



Department of
Education

APPENDIX P: SCUBA DIVING

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SCUBA DIVING

This document contains specific requirements related to SCUBA diving activities and must be read in conjunction with *Appendix A: General Requirements in the Recreation and Outdoor Education Activities for Public Schools Procedures*.

1. BACKGROUND

SCUBA diving may be pool, boat or shore-based. School SCUBA diving activities generally fall into three categories:

- introductory activities, using SCUBA equipment
- training towards a recognised SCUBA diver qualification
- as a means to collect data or research for scientific, maritime or marine studies.

Beginner or introductory courses (such as a Learn to Dive course or Open Water Diver Beginner Course) introduce students to recreational SCUBA diving in a supervised environment.

Advanced courses allow students to increase their knowledge and build on their diving skills.

Unless the supervisory team has the required qualifications and experience, it is recommended that SCUBA activities be delivered through an external provider or training organisation that complies with either the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme (NCAS) or World Recreational SCUBA Training Council (WRSTC).

DEFINITIONS

ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR

Assists the Qualified Supervisor and or Department Teacher-in-charge.

CALM WATER

A still or slow moving water environment with no to low swell, within **400 meters** from a safe landing point. These areas may include: a sheltered/ protected coastal area or river, dam, waterhole or inland water body.

DEPARTMENT TEACHER-IN-CHARGE

The member of the teaching staff employed by the Department of Education (or an Approved Provider) and is managing the school activity. For information relating to Approved Providers refer to Appendix A: General Requirements.

MERMAID LINE

A length of floating rope attached to a stationary boat or suspended float used to check the direction of the current.

OPEN WATER

An unprotected water environment that may be fast flowing or turbulent, such as a surf beach, flowing river or waterway, tidal coastal water, or areas affected by swell and or/strong currents. This also applies to calm water areas greater than **400 meters** from a safe landing point.

QUALIFIED SUPERVISOR

Has the required qualifications, skill, experience and technical knowledge to instruct the activity.

SAFETY SAUSAGE

A buoy used when the diver is at the surface to indicate the divers' position to the dive boat.

SCUBA

An acronym for *Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus*.

SCUBA DIVING

An activity where a participant swims underwater, breathing compressed gas.

2. ENVIRONMENT

Each aquatic environment is unique, and open water environments can be more hazardous.

The Department Teacher-in-charge must ensure that research and/or a reconnaissance trip is conducted around the planned locations, well in advance to confirm sites are suitable.

The suitability of the venue is determined after considering the:

- location
- turbidity of the water
- strength of tides and currents
- water depth
- presence and power of waves
- presence and height of swell
- temperature of the water
- students' capacity, skills and experience
- planned activities
- availability of shelter from the weather
- possibility of members of the public or other school or training groups diving in the same area
- proximity to medical expertise
- venue access (for emergency services)
- supervision required.

If unsure of restrictions regarding the use of a venue for SCUBA activities, a check must be made with the Department of Transport Marine and/or other relevant authorities, such as the *Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development: Fisheries*, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and/or local councils.

Selected activity areas are to be appropriately defined with safety rope lines with buoys attached. In open water locations, surrounding safety barriers such as the shoreline, piers, jetties or floating ropes may be used.

A supervised out of water waiting area for participants must be clearly defined.

In open water locations, the dive site must be clearly defined by buoys or land features and an internationally recognised Code A diver flag(s). Department of Transport Dive Safe Safety Guidelines provide additional information.

Weather conditions can change rapidly and must be assessed and monitored in the days leading up to the activity, on the day of the activity and throughout the activity. The Department Teacher-in-charge may need to modify, relocate or cancel the activity at any time. Check the Bureau of Meteorology for up-to-date conditions and weather warnings.

SCUBA diving must not be conducted in known estuarine crocodile habitats.

Checks must be made directly prior to the activity regarding shark sightings or alerts in the area of use. In the event of a shark sighting the activity may need to be postponed or modified. Prior to conducting the activity, the Department Teacher-in-charge must access information regarding weather, coastal conditions and shark activity. Information is available from:

- [SharkSmart](#) website
- [Surf Life Saving WA \(SLSWA\)](#) website
- [SLSWA X \(Twitter\) feed](#)
- Beachsafe.

The activity must be cancelled immediately if a shark warning alert is sounded or becomes current.

