



DEPARTMENTAL POLICY AND PROCEDURE SCUBA DIVING TRAINING

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POLICY

It is the policy of the Gold Coast Performance Centre (GCPC) that Scuba Diving training is performed safely and in line with "Recreational diving, recreational technical diving and snorkelling code of practice" as well as the "Department of Education Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment for SCUBA diving."

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that any Scuba Diving that takes place in the GCPC pools is run by trained and qualified professionals and that all safety precautions are in place to avoid any injuries or drownings in the water.

PROCEDURE

All groups that book confined water scuba diving sessions are required to read, understand and sign off on the GCPC's terms and conditions before they can train or host a course in the pool.

Group Sales/Accommodation will allocate a lane for the booking, which will be shown on our pool allocation TV and written on the whiteboards by the Lifeguard on duty.

Risks

- Risk of drowning associated with lack of supervision
- Risk of harm associated with lack of supervision
- Risk of patrons / clients not identifying correct number of participants
- Risk of patrons / clients not wanting to abide by Scuba Diving Policy
- Risk of patrons causing damage to pools by not using rubber mats to protect



The **dive supervisor** must adhere to the requirements of the Recreational diving, recreational technical diving and snorkelling—code of practice 2018, Guidelines for managing risks in recreational water and Diving and snorkelling laws—standard operational practice 2017.

Participants must adhere to all rules and advice communicated by local lifeguard, facility operator/owner and any safety signage at the facility/location.

Participants must not dive alone.

Confirmation of student water safety and swimming competence is required prior to participation. The process is determined by the organiser/school and must consider the specific aquatic environments in which the activity will take place. Consult the sequence of competency water safety and swimming education program for support in determining age-appropriate suitability and consider student self-rescue skills in the specific aquatic environment.

Supervision

Sufficient qualified supervision must be provided to manage the activity safely (including emergency situations).

The certified instructor is responsible for student supervision. The correct ratios of student to instructor must be adhered to as per the industry standards.

Note: GCPC Lifeguard services are not considered as supervisors of the activity.

Specific roles for supervisors must include recovery, emergency and general supervision roles. All supervisors must be able to identify, and respond to, risks or hazards that may emerge during the activity including the ability to:

- recover a participant from the water
- operate signalling devices needed in a duress situation, such as GCPC emergency phone.

The number of adult supervisors required to fulfil emergency and supervision roles must consider the nature of the activity, ratio requirements, students' ages, abilities and specialised learning, access and/or health needs. The Recreational diving, recreational technical diving and snorkelling—code of practice 2018 must be consulted for regulations regarding guides and lookouts.

Do not leave student divers unattended, either at the surface or underwater.

During the activity, all supervisors:

- must be readily identifiable
- must closely monitor students with health support needs
- must suspend the activity if the conditions become unfavourable



At no time, should students be relied upon to recover a person in difficulty.

Supervisor qualification

To qualify as a Supervisor:

- An experienced dive instructor (if required for type of dive) with a SCUBA Instructor qualification, such as SISOSCB010—Lead SCUBA diving activities or equivalent) and certification from a recreational dive training association, for example PADI which complies with The World Recreational SCUBA Training Council's course content as a recreational dive instructor.
- An experienced dive supervisor with certification from a recreational dive training association, which complies with The World Recreational SCUBA Training Council's course content as a recreational dive supervisor.
- An adult who holds current first aid qualifications including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Facilities and equipment

The organiser of the activity, in consultation with GCPC staff, determines the requirements for facilities and equipment appropriate to the local context.

Location must be suitable for the activity being undertaken to ensure safe participation and that safety rules and procedures can be followed. Organiser must undertake a reconnaissance of the GCPC pool to ascertain suitability prior to holding a course. Diving area of an appropriate depth, considering student age and ability, must be clearly defined. Organiser to adhere to GCPC terms and conditions, follow pool signage and pool allocations.

Participants must wear personal protective equipment (PPE) as relevant for the location and conditions (e.g. sunscreen). Consider using the same colour fins or masks, or attaching coloured ribbons/high-visibility wrist bands for medically at-risk students (e.g. asthma, anaphylaxis) if appropriate.

All Scuba equipment must be available and comply with the requirements of Recreational diving, recreational technical diving and snorkelling—code of practice 2018.

Equipment must conform to Australian Standards specifications, be properly maintained, hygienic, in good working condition, fit for purpose, correctly fitted and used as intended in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Oral/nasal equipment must be disinfected prior to use by another person.

Equipment must be sized to match the ability and strength of students.

Use student-owned equipment (e.g. masks), if possible, and maintain hygienic practices.

Ensure adequate drinking water and shade is available for the duration of the activity.



It is the responsibility of the Organiser to use matting around the pool for the oxygen tanks to ensure the tanks to not chip the tiles. All tanks must have suitable boots.

The Scuba School must provide a copy of insurance to GCPC?

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