

## **4D Diving and Adventures Safety Protocol Revised June 11, 2020**

The Safety Policy as posted on this Web site shall be considered the current and accurate version and is subject to change. For other policies, standards or constitution please contact us.

1. General: When attending any or all 4D Diving and Adventures functions all Members and their guests whether they are divers or non-divers must adhere to all 4D Diving safety protocol as well as NAUI guidelines and standards. In addition any charter boat policies must be followed, should they be applicable. It is never an acceptable option to be present at a 4D Diving activity and opt out of the protocol, policies and guidelines or to state that you are not with 4D Diving and Adventures.
2. Briefings: A 4D official Dive Master appointed by the Chief Dive Master or Chief Instructor will provide pre-dive and post dive briefings for all water based activities. The post dive briefings may include the completion of log books. All divers must stop what they are doing and listen to the briefings. Briefings cover off safety matters and are mandatory. In addition these briefings will provide specific information about the dive and general information about other important club activities. In order to become an official 4D Diving Divemaster, you must successfully complete both the Teaching Assistant Course as well as an Advanced / Enhanced Divemaster knowledge and skills course. Both of these will include an exam.
3. Club Sanctioned Dives means that one of our 4D official Dive Masters or Instructors will be present. Club dives will be posted on the website and/or emailed to members at least 48 hours before the dive will take place. Any dive posted without a 4D Diving official Dive Master or Instructor will be considered a non-club sanctioned dive and will be indicated as such. In these cases the divers are considered to be out on their own and this will not be a 4D Diving activity.
4. Depth: The diver agrees not to exceed 130 feet in depth. Basic Scuba Diver or Open Water Divers agree not to exceed 60 feet in depth. On Dives where an appointed 4D Diving official Dive Master in charge has set a maximum depth and time they shall not be exceeded by any diver.
5. The DM may hang a Safety Bottle (hang bottle / tank with regulators) for all boat dives deeper than 80 feet for emergency use but it is the divers' responsibility to plan their air consumption.
6. No-Decompression:
  1. The diver using tables agrees to use the DCIEM based - No Decompression Diving Limits for all Group dives. On Dives where there is a Group appointed 4D official Dive Master in charge, maximum limits will be set for No Decompression Diving Limits using the currently published NAUI, ACUC or PADI Sport Diving tables. All divers cannot go longer or deeper than these limits but the diver is responsible for setting their own safety limits providing that they set them at or below the maximum as established.
  2. Divers using computers agree to confirm their use and permission to base your dive on them from the appointed official 4D Diving Dive Master in charge. The appointed official 4D Diving Dive Master in charge has the right to overrule any dive plan based on a computer in favour for the currently published NAUI, ACUC or PADI Sport Diving tables. This decision is final and his or her responsibility.

3. Keeping track of non-decompression limits for groups is not easy and will be done so as to provide the safest overall dive for all divers concerned.
7. Diver Recall: The 4D Diving Official Dive Master will announce the diver recall method and device to be used on all group sanctioned dives as a form of recall. Upon hearing the signal all divers must surface and then return to shore (or dive boat if applicable). This will be covered at all briefings and all members must be aware to their use and recall when called upon.
8. Air: The diver agrees to have no less than 500 psi in his/her tank at the end of a dive for tanks rated 3000 or above and 400 for low pressure rated tanks.
9. All diving will take place using standard recreational limits of diving using Open Circuit equipment only with a single tank not exceeding 100 cubic feet unless covered by points "10 to 12" below and pre-approved at least 24 hours in advance. – For example the use of a low or high pressure tank.
10. Courses: For safety reasons all courses are to be completed within six months of the actual start date of the course. Courses not completed by this date will result in the student being marked as a non-pass and the student file will closed and considered as finished. Any extensions or exceptions to this date rule must be in writing from the chief instructor prior to the expiry of the six month date limit and will not exceed one year. Also certification cards are not mailed and the student must make arrangements to pick them up.
11. All Divers must dive within limits specified for their certification level. Proof of certification and evidence of recent relevant experience must be supplied (where "recent relevant experience" is determined by an Official 4D Diving club Instructor or Chief Dive Master or be accompanied by a qualified club instructor). In cases where these two requirements are not able to be satisfied then only the 4D Diving and Adventures Chief Instructor can make an exception and let the person dive and if so will appoint the official 4D Diving Dive Master or Instructor to dive with the person as they deem appropriate.
12. Specialty Dives: The diver must show proof of certification and evidence of recent relevant experience (where "recent relevant experience" as determined by a 4D Diving club Instructor or Chief Dive Master or be accompanied by a qualified official club instructor for that specialty in order to book or participate in a Group Sanctioned Specialty Dive or a Regular Open Water Dive with specialty equipment. Any dives or equipment uses not covered in points 9 through 15 are considered Specialty.