Guidance

SCUBA sites should have:

- *safe entry and exit points with minimal water movement*
- *minimum visibility of 3.0 metres or more*
- *swell less than 2.0 metres in height (not waves) and breaking waves that are less than 0.5 metres.*
- *a depth of no more than 18 metres during final dives for diving training purposes (Advanced Open Water qualifications require dives to be completed at a depth of no more than 30 metres)*
- *stable weather and water conditions and no obvious change expected in the weather*
- *a current less than 0.5 knots*
- *no obvious dangers in the water (e.g. boat traffic, dangerous marine animals or commercial waterways). Areas surrounding cray pot lines are deemed commercial waterways and should not be dived. The Department Teacher-in-charge should continue to monitor this as cray boats not present at the start of a dive, can arrive during a dive. **Please note:** WA dive flag laws do not take precedence over a commercial activity.*

3. CAPACITY OF STUDENTS

SCUBA diving is restricted to students aged 14 years of age and older.

Snorkelling is recommended for students in Year 7 and 8, as a lead-up activity to SCUBA diving. Refer to [Appendix Q: Snorkelling](#).

Before engaging in open water dives, students must have developed the following skills and understandings:

Skills	Understandings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submerging and resurfacing confidently without scuba equipment • Hand signals (ok, not ok, distress etc.) • Entry and exit methods • Achieving positive buoyancy while on the surface • Mechanical and oral inflation of a Buoyancy Control Device (BCD) • Equalising pressure in ears and mask • Clearing a flooded snorkel and mask • Ditch and replace or recover a weight belt • Removal and replacement of a scuba unit while on the surface and underwater • Securing a loose BCD band on a buddy's cylinder while in the water • What to do in the case of equipment failure (self-rescue and rescue techniques, including 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment • Dive planning • The importance of adhering to the buddy system • Boyle's law • Light and sound under water • Buoyancy concepts and control • How to gain and maintain appropriate buoyancy as depth underwater increases, the effects on the body and equipment change with the increasing pressure • Dangers of separating from the group • Hyperventilation • Hypothermia • Barotrauma (ear squeeze) • Dangerous marine animals

but not limited to: cramp releases, disconnecting BCD inflator, tired diver tows, alternate air use, free flowing regulator and controlled emergency ascents) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of and engagement in safe diving practices including buddy system procedures and comprehensive pre-dive checks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects of decompression sickness and nitrogen narcosis • Dive planning to confirm safe dive calculations considering depth and time are understood • Flying after diving procedures
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Before students can move to SCUBA diving in open water environments (other than introductory SCUBA experiences), the Department Teacher-in-charge must determine whether each student has the necessary ability and understandings to participate safely.

Prior to engaging in any training activities, students (or their parents/carers, if the students are under 18 years old) must complete a valid SCUBA diving medical statement from the Undersea & Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMC) and submit this to the dive instructor conducting the course.

If there is any doubt about a student's ability to dive due to a medically diagnosed condition (for example, asthma), the student will need to be cleared by a medical practitioner, to confirm that they are fit to continue participating in SCUBA activities.

Guidance

Students should have had at least four (4) hours SCUBA instruction in a swimming pool or other closed, clear water venue as well as completed all the required skills training to a demonstrated level of competence and confidence prior to proceeding to training dives in open, deep or flowing water locations.

Before progressing to more advanced dives, students must hold or be training for, the appropriate pre-requisite SCUBA qualification for that level of diving.

Prior to certification, participating students must be able:

- to complete a continuous swim of either:
 - 200 metres on the surface of the water using a recognised stroke, without the use of mask, fins, snorkel or flotation equipment or
 - 300 metres on the surface of the water using a mask, snorkel and fins without the use of flotation aids
- and float and/or tread water for ten minutes immediately afterwards.

Guidance

The industry standard allows a combination of strokes as long as the student does not stop during the assessment. The 300 metre snorkel swim has been included as a viable alternative as the assessment is about swimming ability for snorkelling or SCUBA diving.

The Department Teacher-in-charge and relevant supervisors must be aware of health care maintenance and/or any intensive health care needs of students, particularly allergic reactions to stings or bites in a marine environment. Protective equipment such as gloves and appropriate exposure suits should be considered for students who are susceptible.

A re-assessment of students' capacity is undertaken if any circumstances surrounding the activity change. This includes any change in the condition of the aquatic environment, their medical fitness, or the students' capacity to undertake the activity. If there is any change to a student's medical fitness, the student must submit a new dive medical statement prior to resuming training or diving.

