



Department of  
**Education**

## **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; and/or
- as a means to collect data or research for scientific, maritime or marine studies.

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 *Recreational Scuba Training Council (RSTC)*.

### DEFINITIONS

#### ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR

Assists the Qualified Supervisor and or Department teacher-in-charge. May or may not have relevant qualification or experience.

#### CALM WATER

A still or slow moving water environment with no to low swell. These areas may include; a sheltered/ protected coastal area or river, dam, waterhole or inland water body.

#### 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 uncontrolled/ 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.

#### SAFETY SAUSAGE

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

#### SCUBA

An acronym that stands for Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus.

#### SCUBA DIVING

An activity where a participant swims underwater using compressed gas.

#### TEACHER-IN-CHARGE

The member of the teaching staff who is authorised by the Department of Education to manage the school activity.

## 2. ENVIRONMENT

The suitability of the venue is determined after considering the:

- location;
- size and turbidity of the water;
- strength of tides and currents;
- 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); and
- 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.

An out of water (supervised) waiting area for participants must be clearly defined.

In open water locations, the diving site should be clearly defined by buoys or land features and an internationally recognised Code A diver flag(s).

Weather conditions need to be assessed and monitored in the days leading up to the activity, on the day of the activity and throughout the activity, to assess conditions. The supervisory team 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.

If activities are in ocean or estuarine environments, 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 should access information regarding weather, coastal conditions and shark activity. Information is available from:

- SharkSmart website;
- Surf Life Saving WA (SLSWA) website; or
- SLSWA Twitter feed.

Up-to-date information regarding current shark sightings can be accessed from the following apps:

- Beachsafe
- SharkSmart WA

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

**Guidance**

*The qualified supervisor should have first-hand knowledge of the location, or seek a dive site briefing from providers with local knowledge (refer to Appendix A: General Requirements in the Recreation and Outdoor Education Activities for Public Schools Procedures for alternative ways to find information about a location).*

*Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus (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. (The teacher-in-charge must continually assess the conditions as swell and waves can become more hazardous when the duration and intensity changes, or if the forecast is for increasing conditions);*
- *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; and*
- *no obvious dangers in the water (e.g. boat traffic, fishermen, 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

The Department teacher-in-charge must confirm that each student has the required capacity, physical strength to carry the equipment, ability to follow complex instructions, maturity to implement safety procedures, appropriate swimming and water safety skills and understandings to participate safely.

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

Snorkelling is a more appropriate activity for students in Year 7 and 8, either in its own right, or as a preliminary activity to scuba diving.

Specific strategies and support must be put in place for those students from cultural backgrounds where there may have been limited exposure to water based activities.

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

<b>Skills</b>	<b>Understandings</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submerging and resurfacing confidently without scuba equipment</li> <li>• Hand signals (ok, not ok, distress etc.)</li> <li>• Entry and exit methods</li> <li>• Achieving positive buoyancy while on the surface</li> <li>• Mechanical and oral inflation of a Buoyancy Control Device (BCD)</li> <li>• Equalising pressure in ears and mask</li> <li>• Clearing a flooded snorkel and mask</li> <li>• Ditch and replace or recover a weight belt</li> <li>• Removal and replacement of a scuba unit while on the surface and underwater</li> <li>• Securing a loose BCD band on a buddy's cylinder while in the water</li> <li>• Effective use of an underwater compass</li> <li>• What to do in the case of equipment failure (self-rescue and rescue techniques, including but not limited to: cramp releases, disconnecting BCD inflator, tired diver tows, alternate air use, free flowing regulator and controlled emergency ascents)</li> <li>• Use of and engagement in safe diving practices including buddy system procedures and comprehensive pre-dive checks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment</li> <li>• Dive planning</li> <li>• The importance of adhering to the buddy system</li> <li>• Boyle's law</li> <li>• Light and sound under water</li> <li>• Buoyancy concepts and control</li> <li>• How to gain and maintain appropriate buoyance as depth underwater increases, the effects on the body and equipment change with the increasing pressure</li> <li>• Dangers of separating from the group</li> <li>• Hyperventilation</li> <li>• Hypothermia</li> <li>• Barotrauma (ear squeeze)</li> <li>• Dangerous marine animals</li> <li>• Effects of decompression sickness and nitrogen narcosis</li> <li>• Dive planning to confirm safe dive calculations considering depth and time are understood</li> <li>• Flying after diving procedures</li> </ul> <p>* students are required to attain a 75 percent comprehension level of dive knowledge prior to completing their qualification.</p>