## Dives

1. Regular Open Water Dive is defined as a dive of a duration lasting less than 60 minutes in less than 60 feet conducted during daylight hours in water that allows direct vertical access to the surface. Open water dives therefore shall not be conducted in wrecks, underwater caves or below ice. These dives will be conducted with a minimum underwater visibility of at least 3 meters / 10 feet where waves are no higher than 50cm / 2 feet and a minimal current.

2. Specialty Dives are defined as any dive other than those that were part of your open water testing. See the standards for Open Water Diver. All specialty dives require that the participant have a minimum of 10 recent relevant dives (definition above).

#### Equipment

1. Basic Equipment: The Basic Scuba Diver (Open Water diver) equipment as taught by 4D Diving includes mask, snorkel, fins, wet neoprene environmental protection (hood, gloves, boots, wetsuit), weight belt or integrated weight system, buoyancy compensator, open circuit regulator set (first stage, second stage, redundant second stage/octopus, buoyancy compensator hose), gauge set (which includes air gauge, depth gauge, compass), single steel or aluminum tank not larger than a 100 cubic foot, float and flag, reel.
  2. Specialty Equipment: Specialty equipment is defined as any equipment not listed as Basic Equipment (see above). This includes but is not limited to double or triple tank setups, pony bottles, rebreathers, any tank filled with a composition other than 21% oxygen and 79% nitrogen, underwater camera, back plate systems, hose lengths that are non-standard for recreational diving, anything related to the use of a dry suit (the dry suit itself, dry suit whip, etc.), anything related to night related dive conditions (i.e. primary light, back up light, tank light, float light).
13. The 4D Diving official Dive Master running the dive must be certified in an area in order to supervisor that area. Example: Nitrox: Unless the 4D Diving official Dive Master running the dive is Nitrox Certified all divers must breathe Air. In dives where the Dive Master is Nitrox certified qualified divers may use Nitrox, staying within the DCIEM limit of 1.45 ATA O<sub>2</sub> and use the currently published ACUC Sport Diving tables. All tanks must be a single tank not exceeding 100 cubic feet.
  14. Equipment: Divers are responsible for ensuring that all their gear is in proper working order and is professionally and regularly maintained. 4D Diving cannot authorize the use during any courses or dive any breathing or buoyancy equipment that has not been previously authorized by the National Standards body of the country where the dive or course takes place, or has not been professionally maintained. In addition a diver's equipment will conform to a recreational standard in our geographic region.
  15. Necessary Equipment for a Diver:
    1. Certification Card and Log Book. These are required for all water based activities. Any certification or rating cards for specialty dives or the use of specialty equipment must be on site for that dive, unless the diver is on a certification course and the diver is under the guidance of a qualified 4D Diving Instructor.
    2. Log books are to be kept current and shall include necessary emergency contact information. They will be given to the official 4D Diving Dive Master in charge or the official 4D Diving Dive Master's duly appointed assistant. Log books will include recent relevant experience to the current dive activity unless the diver is on a certification course and is under the guidance of a qualified 4D Diving Instructor.