Students must hold relevant diving certificates when diving in sites where there is no direct access to the surface (for example, when diving into shipwrecks or sites that have restricted visibility).

For advanced level courses, students must have approved entry-level SCUBA diving qualifications, plus any other prerequisites (such as a specific number of logged dives) as required by the training organisation.

Guidance

The Department's Swimming and Water Safety Continuum and the Safety Survival Sequence (refer to Swimming and Water Safety Activities document) within the Swimming Instructors Handbook and Guidelines and Royal Life Saving Swim and Survive Instructor Assessment Guide are useful resources for gauging students' swimming and water safety skills. They are only indicative of student skills at the time of assessment and their use does not guarantee students' safety, nor reduce a teacher's duty of care responsibilities.

4. STUDENT HEALTH CARE

Refer to Appendix A: General Requirements for further requirements.

5. ACTIVITIES

SCUBA activities should be part of an accredited dive training program.

The full range of activities for the proposed SCUBA diving program must be assessed by the Qualified Supervisor, in consultation with the Department Teacher-in-charge, to inform planning and selection of appropriate water-environments.

Slowly Ascend From Every dive (SAFE) diving and buddy practices are to be maintained at all times.

Prior to the dive-training activity, limits must be set on group movements, including depth restrictions and distance from the Qualified Supervisor leading the dive. Separation procedures must also be established and understood prior to all dives.

Introductory dives (in swimming pools or calm water) **must not** exceed a depth of **6 metres**.

Beginner level diving courses:

The depth of the dive location **must not** exceed **12 metres** for the first two training dives and **must not** exceed **18 metres** for the remaining dives on the course.

Advanced diving courses:

The depth of the dive location **must not** exceed **30 metres**.

All open water training dives for introductory or beginner level courses must be conducted during daylight hours only, and in water that allows direct and immediate access to the surface.

Cave or cavern diving is prohibited.

Wreck diving is prohibited during training, unless the activities are part of a recognised course for divers beyond the beginner level.

School groups **must not** engage in any diving activities that require planned decompression stages.

Students **must not** exceed three dives in any open water training day, with the third dive not exceeding **14 metres** in depth.

Students **must not** fly for at least 12 hours after a single dive. If they are engaged in repetitive, multiday dives, or if an emergency decompression stop has to be made, they **must not** fly for at least 18 hours. As physiology varies between individuals, these are minimum time requirements, longer stops prior to flying are advisable.

Dive logs and training logs must be completed after each dive and retained as per record keeping requirements.

Refer to *Appendix S: Swimming and Water Based Activities* for qualifications and supervision requirements that apply if a recreational or free swim is included after the SCUBA activity.

Minimal environmental impact principles are to be followed at all times. Divers must not collect any natural objects or relics while on their dive unless a licence has been obtained for marine study. Objects taken for this purpose are returned after examination. Marine life is not to be handled. If rocks are turned over, they are replaced as found.

6. EQUIPMENT

The Department Teacher-in-charge, in consultation with the Qualified Supervisor must confirm that all SCUBA equipment (including air cylinders:

- comply with the requirements of relevant Australian Standards
- are maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's equipment specifications (including assembly, maintenance, use of equipment and service record)
- is in operational working order and appropriate for the activity.

The Qualified Supervisor must ensure that students carry out pre-dive checks on their equipment and that of their buddy (as a double check), to confirm that it is in operational working order. The Qualified Supervisor must identify students not comfortable with the condition of the equipment, or who suspect it may be below an acceptable standard. Equipment must be inspected by a member of the supervisory team for replacement, or repair.

Qualified Supervisors and other adult supervising divers must use a dive computer and wear a knife or cutting tool.

Mouth and nosepieces must be disinfected prior to use by another person.

Each participating student requires:

- a Buoyancy Control Device (BCD) with a SCUBA feed inflation device of appropriate size
- a wet suit that fits correctly, and provides thermal protection that is appropriate to the conditions being dived
- a snorkel with sufficient air flow when wearing SCUBA equipment attached to a mask
- a mask that fully encloses the diver's nose, fitted with tempered safety glass and sealed properly to allow for equalising pressure
- a weight belt or weight system with quick release capacity that can be operated with one hand
- fins of appropriate design, fit and size for SCUBA diving
- clothing that provides exposure protection during surface intervals
- air cylinders indicating that the tank has passed a hydrostatic test within the previous 12 months, as per the Australian Standard
- a valve that meets the relevant Australian Standard, with a current test stamp
- a single-hose regulator fitted with submersible pressure gauge, depth gauge and an alternative second stage (octopus) regulator for rescue operations

- gloves, if necessary
- a submersible timing device for open dives
- emergency signalling equipment, including high visibility signalling devices (for example, safety sausage, flag) and audible signalling device
- a compass or direction monitor
- a timer (for example, waterproof watch) for dive table calculations and/or a dive computer
- a planning slate and writing tool (where necessary) to communicate and/or record dive or training information.