Before students can move to scuba diving in open water situations (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, if the students are under 18 years old) must complete a valid scuba diving medical statement from the World Recreational Scuba Training Council (WRSTC) and submit this to the dive instructor conducting the course.

Should any medical conditions be indicated (e.g. severe or chronic asthma, heart or lung conditions, perforated eardrum, chronic ear infection, epilepsy, seizures, blackouts or chronic bronchitis etc.), the student will produce a current (within 3 months) medical certificate from an approved hyperbaric medical practitioner if they wish to participate in any scuba activity.

If there is any doubt about a student's ability to dive (e.g. flu, a cold or hay fever), a certificate from a medical practitioner may be requested. The instructor may decide to require the student to complete their training on an alternative day, once the student has demonstrated that they have returned to the required level of fitness and health.

#### **Guidance**

*Prior to engaging in scuba diving activities, students should be able to:*

- swim 200 metres in less than seven (7) minutes; and
- support themselves in water for a minimum of fifteen (15) minutes without the aid of a flotation device.

*If a student's capacity has been compromised due to injury or illness, they may require re-assessment prior to re-engaging with scuba diving activities.*

*Students (or their parents, guardians or carers if the students are under the age of 18) must complete the permissions and agreements as stipulated by the instructor or training authority, prior to commencing training or experiential scuba programs.*

*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 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 must be aware of students' health care maintenance and/or any intensive health care needs. For example:

- particular note should be made to allergic reactions in case of possible stings or bites in the marine environment; and
- protective equipment such as gloves and appropriate exposure suits should be considered for students who are susceptible to allergic reactions from stings or bites.

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 (e.g. when diving into shipwrecks or sites that have restricted visibility).

For Advanced and Master 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 in the Recreation and Outdoor Education Activities for Public Schools Procedures* for further requirements.

## 5. ACTIVITIES

Snorkelling is a more appropriate activity for students in Years 7 and 8, either in its own right, or as a preliminary activity to scuba diving.

Scuba activities should be part of a comprehensive dive training program.

The full range of activities for the proposed scuba diving program is assessed before final decisions are made with regards to the selection of activities and areas to be used.

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

Limits are set on group movements, including depth restrictions, as well as distance from the instructor or dive master leading the dive training activity. Separation procedures must be established and understood prior to all dives.

*Experiential or introductory dives in:*

- confined open water - must not exceed a depth of 6 metres.
- open water - must not exceed a depth of 12 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 or Master 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, cavern and/or 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.

Trainee divers 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.

Refer to *Swimming and Water Based Activities* supporting document for qualifications and supervision requirements that apply if a recreational or free swim is included after the scuba activity.

**Guidance**

*Minimal environmental impact principles are to be followed at all times. Divers should 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 handled. If rocks are turned over, they are replaced as found.*

**6. EQUIPMENT**

The Department teacher-in-charge must confirm that all scuba equipment (including air cylinders) whether owned, hired or borrowed:

- comply with the Western Australian Recreational Scuba Diving Code of Practice and meet the requirements of relevant Australian Standards;
- are maintained in accordance with the manufacturers equipment specifications (including assembly, maintenance, use of equipment and service record); and
- is in operational working order and appropriate for the activity.

Students are to 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. Students not comfortable with the condition of the equipment, or who suspect it may be below an acceptable standard should refer the equipment to a supervisor for replacement, or repair.