3. Regulators. Only recently serviced open circuit regulators will be permitted for use. No closed or semi closed systems will be allowed in any water environment.
4. Second Air Source, octopus (spare air and pony bottles required specialty rating).
5. Submersible pressure gauge and depth gauge or equivalent Personal Dive Computer.
6. Buoyancy Compensating Device (with large diameter inflation hose) which has sufficient lift capacity to provide adequate buoyancy for the diver and his/ her weights.
7. Except for boat dives, where the boat captain has raised a Diver down flag, each buddy team of two divers must carry an approved Diver Down float and flag system. This must include the following three items: the diver down Flag, A Buoyant Float, a rope of sufficient length and suitable reel. This combination must be carried with the divers at all times when in the water and never tied off and left. The float must be towed with minimum slack(for example if the diver buddy team is at 30 feet than no more than 35 feet of rope should be let out.
8. An appropriate exposure suit (Wet or Dry) which is rated for the conditions of the dive both thermal and environmental.
9. All divers require a specific recognized certification to allow them to dive with any and all equipment. This includes but is not limited to dry suits, Diver Propulsion Vehicles, cameras. In addition the dive buddies must also have the equivalent specific certification. These activities are to be supervised by an official 4D Diving Dive Master or Instructor with the same specific recognized certification and qualifications.

#### 16. Dive Master and Logs:

3. The official 4D Diving Dive Master for all 4 D club sanctioned divers will complete a Dive Master Log Sheet and will turn it in to the Chief Dive Master within 48 hours. If there is a dive incident, the Dive Master Log Sheet will be turned in immediately.
4. All divers agree to be responsible to complete all pertinent data on the Dive Master sheet.
5. In addition all divers are required to plan their own dive using their Log Books and Dive Tables to ensure that they are able to safely participate in the planned dive.
6. All divers must report to and receive permission from the appointed 4D Diving official Dive Master in charge or the appointed Dive Controller or Recorder before entering the water and must report again immediately upon exiting the water.
7. All divers will report to and receive permission from the appointed official 4D Diving Dive Master in charge prior to leaving the dive site.
8. Divers must complete their Log Books after completing each dive

#### 17. The Pool Safety Policies.

1. Briefings: An appointed official 4D Diving Dive Master will provide pre-dive and post dive briefings for all pool based activities. All divers must stop what they are doing and listen to the briefings. Briefings cover off safety matters and are mandatory. In addition these briefings will provide specific information about the dive and general information about other important club activities.
2. Members must follow club Safety Protocol and the club Constitution at all times.
3. All divers must present their Certification Card and an up to date Log Books before entering the water or pool.

4. All persons using the pool must have, as a minimum, Skin Diving gear (mask, snorkel and fins), unless lifeguards are on duty.
  5. Only certified diving members may participate in Recreational scuba activities in the pool unless the non-certified person is under the guidance of an official 4D Diving Dive Master.
  6. All members including non-diving members may participate in Skin Diving (Snorkelling) activities.
  7. Members are to use their own gear in the pool.
18. The policy for 4D Diving Adventures is as follow:
1. Certification Level
    - i. Regardless of your level of certification you can book the adventures of your choice, but you will have to attend the required course in advance. Contact Bill to arrange.
    - ii. Please note that all divers must provide proof of certification and present a current logbook with recent relevant dive experience prior to participating in any event. The only exception is when they are with our instructor on a prearranged basis.
    - iii. It is the diver's responsibility to have the necessary and required recent relevant experience for dives prior to the trip. This is unless they are on a course. A description of the policy can be found on the web site [www.4ddiving.com](http://www.4ddiving.com) under safety polices. The Dive Master running the dive has the right to refuse the dive to those not meeting the necessary requirements.
  2. Membership status and guests
    - i. A paid current club membership is required prior to all bookings.
    - ii. Members bringing guests will be responsible for that guest and must have prior approval by the DM in charge. This must be accompanied by a completed 4D Diving Membership / Waiver for the guest and ensure that they follow 4D Diving Constitution and Safety Protocol at all times during the trip. This document is available on the club web site. This applies to all guests whether they are diving or not.
    - iii. Members bringing a diving guest will dive as the buddy with their guest. Proof of certification must be provided as well as present a current logbook with recent relevant dive experience for the guest in advance in order to participate in the diving activity.
    - iv. Diving Guest(s) will need to book as a guided Dive unless previously approved by Bill
  3. Points to note
    - i. Accommodations – Should accommodations be required on a trip they will be the responsibility of the diver. If you would like a suggestion please ask.
    - ii. Due to the fluctuating fuel costs the boat owners and various companies reserve the right to add a fuel surcharge to any charter or adventure. In this case we will need to add on the costs posted below and will notify the participants as soon as we are informed.
    - iii. There are sometimes when we do not have enough booked members to fill a charter boat. Should this occur, we may be required to change to a walk on or combined dive charter. In these cases we may not be able to dictate the actual dive sites. In addition the may be an adjustment in the charter or adventure fee.

