

## 16. Full Face Mask Diver

### 16.1 Introduction

The purpose of this course is to train divers with the necessary procedures, knowledge and skills to safely dive with a full face mask.

### 16.2 Who May Teach

An active SDI Instructor that has been certified to teach this specialty

### 16.3 Student to Instructor Ratio

#### Academic

1. Unlimited, so long as adequate facility, supplies and time are provided to ensure comprehensive and complete training of the subject matter

#### Confined Water (swimming pool-like conditions)

1. A maximum of 8 students per instructor

#### Open Water (ocean, lake, quarry, spring, river or estuary)

1. A maximum of 8 students per instructor; it is the instructor's discretion to reduce this number as conditions dictate

### 16.4 Student Prerequisites

1. SDI Open Water Scuba Diver or equivalent
2. Minimum age 18, 15 with parental consent

### 16.5 Course Structure and Duration

#### Open Water Execution

1. Two dives are required with complete briefs and debriefs by the instructor
2. Dive plan must include surface interval, maximum no-decompression time, etc. to be figured out and logged

#### Course Structure

1. SDI allows instructors to structure courses according to the number of students participating and their skill level

## 16.6 Administrative Requirements

### Administrative Tasks:

1. Collect the course fees from all the students
2. Ensure that the students have the required equipment
3. Communicate the schedule to the students
4. Have the students complete the:
  - a. *SDI Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk Form*
  - b. *SDI Medical Statement Form*

### Upon successful completion of this specialty the instructor must:

1. Issue the appropriate SDI certification by submitting the *SDI Diver Registration Form* to SDI Headquarters or registering the students online through members area of the SDI website

## 16.7 Required Equipment

Basic open water scuba equipment as described in section three of this manual in addition to the full face mask

## 16.8 Approved Outline

### Optional Material

*ERDI Full Face Mask Student Manual* or elearning  
*ERDI Full face Mask Knowledge Quest* or elearning  
*ERDI Full Face Mask Instructor Guide*

**Instructors may use any additional text or materials that they feel help present these topics. The following topics must be covered:**

1. Purpose
  - a. Diver safety
  - b. Communications
2. Advantages
  - a. Increased diver safety
    - i. Contaminated water
    - ii. Winter diving
  - b. Communications
  - c. Corrective lenses
3. Disadvantages
  - a. Increased air consumption
  - b. Buoyancy
  - c. Bulky

4. Types
  - a. Appropriate/Inappropriate
  - b. Scuba quick connect/disconnect
  - c. Surface supplied
5. Techniques/Procedures
  - a. Donning
    - i. In water vs. out of water
    - ii. Strap adjustment
    - iii. Skirt seal
  - b. Diving with a full face mask
    - i. Equalization
    - ii. Buoyancy
    - iii. Removal and replacement underwater
    - iv. Alternate air source use
    - v. Spare mask
    - vi. Surface options
    - vii. Surface valve
6. Underwater Communications
  - a. Types of communication equipment
    - i. Push-to-talk (PTT)
    - ii. Voice activated (VOX)
    - iii. Hardwire/Tether
    - iv. Battery Failure
7. User/Field Maintenance and Care
8. Authorized servicing/preventive maintenance
9. After use

## 16.9 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

Students are required to successfully complete the following:

1. Open Water Dive 1
  - a. Dive plan
  - b. Equipment set up
  - c. Proper weighting
  - d. Equalization techniques
  - e. Clearing a partially flooded mask
  - f. Remove and replace full face mask underwater
  - g. Ascent and exit
  - h. Log dive
2. Open Water Dive 2
  - a. Dive plan
  - b. Remove mask and utilization of alternate air source
  - c. Alternate air source ascent
  - d. Ascent and exit
  - e. Log dive
  - f. Proper donning and adjustment
  - g. Establish buoyancy and demonstration of buoyancy control
  - h. Successfully switch to a back up mask
  - i. On the surface switching from open to close
  - j. Free Flowing Full Face Mask