

Seahorse Dive Club Rules

2008

Membership

There shall be four categories of membership:

- Full
- Junior
- Student
- Social

Only Full Members shall have voting rights at an EGM or AGM although Junior Members may put forward proposals for discussion.

Annual membership fees shall be paid annually on 1 April by the first full committee meeting immediately following the Annual General Meeting.

Fees for all grades of membership will be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee shall maintain an up-to-date register of all members.

Finance

The Treasurer may hold a Petty Cash float for the day to day running of the Club but must seek approval of the Committee for any expenditure in excess of £300.

The Treasurer is authorised to release information in response to an enquiry by a Full Member regarding the balances of any and all club accounts. The Treasurer is to notify the Committee of such enquiries at the next Committee meeting.

The Club shall share the cost of hiring the Ridgeway School Swimming Pool each evening with the White Horse Diving School.

All Members are encouraged to make use of the facilities; non-members may be invited as guests of members.

Pool Etiquette

For diving practice unless otherwise stated.

All full members may use the pool free of charge for diving or swimming as they wish. Members immediate family may swim only, free of charge. Only club members may use scuba equipment. Qualified prospective members, obtaining permission from a member of the Committee, may have one free dive. Guests of members may be allowed to swim only, at the discretion of committee members present. Guests shall be charged a sum to be agreed by the Committee for swimming.

Access to the pool may be limited if overcrowding threatens a safe environment or prevents divers from carrying out planned training. An Open Water Scuba Instructor, Assistant Instructor, Divemaster or a Committee member present will decide if access should be limited, and in this event swimmers shall be the first to be requested to leave the pool.

No unqualified person unless under the instruction and in the supervision of an instructor, assistant instructor or divemaster should be breathing compressed air during the clubs pool session.

Code of Practice

- Divers shall have priority
- Viewing from the main door to the pool, divers should surface to the right of the pool wherever possible.
- Swimmers should keep to the left side of the pool.
- Parents are fully responsible for the safety, behaviour & good manners of their children.

Diving Code of Practice

No Club Member diving under the auspices of the Seahorse Dive Club, no matter how qualified, may dive alone. Two suitably qualified divers shall be the minimum composition of any Dive Club dive party.

Club Divers shall always be personally responsible for ensuring that they are suitably trained and qualified for any dives undertaken as part of a Club activity.

All persons wishing to dive with the Club may be required to produce Certification and Log Book evidence of diving qualification and experience to the dive leader prior to a dive expedition.

Seahorse Dive Club Members will ensure that they are physically fit for diving, or suspend their diving activity until fit again. If a diver has any doubt, the diver must seek medical advice before recommencing diving activities.

All Members diving under the auspices of the Club shall first complete a form, provided by the Committee, certifying their medical fitness and indemnifying the Club from any claims arising from diving activities. The Committee shall maintain records of all indemnity forms. Parents of Junior Members shall complete indemnity forms on behalf of their children.

Junior Members, regardless of their qualifications and level of training shall always be required to "Buddy" with, and dive under the direct control of an Adult member of the Club.

Leaders of properly authorised Dive Club expeditions shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that divers on their expedition fully understand and follow the codes of practice and safe diving standards promulgated by a properly constituted and formally recognised diving organisation. (e.g. PADI, BSAC, NAUI, SSI etc)

Leaders shall ensure that all divers on the expedition receive a formal "dive briefing" and have sufficient information to prepare full and safe dive plans.

Leaders shall ensure the safety of divers on their expedition, however, individual divers shall ultimately be held fully responsible for their own safety and, as far as reasonably possible, for the safety of their nominated "Buddy".

Leaders shall always ensure that full details of the intended dive are left with a responsible person who can raise the alarm in the event of divers failing to return by the agreed time.

Club members are to carry their Club Membership identity card at all times whilst taking part in any Club organised activity.

Club members are to wear their Club Membership identity disc at all times whilst engaged in a Club organised diving expedition.

The Skipper of a boat, the Dive Leader and responsible Instructor are required to assume full responsibility for the safety and safe diving practices of all divers in training whilst engaged in a diving expedition at the same time as members of the Seahorse Diving Club.

Boat Etiquette

Seahorse Dive Club accepts no responsibility for:

- Personal injury of a diver
- Death of a diver
- Loss of, or damage to personal diving equipment and property.

All divers are to abide by the PADI Standards for Safe Diving Practices or Codes of Practice and Safe Diving Standards promulgated by a properly constituted and formally recognised diving organisation. (e.g. BSAC, NAUI, SSI etc).

The responsibility for ensuring adequate personal preparation for a dive rests with the individual diver and NOT the boat skipper/dive leader.

The dive leader or boat skipper reserves the right to cancel a dive if he/she has any doubts about a divers ability or health.

Divers shall be individually responsible for the safe storage and handling of their equipment.

Divers are required to assist in the transportation, launching, retrieval and running of the boat, at the discretion of the skipper.

Dive plans, including entry and exit procedures, established and agreed with the skipper/dive leader, are to be followed unless conditions become unsafe to do so.

Divers are to familiarise themselves with the location and operation of safety equipment, including oxygen and radio/emergency systems.

Divers who are not in the water are to be prepared to assist other divers with entry and exit procedures.

All Club members are advised to wear a buoyancy control device at all times whilst travelling to and from a dive site via a Rigid Inflatable Boat.