

DOUTS Member Code of Conduct

The intended purpose of this diving code is to set forth guidelines that promote safe and responsible diving as part of any DOUTS activity. It is the responsibility of each member to read, understand and follow this code.

The executive summary:

- Dive with a buddy and stick with your buddy.
- Dive within the limits of your qualification.
- Always dive with working safety equipment
- No drink diving.

DOUTS expects all members to conduct themselves in a safe manner. For their safety, and that of other members, all members undertake to abide by the following Code of Conduct.

- Always dive to your ability, training and experience taking into account diving and weather conditions as well as underwater visibility and currents.
- Always dive with a buddy. Jointly plan the dive and dive the plan
- To monitor air consumption and plan to return from all dives with at least 50 bar of air in tank.
- Turn around at the point that both buddies can safely return, including safety stop, using only one tank.
- Always carry a safety sausage, whistle and bottom timer/computer when diving.
- Always make sure that all equipment is serviceable.
- Always ascend slowly, and finish all dives with a safety stop (eg 5 minutes at 5 metres).
- Do not engage in dives requiring decompression unless trained and experienced.
- Do not take any alcohol or drugs and dive or dive if you are uncomfortable with the dive.
- Always make sure you understand the dive you are about to undertake and listen to dive briefings.
- If on the boat always obey the Captains directions.

DOUTS members undertake to use the following guidelines and depth limitations in their activities. New members in their first dives with the club must not exceed the maximum depth of their qualification regardless of experience. Ignoring this can put you and your dive buddy or others around you at risk.

Diver Rating	Depth Limit	Qualification	Equivalent Experience
Open Water Diver	Up to 18m	Trained by a recognised SCUBA Training agency to the standard of Open Water Diver.	N/A
Advanced Open Water Diver	Up to 30m	Trained by a recognised SCUBA Training agency to Advanced Open Water Diver or have an equivalent certification.	Open Water Diver with at least 30 <u>logged</u> dives, 10 of which are to depths beyond 12m in temperate waters.
Experienced Diver	Up to 39m	Certified by a recognised SCUBA Training agency to beyond 30m. eg Deep diver	Advanced Open Water Diver with at least 30 <u>logged</u> dives, 10 to depths beyond 24m in temperate waters.
Technical Diver	Beyond 39m	Certified by a recognised SCUBA Training agency to beyond 39m.	DOUTS advises specific training for dives below the recreational diving limit of 39m and that no amount of experience can replace this training.

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New members or new divers

To help you become familiar with the boat, equipment and Sydney conditions new divers with DOUTS must complete a dive with the club within the limits of your qualifications, regardless of your experience level. New members first dives with DOUTS should be undertaken during daylight hours, under calm conditions and with an agreed buddy. DOUTS is not a training agency and acceptance of you on a dive is not an endorsement of your ability.

Safety / near-miss reporting

We care about your safety and would like to know of any incident or near-miss that happens during a club activity. You can email safetyofficer@douts.org or use the Incident Reporting Form found on the DOUTS website to send an (optionally anonymous) report. By collecting this information, we hope to find out what can go wrong and what's going right, to reduce the risk of incidents in the future.

Deep diving

While the Club requires members to accept responsibility for their own diving and self-regulate, dives outside normal recreational standards such as over 39 metres require the following.

You must have dived with your buddy previously.

You must be familiar with all your equipment and your buddy's equipment.

You should carry redundant air sources as well as standard club safety gear.

You must have planned the dive and use a decompression computer.

More generally

If you don't know, are unsure, or simply baffled by something, ask.



Always make sure you are comfortable with the dive brief and the dive!