

10. Scubility Dive Buddy Program

10.1 *Introduction*

The SDI Scubility Dive Buddy certification program is designed to develop the knowledge and necessary skills for an individual to effectively perform as a dive buddy for a physically disabled diver. The practical skills developed are the same as for the SDI Scubility Instructor, making the dive buddy course an important step in the development process.

10.2 *Qualifications of Graduates*

Upon successful completion of this course, graduates may:

1. Upon successful completion of this course, graduates are able to conduct dives with physically disabled divers.
2. Upon successful completion on this course, SDI Assistant Instructors are able to function as a Scubility Assistant. SDI Open Water Scuba Diving Instructor are eligible to enroll in the upgrade course to become a Scubility Instructor.

10.3 *Who May Teach*

An active SDI Scubility Instructor.

10.4 *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 8 students per instructor.
2. Instructors have the option of adding 2 more students with the assistance of an active divemaster or assistant instructor for a total of 10 students.

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

1. A maximum of 8 students per instructor are allowed; it is the instructor's discretion to reduce this number as conditions dictate.
2. Instructors have the option of adding 2 more students with the assistance of an active divemaster or assistant instructor for a total of 10 students.

10.5 Student Prerequisites

1. Minimum age 18, 16 with parental consent.
2. Provide proof of:
 - a. Current CPR and first aid certification.
 - b. Rescue diver certification.

OR

- a. Advanced Adventure Diver or equivalent with 40 logged.

10.6 Course Structure and Duration

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 20.
2. Of the suggested 20 hours, 12 of the suggested hours should be performed in confined and/or open water conditions.
3. Students must complete 4 confined or open water dives. *
4. Training depth must be between 3 to 18 Metres/9 to 60 Feet; the maximum depth may not exceed 18 Metres/60 Feet.
5. All dives must be completed during daylight hours, or under conditions that simulate daylight conditions.
6. Upon successful completion of the dives, the students must complete their logbooks and the instructor must sign off on the completed dives.

*** If open water dives are not conducted, 1 open water site orientation must be conducted. The orientation must include best entry and exit procedures for disabled diver, site considerations – parking, sun exposure, restroom facilities, etc.**

10.7 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 the appropriate SDI certification by submitting the *SDI Diver Registration* Form to SDI Headquarters or registering the students online through member's area of the SDI website.

10.8 Required Equipment

Basic open water scuba equipment as described in section three of this manual.

10.9 Required Subject Areas

The following topics must be covered, by the instructor, during this course:

1. Background Information:
 - a. Instructor Awareness.
 - b. Public Acceptance.
 - c. Lifestyle and personality.
 - d. Social Integration.
2. Common Medical Conditions and Disabilities:
 - a. Amputations.
 - b. Asthma.
 - c. Cerebral Palsy.
 - d. Diabetes.
 - e. Epilepsy.
 - f. Hearing Disorders.
 - g. Muscular Dystrophy.
 - h. h. Motor Neuron.
 - i. Multiple Sclerosis.
 - j. Sight Impairment.
 - k. Spinal Injuries.
 - l. Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD).

- m. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).
 - n. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).
 - o. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
 - p. Autistic Spectrum.
3. Common Terms:
- a. Impairment.
 - b. Disability.
 - c. Handicap.
4. Diving Environment:
- a. Confined Water.
 - b. Open Water.
5. Accessibility:
- a. Access to confined water.
 - b. Access to open water.
 - c. Liability and related legal considerations.

10.10 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

In order to complete this course, the required skills should be performed on a pool or boat deck in a confined and/or open water diving environment.

1. Sight impaired diver; show proficiency at giving and receiving tactile signals.
2. Complete 2 open water dives as a dive buddy, 1 sight impaired, 1 paraplegic.
3. Complete 2 open water dives as a student, 1 sight impaired and 1 paraplegic.
4. Complete 1 confined water training session with sight impaired diver (real or simulated).
5. Equipment assembly/disassembly and adjustment.
6. Weight system assembly/adjustment with proper weighting.
7. Suiting up and de-suiting.
8. Pre-dive check of self and buddy.
9. Use of mask, fins and snorkel.
10. Entries; assistance with controlled seated, back roll, giant stride entries.
11. Equipment; suiting up of diver in the water.

SDI Standards and Procedures

Part 5: Scubility Standards

12. Equipment; removal of diver's equipment in the water.
13. Exits; assistance with shallow water and deep water exits.
14. Tired diver tows.
15. Communication; show good communication/understanding skills on surface and at depth.
16. Dive planning; use of tables and PDC, logging of dives.
17. Demonstrate sound judgment in dive site suitability planning.
18. Demonstrate mature and sound judgment concerning dive emergency planning and execution.
19. Complete all open water requirements safely and efficiently.
20. Complete a panicked diver rescue drill (surface).
21. Complete a distressed diver rescue drill (at depth).
22. Be seen to be having fun during the course.