Guidance

Before and after SCUBA activities, students should protect themselves from sun and weather conditions by bringing (as appropriate) a towel and change of clothing including a hat, shirt, jumper, long trousers and jacket.

A broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen should be applied as per manufacturer's instructions.

Drinking water should be available at the activity, to combat dehydration.

The Department Teacher-in-charge must confirm that:

- emergency equipment is readily accessible
- appropriate first aid equipment is readily accessible and includes items that are appropriate to the activity, environment, size and needs of the party and duration of the activities. Oxygen resuscitation equipment must be included and at least one member of the supervisory team must be accredited in its administration
- an internationally recognised Code Flag A (minimum size 600 mm x 750 mm) is displayed so that it is clearly visible to all vessels operating in the vicinity.
 - For **training dives**, the flag must be displayed and buoyed by a large float to mark the dive site or displayed from a jetty or training vessel.
 - For **qualified divers**, the flag must be a minimum size of 300 mm x 200 mm and buoyed by a float if the group is swimming from the shore, or a size 6 flag if displayed from a jetty. The flag must be clearly visible to all vessels in the vicinity
- communication equipment is readily accessible
- transport is readily available in case of emergency.

Support or training vessels

The following equipment must be available on any accompanying safety or support boat when SCUBA diving:

- a visible float with a floating mermaid line
- a Code A dive flag (minimum size 600 mm x 750 mm), clearly visible to all vessels in the vicinity
- a suitably weighted descent/ascent line that is long enough to reach the bottom of the dive site, incorporating a safety stop system and datum marker
- decompression tables or an alternative means of calculating decompression requirements
- a notebook and pen
- an emergency oxygen set and approved medical kit
- a spare SCUBA unit, including a regulator, Buoyancy Control Device (BCD) and full tank
- communication equipment for emergency situations.

Where a safety or support power boat is required to accompany divers, the craft must comply with Department of Transport Marine: Recreational Boating or Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Act 2012 requirements, whichever are appropriate.

Propeller guards and propeller aware strategies must be used whenever a participant is in the water.

Under **no** circumstances may students carry or use spear guns, hand spears, knives or slings.

Life jackets must adhere to the relevant Standard and be an appropriate size, maintained and serviced regularly in accordance with the manufacturer's advice. Refer to Department of Transport Marine for further information.

7. THE SUPERVISORY TEAM

Refer to Appendix A: General Requirements for further requirements.

8. EXTERNAL PROVIDERS

The Department Teacher-in-charge must ensure that when booking an external provider, they are made aware of the documentation that they need to provide, or that must be sighted.

External providers must follow all mandated requirements in the Recreation and Outdoor Education Activities for Public Schools Procedures will be asked to supply copies of certain documentation, and/or make them available for the Department Teacher-in-charge to sight. External providers should familiarise themselves with Appendix A: General Requirements and Appendix D: External Provider Checklist.

9. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES

The Department Teacher-in-charge must confirm that the supervisory team members possess skills, knowledge and experience in SCUBA diving, and have the appropriate skills, to identify and manage potential risks at any stage during SCUBA activities.

Refer to Appendix A: General Requirements for mandated first aid qualifications and evidence requirements for all qualifications and competencies.

Minimum qualifications and/or formal training requirements:

If the SCUBA activity is led by an external provider, the Department Teacher-in-charge must be satisfied that the external provider is appropriately qualified and competent.

The supervisory team must hold current, activity-specific qualifications and competencies, through a recognised tertiary institution, SCUBA instruction training organisation, or Registered Training Organisation including:

- be able to effect a rescue at the location
- have a current first aid qualification that is relevant to the activity and location and have current CPR accreditation
- have a qualification in the provision and administration of oxygen in an emergency situation
- have documented evidence of current and relevant SCUBA instructional qualifications or nationally recognised competencies (for example, the Australian Qualifications Framework, Outdoor Recreation Industry Training Package competencies) gained from an education institution or nationally recognised training provider, or equivalent
- be familiar with the safety regulations of the activity
- have documented evidence of SCUBA experience.

