

5. Scubility Surface Buddy Program

5.1 Introduction

This program is designed to provide suitably qualified surface assistants for the physically disabled diver.

5.2 Qualifications of Graduates

1. This is a non-diving qualification; the SDI Surface Buddy certification card is available after graduation.

5.3 Who May Teach

An active SDI Scubility Instructor.

5.4 Student to Instructor Ratio

Academic:

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

Confined Water (swimming pool-like conditions):

1. A maximum of 6 students per instructor.
2. Instructors have the option of adding 2 more students with the assistance of an active SDI Scubility trained Divemaster or Assistant Instructor.
3. The total number of students an instructor may have in the water is 10 with the assistance of 2 SDI Scubility trained Divemasters or Assistant Instructors.

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

1. A maximum of 6 students per instructor.
2. Instructors have the option of adding 2 more students with the assistance of an active SDI Scubility trained Divemaster or Assistant Instructor.
3. The total number of students an instructor may have in the water is 10 with the assistance of 2 SDI Scubility trained Divemasters or Assistant Instructors.

5.5 Student Prerequisites

1. Minimum age 18, 16 with parental consent.

2. Demonstrate comfort and adequate swimming skills.

5.6 Course Structure and Duration

Confined Water execution:

1. Training depth must not exceed 2 Metres/6 Feet.
2. One dive is required, the second dive is optional.
3. All sessions must be completed during daylight hours and with adequate lighting conditions.

Course Structure:

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

Duration:

1. The suggested number of training hours is 8.

5.7 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 the course the instructor must:

1. Issue an SDI Experience card (optional).

5.8 Required Equipment

Exposure protection suitable for the local diving environment with mask, fins and snorkel.

5.9 Required Subject Areas

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

1. History of Diving.
2. The Aquatic Environment:
 - a. Marine environment.
 - b. Marine life.
3. Physics and Physiology:
 - a. Buoyancy.
 - b. Pressure.
 - c. Air spaces:
 - i. Equalization techniques.
 - ii. Lung over-expansion problems.
 - d. Breathing air under pressure.
4. Scuba Equipment:
 - a. Mask, fins and snorkel.
 - b. Exposure protection:
 - i. Wetsuits.
 - c. Buoyancy compensator device (BCD).
 - d. Regulator:
 - i. Primary regulator.
 - ii. Alternate air source.
 - e. Cylinders.
 - f. Weight systems.
 - g. Underwater instruments.
 - h. Submersible pressure gauge (SPG):
 - i. Dive computers.
 - ii. Depth gauges.
 - i. Accessories.
 - j. Dive flag.

5.10 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

The required skills should be performed on a pool or boat deck in a confined and open water diving environment.

1. Equipment assembly/disassembly and adjustment.
2. Weight system assembly/adjustment with proper weighting.
3. Suiting up and de-suiting.
4. Pre-dive check of buddy.
5. Use of mask, fins and snorkel.
6. Entries – assistance with:
 - a. Controlled seated.
 - b. Back roll.
 - c. Giant stride.
7. Equipment – Suiting-up of diver in the water.
8. Equipment removal in the water.
9. Exits – assistance with:
 - a. Shallow water.
 - b. Deep water exit.
10. Tired diver tows.
11. Surface communication, assistance.
12. Dive planning – help with use of personal dive computer (PDC) and logging of dives.

In order to complete this course, students must:

1. Demonstrate mature and sound judgment concerning snorkel planning or dive planning and execution.