Qualified supervisors and 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 (e.g. safety sausage, flag) and audible signalling device (e.g. whistle);
- a light-signalling device (e.g. glow-stick or torch) when diving is conducted in low light situations;
- a compass or direction monitor;
- a timer (e.g. waterproof watch) for dive table calculations and/or a dive computer; and
- a planning slate and writing tool 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 for the duration of 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 (i.e. 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; and
- 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 x750 mm), clearly visible to all vessels in the vicinity;
- a suitably weighted descent/ascent line incorporating a safety stop system;
- decompression tables or an alternative means of calculating decompression requirements;
- a notebook and pen;
- a datum marker (e.g. Global Positioning System [GPS] or suitably weighted marker line and float that is long enough to reach the bottom of the dive site);
- an emergency oxygen set and approved medical kit;
- a spare scuba unit, including a regulator, Buoyancy Control Device (BCD) and full tank; and
- communication equipment for emergency situations.

Where a safety or support power boat is required to accompany paddlers, 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 are recommended.

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

Under no circumstances must 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 about life jackets.

## 7. THE SUPERVISORY TEAM

Refer to *Appendix A: General Requirements in the Recreation and Outdoor Education Activities for Public Schools Procedures* for further requirements.

## 8. EXTERNAL PROVIDERS

Refer to *Appendix A: General Requirements in the Recreation and Outdoor Education Activities for Public Schools Procedures* for further requirements.

## 9. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES

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

Refer to *Appendix A: General Requirements in the Recreation and Outdoor Education Activities for Public Schools Procedures* for mandated:

- first aid qualifications; and
- evidence requirements for all qualifications and competencies.

*Recommended 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.

At least one member of the supervisory team must hold a current, activity-specific qualification and/or have attained current, activity-specific competencies through a recognised tertiary institution or Registered Training Organisation (RTO) including:

- be able to effect a rescue at the location;
- have a current first aid qualification that is relevant to the activity and location;
- 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 (e.g. 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; and
- have documented evidence of scuba experience.

Minimum qualification requirements:

<b>Qualified supervisor requirements</b>	<p>At least <u>ONE</u> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nationally accredited <i>SCUBA Coach</i> Level 2; or</li> <li>• nationally accredited <i>SCUBA Instructor</i>; or</li> <li>• certificate from a recognised SCUBA instruction training organisation that complies with the NCAS or RSTC standard for Scuba Diving coaches and instructors; or</li> <li>• an equivalent qualification, as recognised by the Director General.</li> </ul> <p>For Advanced and Master Diver courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Advanced or Master Diver Instructor</i> certificate.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Other adults in a supervisory role observing from a boat or from the shore</b></p>	<p>At least <u>ONE</u> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Royal Life Saving Society Australia (RLSSA) <i>Bronze Medallion</i> (for closed water locations); or</li> <li>• RLSSA <i>School Teacher Aquatic Rescue Training</i> (START) certificate (for closed and open water locations); or</li> <li>• Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) <i>Bronze Medallion</i> (open water and beach locations); or</li> <li>• SLSA <i>Surf Rescue</i> certificate; or</li> <li>• SLSWA <i>Community Surf Rescue</i> certificate; or</li> <li>• <i>Rescue Diver</i> certificate; or</li> <li>• <i>Divemaster</i> (or higher) certification; or</li> <li>• an equivalent qualification, as recognised by the Director General.</li> </ul>
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#### *Safety or support craft*

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

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

#### **Guidance**

*For current information about recreation industry training, refer to the [Commonwealth Department of Education, skills and employment](#).*

#### *Skills and experience*

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

- has experience in the activity at the level being offered to students;
- has at least one member with relevant qualifications who has participated in a minimum of six hours of scuba in the last six months, and 20 hours in the last two years (a log book must be sighted);
- has at least one member with relevant experience to manage the scuba activity in the proposed location;
- has at least one member with a current CPR qualification; and
- 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.