Minimum qualification requirements:

Qualified Supervisor requirements	<p>Requires a qualification to instruct and must have at least <u>ONE</u> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nationally accredited <i>SCUBA Coach</i> Level 2 • nationally accredited <i>SCUBA Instructor</i> • nationally accredited <i>Open Water SCUBA Instructor</i> • certificate from a recognised SCUBA instruction training organisation that complies with the NCAS or WRSTC standard for SCUBA Diving coaches and instructors • an equivalent qualification, as recognised by the Director General.
Assistant Supervisor	<p>At least <u>ONE</u> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Life Saving Society Australia (RLSSA) <i>Bronze Medallion</i> (for closed water locations) • RLSSA <i>School Teacher Aquatic Rescue Training</i> (START) certificate (for closed and open water locations) • Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) <i>Bronze Medallion</i> (open water and beach locations) • SLSA <i>Surf Rescue</i> certificate • SLSWA <i>Community Surf Rescue</i> certificate. <p>At least one of the following, where the Assistant Supervisor can demonstrate recent and relevant logged experience and current CPR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A nationally accredited SCUBA Diving qualification • an equivalent qualification, as recognised by the Director General.

Safety or support craft

The supervisor in control of the safety or support power boat must hold one of the following:

- hold a *Recreational Skippers Ticket* (RST) and be competent in the use of the craft
- be a qualified and experienced *Safety Boat Operator*
- hold an Australian Sailing *Power Boat Handling* certificate (PBH)
- hold a relevant commercial ticket.

Skills and experience

The Department Teacher-in-charge must confirm that the supervisory team:

- has recent and relevant experience at the level being offered to students
- have the capacity to manage the SCUBA activity in the proposed location
- has relevant qualifications and has participated in a minimum of six hours of SCUBA in the last six months, and 20 hours in the last two years (a logbook must be sighted)
- has the required supervisors with current CPR qualification
- understands the emergency responses and supervision responsibilities.

The Department Teacher-in-charge must be satisfied that any supervisor operating a power safety or support craft has recent logged experience in effecting a relevant support and rescue operation.

Guidance

It is recommended that supervisors maintain evidence of their currency and experience through the use of a logbook, or similar.

10. MINIMUM LEVEL OF SUPERVISION

Supervisory requirements must take into consideration the:

- age, experience and capacity of each student
- students' medical conditions, disabilities or impairments
- supervisors' qualifications and diving experience

- competence of the external provider
- type of activity to be undertaken
- nature of the environment (calm or open water location)
- location of the activity
- *Surf Life Saving WA X (Twitter) feed* of shark sightings
- weather conditions, which must be assessed and monitored in the days leading up to the activity, on the day of the activity, and throughout the activity. The supervisory team may be required to modify or cancel the activity at any time.

The level of risk in aquatic environments is dynamic and must be constantly monitored. The appropriate number of supervisors directly monitoring students in the water must be maintained at all times.

There must always be a minimum of two experienced supervisors at any SCUBA diving activity. One of these supervisors must be a Qualified Supervisor who remains with the students during the dive.

At any time, supervisory levels may need to be increased.

Supervisors in excess of the minimum supervisory requirements and who are out of the water (for example, supervisory staff in the boat) do not require SCUBA diving qualifications, but must have the appropriate swimming, lifesaving and CPR accreditation and be prepared to assist in an emergency.

The following supervisor to student requirements are a minimum and must form part of the risk assessment. The Department Teacher-in-charge must conduct a risk assessment of the environment and desired activity to confirm adequate supervision levels can be maintained.

INTRODUCTORY OR BEGINNER PROGRAMS SWIMMING POOL

Year 9 - 12

There must be at least two supervisors at all times:

- one Qualified Supervisor for every eight students or part thereof and
- one supervisor for every four students or part thereof.

CALM WATER AND OPEN WATER

Year 9 - 12

There must be at least two supervisors at all times:

- one Qualified Supervisor for every four students or part thereof and
- one supervisor for every four students or part thereof.

