur
Heart attack	All	<i>Rare</i>	<i>Fatal</i>	Low	Medical self-declaration / referral to Medical Referee. Defrib on site	BLS by Instructor. Emergency services activation plan.
Slipping on pool surrounds	All	<i>Rare</i>	<i>Moderate injury</i>	Low	No running / jumping in swimming pool area. Fins removed when walking on pool surrounds. Monitoring by Instructor.	Assistance / First Aid by Instructor.
Ear damage	All	<i>Occasional</i>	<i>Moderate injury</i>	Low	Trainees receive specific instruction in 'ear clearing'. Divers or snorkellers do not dive when suffering from a cold. Pool only 2m	Assistance from Instructor or buddy.
Mask Squeeze	Trainees	<i>Rare</i>	<i>Minor injury</i>	Low	Only mask which encloses both eyes and nose in the same airspace used. Trainees receive specific instruction in mask equalisation.	Assistance from Instructor or buddy.
Injury from falling cylinders	All divers	<i>Rare</i>	<i>Moderate injury</i>	Low	Trainees taught to always lay heavy equipment down. Monitoring by Instructor. Assist each other kitting up – correct handling	First Aid by Instructor. Life guard on site
Rapid ascent	All divers	<i>Occasional</i>	<i>Moderate injury</i>	Low	Progressive training. Correct weighting of all divers. Monitoring by Instructor. Pool only 2m deep Instructor / trainee ratios in accordance with BSAC recommendations. Visual datum (wall) used for ascent exercises where appropriate.	Diving monitored by qualified instructors / rescue divers able to provide or direct assistance. Pool / location limited depth
Running out of air / equip failure *	All divers	<i>Rare</i>	<i>Fatal</i>	Low	All SCUBA sets fitted with cylinder pressure gauges. Monitoring by Instructor. Limited time training Instructor / trainee ratios in accordance with BSAC recommendations.	Equipment tested by instructors prior to use. Buddy checks prior to entry into water. All divers carry AS. Time limited activities in warm water
Panic	Trainees	<i>Rare</i>	<i>Moderate injury</i>	Low	Monitoring by Instructor. Instructor/trainee ratios in accordance with BSAC recommendations. Progressive activities	Assistance from Instructor or buddy.
Drowning	All divers	<i>Rare</i>	<i>Fatal</i>	Low	Monitoring by duty life guard / Instructor / Rescue Divers. Monitoring by instructors with trainees Training conducted in depths suitable to skill levels Instructor / trainee ratios in accordance with BSAC recommendations.	Equipment tested prior to use. Buddy Checks prior to water entry. Swim test passed. Assistance from Instructor / buddy. Trainees briefed on actions to take in emergency (Inflator plus BCD removal)

Diver Training – Initial Sheltered Water

Sheltered water training following on from pool training should take place at well-known established locations with easy access, areas offering limited depth, limited surface activity and without silt / muddy bottoms to avoid visibility being compromised. Buoys / SMBs should be deployed in the area being used if any boat traffic might be suspected and also to provide a visual reference.

A dynamic assessment needs to take place for each dive taking into account weather and any other local circumstances.

Initial activities taking place in sheltered water should follow BSAC Safe Diving Practices. Training will only take place if supervised by qualified instructors.

Dive leaders and above may accompany trainees and carry out reinforcement training once an instructor has demonstrated a skill and the trainee demonstrated initial competence within an appropriate environment. A SEEDS dive briefing will take place before entering the water followed by a Buddy (BAR) check prior to entering the water.

A Dive Manager will have been appointed for the club activity / location and a Dive Plan / Dive Log completed. Daily dive logs should be returned to the branch DO for record keeping.

Persons entering the water for initial SCUBA training should only do so with the permission of the dive manager and person in charge of training on the day. The person could be the DO, Chief Training Instructor or a suitably qualified designated instructor.