- iv. All adventure fees are non- refundable. However we do our best to fill any cancelled spots and have the replacement member make the refund direct to the original booking member.
  - v. Please note that all Adventures must be paid for at the time of booking. All of the adventures will be posted on the online store so as to allow everyone to have a chance to check their schedules and figure out what adventures that they would like to participate in. You must book through the online store.
- 19. Alcohol or Drugs: All persons attending a 4D dive will not to consume alcohol or drugs within 12 hours of a dive, and must not bring alcohol or drugs to any group activity. Divers using prescription drugs should only do so with a physician's approval. If you are just starting a prescription medication it is always best to avoid diving until such time as any personal side effects are known.
- 20. Proper conduct and language: At all times all group members and their guests must behave and speak in an appropriate manner which reflects the nature of the fun family atmosphere. Profane or abusive language is prohibited. This includes proper attire (e.g. No Offensive images or words/phrases on clothing). In addition, we must remember that we are all representatives of our group and want it to be seen with respect in the community
- 21. COVID- 19 policy
  - 1. We will start dives with only Dive Masters and Instructors on Friday June 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup> at our regular times. This will give us an opportunity to both tune our skills, as well as test the new procedures.
  - 2. By mid-week next week, we plan to release a new schedule for all our current certified members to come out. This schedule will include number of attendees (in keeping with COVID-19 recommendations), as well as our new COVID-19 safety procedures.
  - 3. We will continue to have our online booking system for members to sign up for dives. This will accommodate the limit to numbers as well as have the pre-signed waivers and Dive Master Log. This also provides an acknowledgement of both our 4D safety policies and COVID-19 updates. All attendees will be required to pre book through this method. This is not new but will now be exercised without exception.
  - 4. Note: At this phase non-divers are asked not to attend. In the next phase of our safety procedures, non divers must be registered if they will be attending the dive site.
  - 5. All pickups and drop offs of equipment, including tank fills will be curbside and only by appointment, please call to schedule. The times are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 1:30 to 5 pm. Wednesdays and Fridays will be one hour before the dive and immediately afterward.
  - 6. Purchases: Air fills, equipment purchases, and equipment service will be curb side and by appointment only.
  - 7. Rentals: At this phase we will be providing rentals of tanks and weights only.
  - 8. Non-medical masks for mouth and nose covering.
    - i. All non-divers will be required to wear a face covering or mask covering their mouth and nose when not at the immediate back of their personal vehicle by themselves.
    - ii. All divers will be required to wear a buff or 4D approved bandana (fastened by elastic rather than tied). These are to be covering the mouth and nose when not

at the immediate back of their personal vehicle by yourself or when the regulator is not in your mouth.

- iii. A variety of buffs and bandanas are available for sale if you do not have one. These will be on site and available for purchase or by donation.
  - iv. Our team of professionals has determined that it is impractical and potentially unsafe for divers to walk to and from the water with regulators and snorkels in their mouths.
  - v. We will be fine tuning a procedure for this and will have a video for you to see in advance to your dive outing.
9. We will communicate updates as they arise.