SCUBA COURSES AND ADVANCED DIVER ACTIVITIES ALL WATER ENVIRONMENTS

Year 10 - 12

There must be at least two supervisors at all times:

- one Qualified Supervisor for every eight students or part thereof and
- one supervisor for every four students or part thereof.

The following illustrates the minimum supervision requirements for maximum group sizes.

Activity	Year Level	Environment	Number of Students	Qualified Supervisor	Assistant Supervisor	Total Supervisory team
Beginner or Introductory courses	9 - 12	Swimming Pool	1 - 8	1	1	2
		Calm Water and Open Water	1 - 4	1	1	2
Advanced SCUBA activities/ courses	10 - 12	All Water Bodies	1 - 8	1	1	2
<p>Maximum group sizes are contained in this table.</p> <p>Additional students can be accommodated with the formation of a new group.</p> <p>Students must be aged 14 years and over.</p>						

11. SUPERVISION STRATEGIES

Supervision strategies must:

- confirm that the safety and well-being of students is maintained at all times
- reflect risks associated with the activity
- address circumstances when students are not in clear view of the supervisors
- include students who are not actively participating in the activity.

Records must be kept recording student achievement of prerequisite skills.

The Department Teacher-in-charge must have access to the contact details for emergency services:

- Call 000 in an emergency.
- Be aware of the nearest compression chamber or hyperbaric unit:
- If not an emergency and in the Perth region - contact Fiona Stanley Hospital on (08) 6152 5222 (Monday to Friday between 8.00am and 4.00pm) or (08) 6152 2222 (after hours).
- If outside the Perth region or anywhere within Australia contact the Diver Emergency Service on 1800 088 200.

The appropriate number of supervisors directly monitoring students in the water must be maintained at all times. A lookout must be posted on each dive.

When students are diving from a vessel, a supervisor remains on board to keep watch and manage the operation (for example, all dive charter vessels must have qualified diver supervisors on duty).

Buddy practices are maintained at all times.

Safety or support craft

- A safety tether lanyard must be worn by the power boat driver at all times.
- Supervisors must exercise particular caution when students are entering, boarding and/or snorkelling near the propeller of a vessel.
- Propeller guards and propeller aware strategies must be used whenever a participant is in the water.

Guidance**Safety check systems**

Consideration is given to positioning, scanning and safety check systems (see Swimming and Water Based Activities).

A head count of student and supervisor numbers is conducted immediately on return to the beach, boat or diving platform.

12. IDENTIFICATION OF PARTICIPANTS

Refer to Appendix A: General Requirements for further requirements.

13. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Refer to Appendix A: General Requirements for further requirements.

14. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Refer to Appendix A: General Requirements and Appendix B: Risk Management Plan for further requirements.

15. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Refer to Appendix A: General Requirements and Appendix C: Emergency Management Plan for further requirements.

16. BRIEFING STUDENTS AND SUPERVISORS

The Department Teacher-in-charge must confirm that all participants are briefed about:

- the educational purpose (learning intentions) and the cooperative nature of the activity
- components of the activity (including skills required)
- standards of behaviour, including roles and responsibilities
- hazard identification and safety requirements
- buddy practices and procedures that will be followed if members of the party become lost or separated from the group
- boundaries marked for the activity
- communication signals to gain attention and request assistance
- emergency and evacuation procedures, signals and location of emergency equipment
- how to identify currents, rips, reefs and other potential hazards of the venue, including safe entry and exit points
- minimal impact principles for that location (Leave No Trace principles).

In addition to the above, the Department Teacher-in-charge must confirm that the supervisory team have been briefed about the following:

- the role and location of supervisors
- maintaining supervision ratios (including of those students not involved in the activity)
- modified/adjusted activity requirements for students with a disability or impairment
- the system for identifying students and supervisors
- the route to be followed including pre-determined stops and/or meeting points along the way (if applicable)
- student-specific medical requirements and conditions associated with hypothermia, sunburn and dehydration
- communication strategies that will be used throughout the activity, including designated signals to gain the attention of the whole group, and to identify when emergency assistance is required
- location of first aid kit and emergency/rescue equipment
- appropriate clothing for the activity and weather conditions
- aspects of the environment and expected weather conditions.

Special information sessions must be arranged for students who were absent from preparatory briefings.

Guidance

After the SCUBA diving activity, all participants should participate in a post dive debrief (check for ear discomfort, headaches, breathing problems, depth times and air rescue limits).

17. INFORMED CONSENT

Refer to Appendix A: General Requirements for further requirements.