Initial sheltered water training should ideally take place on a one-to-one basis whilst weight and good buoyancy are established. Further training, once skill levels are assessed, shall take place with not more than four trainees to one instructor. Trainees having problems with any exercise can be taught on a one-to-one basis.

Any trainee entering the water will have completed and signed a medical declaration and declared themselves fit to dive on the day.

A generic risk assessment suitable for most lake based / training activities along with a dynamic risk assessment / dive log are held on line. [Documents - Furness Diving Club \(bsac61.com\)](https://bsac61.com). A dive plan will detail further considerations when diving out other locations.

**In the past the Mares open water regs have not been serviced in line with manufacturers recommendations. Limited financial resources prevented this. This does present a heightened risk to open water users particularly in colder conditions. Regs are tested by instructors prior to use and by trainees during buddy checks. Close monitoring by instructors during dives in limited depths (6m), avoiding cold water winter diving and ensuring regulators not left in cars / outdoors overnight mitigate the risk. All divers carry AS. 23/5/2023 authority was given to service regulator combos and these have been sent for full services, test and certification.*

Furness Diving Club – Ocean Diver Sheltered Water Risk Assessment
June 2023

Risk Assessment Reviewed January 2023 – Duncan Scott, Diving Officer Furness Diving Club

	Who	Frequency *	Severity *	Risk evaluation	Controls	Immediate measures to deal with consequences if risk does occur
Heart attack	All	Rare	Fatal	Medium	Medical self-declaration / referral to Medical Referee. FA, Defrib and O2 on site where possible.	BLS by Instructor. Emergency services activation plan.
Ear damage	All	Occasional	Moderate injury	Medium	Trainees receive specific instruction in 'ear clearing'. Divers or snorkellers do not dive when suffering from a cold. Declared fit and well. Limited water depths used	Assistance from Instructor or buddy. Slow ascents and descents – initially stop at 3m – SEEDs briefing.
Mask Squeeze	Trainees	Rare	Minor injury	Low	Only mask which encloses both eyes and nose in the same airspace used. Trainees receive specific instruction in mask equalisation.	Assistance from Instructor or buddy.
Injury from falling cylinders	Trainees	Rare	Moderate injury	Low	Trainees taught to always lay heavy equipment down. Monitoring by Instructor. Assist each other kitting up	First Aid by Instructor.
Running out of air / equipment failure *	All divers	Occasional	Fatal	Medium	All SCUBA sets fitted with cylinder pressure gauges. Monitoring by Instructor. Instructor / trainee ratios in accordance with BSAC recommendations.	Equipment tested by instructors prior to use. Buddy checks prior to entry into water. All divers carry AS. Time limited activities
Rapid ascent	All divers	Occasional	Fatal	Medium	Progressive training. Correct weighting of all divers. Monitoring by Instructor. Instructor / trainee ratios in accordance with BSAC recommendations. Visual datum used for ascent exercises where appropriate.	Where possible diving monitored by shore / boat cover able to provide / direct assistance. Oxygen Administration equipment and trained administrators on site. Limited depths 6m
Entanglement in nets/lines/underwater obstructions	All divers	Rare	Fatal	Medium	All divers carry appropriate cutting implement, such as filament line cutter, wire snips, diving knife, etc. Instructor control. Select suitable training sites.	Assistance from buddy / Instructor. Well known sites chosen.
Diver Separation	All Divers	Occasional	Fatal	Medium	Divers to dive in buddy pairs at all times with instructor supervision. Limited numbers. Contact to be maintained throughout the dive. Only used limited depth dive sites. Buddy lines carried Cancel dive in poor viz / poor weather	Divers to surface immediately. Re-establish contact. Render assistance as required. Apply first aid or hospitalise as required.
Reduced underwater visibility	All Divers	Frequent	Major Injury	High	Diver numbers in water to be controlled and monitored. Only used limited depth dive sites Limited numbers divers together Divers to carry strobes and buddy lines on all dives. Cancel dive in poor viz / poor weather	Strobes & buddy lines items to be used in the event of the onset of reduced visibility. Dive to be abandoned in the event of adverse reduced visibility. Divers to surface and exit. Dive Manager / Instructor to abort diving.
Trips/Slips & Tumbles – ROAD Traffic	All	Occasional	Minor Injury	Medium	Dive Manager to advise all divers of no running on site. Caution road traffic / bikes . Make party aware of uneven surfaces and trip hazards. Any roads to cross or bad steps	Remove casualty from danger and provide appropriate first aid. Hospitalise, as required.