## 10. MINIMUM LEVEL OF SUPERVISION

Supervisory requirements must take into consideration the:

- age, experience and capacity of each student;
- students' medical conditions or disabilities;
- supervisors' qualifications and diving experience;
- competence of the external provider;
- types of activity to be undertaken;
- nature of the environment (e.g. a closed or open water location);
- location of the activity;
- *Surf Life Saving WA [Twitter feed](#)* of shark sightings; and
- weather conditions need to 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, relocate 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, the second supervisor remains at the surface.

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 (e.g. 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 minimum level of supervision is dependent on the number of participants in the water, the aquatic environment in which the activity takes place and the level of supervisor qualification. 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 prior and current risk assessment of the environment and desired activity must be conducted to confirm adequate supervision levels and qualifications are maintained.

#### INTRODUCTORY OR EXPERIENTIAL 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 QUALIFIED 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 table below illustrates the supervision requirements for maximum group sizes.

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

## 11. SUPERVISION STRATEGIES

Supervision strategies must be confirmed by the Department teacher-in-charge to confirm the safety and wellbeing of students is maintained at all times.

Records should be kept of students' prerequisite abilities.

The Department teacher-in-charge must be aware of the nearest phone, carry the contact details for emergency services and be aware of the nearest compression chamber or hyperbaric unit.

The Department teacher-in-charge must be aware of the following:

- Call 000 in an emergency.
- 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.

Supervision strategies address all circumstances where students:

- are not in the water or participating in the activity, but are located where the proximity of water is an inherent risk (refer to *Swimming and Water Based Activities* for qualifications and minimum supervisory requirements that apply); and
- are not in clear view of the supervisor(s).

The appropriate number of supervisors directly monitoring students in the water must be maintained at all times.

A lookout should be posted on each dive.

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

Buddy practices are maintained at all times (refer to *Swimming and Water Based Activities*).

*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 are recommended.
- 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 in the Recreation and Outdoor Education Activities for Public Schools Procedures* for further requirements.

## 13. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Refer to *Appendix A: General Requirements in the Recreation and Outdoor Education Activities for Public Schools Procedures* for further requirements.

## 14. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Refer to *Appendix A: General Requirements in the Recreation and Outdoor Education Activities for Public Schools Procedures* for further requirements.

## 15. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Refer to *Appendix A: General Requirements in the Recreation and Outdoor Education Activities for Public Schools Procedures* for further requirements.

## 16. BRIEFING STUDENTS AND SUPERVISORS

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

- the educational purpose and the cooperative nature of the activity;
- the activity itinerary;
- required skills appropriate to the activity;
- participants' roles and responsibilities, including standards of acceptable behaviour and activity rules;
- the role and location of supervisors;
- the system for identifying students and supervisors;
- food and water requirements;
- areas demarcated and identified specifically for student groups;
- procedures that will be followed if members of the party are overdue, or become lost or separated from the group;
- potential hazards and safety procedures appropriate to the activity and venue;
- buddy practices and lost buddy procedures;
- conditions associated with hypothermia, sunburn and dehydration;
- the importance of not flying for at least 12 hours after diving (because of the risks of decompression, sickness and embolism associated with flying immediately after scuba diving activities);
- the dangers of hyperventilation;
- communication strategies that will be used throughout the activity, including a signal to gain the attention of the whole group; and a signal to be used if assistance is required;
- emergency and evacuation procedures, signals and location of emergency equipment;
- appropriate clothing for the activity and weather conditions, including thermal and sun protection;
- minimal impact principles for that location (see *Leave No Trace* principles);
- aspects of the environment and expected weather conditions (if appropriate);
- how to identify currents, tides, reefs (if applicable) and other potential hazards of the venue, including safe entry and exit points; and
- the route to be followed including pre-determined stops and/or meeting points along the way (if applicable).

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 in the Recreation and Outdoor Education Activities for Public Schools Procedures* for further requirements.