BSAC Public Liability – Third Party Insurance

Public Liability for legal liability to pay compensation (including legal costs) for death or bodily injury, or damage to third party property arising in the course of activities as a BSAC member or a BSAC Instructor, provided that you are operating within your BSAC or other agency qualification.

There is an extension for 'Member to Member' liability included within the policy should you injure/cause the death of another BSAC member. There is an additional extension for 'Indemnity to Principals', which covers damage to any premises you may hire from a third party.

The following activities are included (but this list is not exhaustive):
Diving, Training, Club diving trips, Club officers' insurance, Club social/fundraising events, Exhibitions, Try dives, Compressor operation, Rebreather diving

The limit of indemnity for third party liability is £10,000,000.

As this is a civil liability policy, the current policy does not include liability arising from some deliberate criminal acts, but does include legal defence costs relating to non-deliberate manslaughter, corporate manslaughter & culpable/involuntary homicide, in relation to a diving activity/incident, for clubs and members.

This policy applies anywhere in the world but currently excludes these UK sanctioned countries; Iran, Syria, Crimea, Ukraine, Russia. This means that members are not covered to dive in these countries but any member living in these countries (if they are UK domiciled i.e., have a UK address) are covered to dive anywhere else that the policy cover applies. In addition, North America (USA & Canada) are excluded.

Whilst this policy covers you for your liability whilst diving on trips, this is not a travel policy.

Clubs in the UK are covered for anyone they have diving with them (to see how they like the club before becoming a member) for seven visits in any one insurance year. Please note guest insurance is not included for overseas clubs.

Any insurance related questions to be addressed to Wendy Meadows
email wendym@bsac.com or call 0151 350 6226 (Mon-Fri 09:00-17:00)



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Email: info@drpyork.com

Combined Liability Policy

Certificate of Insurance

Note	The information provided is based on the insurance arrangements at the time of writing. Alterations may occur during the period of cover. Any expiry date shown represents the normal expiry date of the policy. In some circumstances, such as in the event of non-payment of premiums due, cancellation could occur before the normal expiry date.	
Broker & FCA Number	David Roberts & Partners (York) Ltd - 11894029	
The Insurer	Allianz Global & Syndicate 2525	
The Insured	British Sub Aqua Club and BSAC International Ltd including Clubs and Members	
Postal Address	British Sub Aqua Club Telfords Quay Ellesmere Port United Kingdom CH65 4FL	
Business	UK national governing body for the sport of recreational underwater activities	
Period of Insurance	1st June 2023 – 31 st May 2024	
Employers Liability	£ 10,000,000	(Any One Event)
Public Liability	£ 10,000,000	(Any One Occurrence)
Products Liability	£ 10,000,000	(Any One Period of Insurance)
Professional Indemnity	£ 1,000,000	(Any One Period of Insurance)
Policy Number	PLON99/0096125 & B190350221073	
Wording	Subject to the normal terms, conditions & exceptions of the Insurer's standard policy wording.	
Additional Information	Indemnity to the Principal is operative Cover includes costs and expenses in respect of Member-to-Member Liability, Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide.	

If you require further information on this certificate, please contact David Roberts & Partners (York) Ltd, Heritage House, Murton Way, Osbaldwick, York, YO19 5UW Tel : 01904 221922 Mail: info@drpyork.com