

PADI Freediver™ Center Classification and Membership Standards

PADI Freediver™ Center

PADI Freediver Centers are professional businesses that cater to the freediving market by engaging in freediving equipment sales and instruction.

Overview

The PADI Freediver Center classification is a mark of recognition for PADI Retail and Resort Association members that are actively issuing PADI Freediver certifications. The purpose of the PADI Freediver Center classification is to recognize, support and service those PADI Members that qualify for the classification. Qualifying PADI Freediver certifications include: PADI Basic Freediver, PADI Freediver, PADI Advanced Freediver, PADI Master Freediver and PADI Freediver Instructor. The PADI Freediver Center classification is renewed annually.

PADI Freediver Center classification allows businesses that focus primarily on freediving activities to join PADI as a PADI Freediver Center. Membership is renewed annually for these centers. PADI Dive Centers and Resorts can also qualify as PADI Freediver Centers.

PADI Freediver Center Benefits

PADI Freediver Centers receive specific benefits which may vary depending on the center's location and PADI Regional Headquarters affiliation. Consult your PADI Regional Headquarters for a detailed list of benefits available in your area.

PADI Freediver Center member benefits include:

- Formal title of PADI Freediver Center.
- Licensed right to use PADI Freediver™ related names and logos to advertise and promote PADI Freediver™ related services, certifications and products.
- Specially created PADI Freediver Center marketing materials to advertise, promote PADI Freediver Center services, certifications and products provided.
- Visibility – Presence on the PADI Freediver Center Listing
- A distinct eBadge designating the PADI Freediver Center classification
- Discounts on purchases of PADI Freediver related products.

Requirements

To qualify for and maintain annual classification/membership as a PADI Freediver Center, the business must either:

1. Be a member of the PADI Retail and Resort Association and, at the time of application, have had no verified PADI Quality Management violations for the past six months and have no open quality management complaints on file; or
2. Join the PADI organization as a PADI Freediver Center.

Have on staff, either as an employee or by contract, a renewed and insured (if applicable), Teaching Status PADI Freediver Instructor.

Maintain established business hours of at least 20 hours per week (or as comparable with other full-time retail stores in the local market) during the operating season and have a professional image consistent with or better than the norm for dive businesses in the marketplace.

Offer PADI Freediver instruction.

Comply with local laws regarding business licensure and any relevant local laws or standards regarding service provision.

Sign and adhere to the most current version of the PADI Freediver Center Membership and License Agreements.

Agree to uphold the PADI Membership Commitment (both Code of Practice and Youth Leader's Commitment) as contained in the PADI Freediver Program Instructor Guide.

Regarding freediving, snorkeling and recreational scuba diving instruction:

Actively promote, and seek to certify, PADI Freediver courses throughout the year. Provide PADI-related programs throughout the operating season; PADI programs must have equal or better representation if the Freediver Center also offers non-PADI programs.

Ensure PADI and non-PADI certification courses and experience programs are conducted by a certified instructor in current teaching status. Non-PADI instructors must be members of a recognized certification organization.

Use PADI-related training materials as designed when conducting PADI-related courses and programs.

Ensure that students and leadership-level course candidates have a personal set of current materials for study and use during the course and for reference afterward, according to the *PADI Freediver Program Instructor Guide*; unless not available in a language the student understands.

Provide adequate classroom facilities and confined water sites for instruction. Classrooms and confined water sites are to be within a reasonable distance of the business. Confined water sites are to be protected and provide adequate space to meet instructional performance requirements. Risk assessments must be conducted as required by local standards for service provision.

Provide, (for sale or rent), modern freediving equipment for instruction as described in the PADI Freediver Program Instructor Guide.

Promote and conduct only those PADI Freediver courses that the business is authorized to teach.

Regarding equipment sales and service:

Have freediving equipment for sale and/or rental and provisions for servicing the equipment.

Regarding freediving activities:

Ensure that a certified and renewed (insured where required) Freediver Instructor or qualifying Certified Assistant is present and supervising all snorkeling or freediving tours offered by the dive business.

Have a first aid kit available at any supervised snorkeling or freediving activity and have an oxygen unit with an adequate supply of oxygen (unless prohibited by local law) available during any supervised freediving activity, including on board boats operated by the business.

Complete risk assessments as required by local standards for service provision.

Comply with local laws regarding providing clients with specific risk assessment conduct and emergency procedure documentation. It is recommended that the management ensure all staff members are fully aware of their responsibilities where local laws dictate specific actions to be taken when providing dive services to clients.

Submit an Incident Report Form to the appropriate PADI Regional Headquarters any time the staff witnesses or is involved in a dive incident that could lead to an injury, as outlined in the *PADI Freediver Program Instructor Guide*.

Regarding boat operation and boat safety equipment:

Have a boat captain or vessel operator trained in safe boat operation and comply with local boat captain certification or licensing requirements and laws.

Ensure that owned or operated dive boats comply with local laws regarding boat safety equipment on vessels for hire. If no local law exists, all dive boats must have at least one fire extinguisher, one personal flotation device (PFD) for every passenger and a flare or emergency signaling device.

Display a recognized dive flag when anyone is in the water. Ensure all dive boats operated by the Freediver Center follow an established diver and passenger accountability procedure.

Application Procedures

To apply for the PADI Freediver Center classification, an application form must be completed and submitted with the proper documentation and application fee.

PADI Regional Headquarters reserve the right to deny classification/membership for actions or portrayals that are detrimental to PADI.

The PADI Freediver Center classification is granted at PADI's sole discretion based upon its unilateral determination of several criteria including, but not limited to, whether acceptance of membership is in PADI's best interest. Satisfaction of minimum requirements for this classification/membership does not guarantee acceptance. The PADI Freediver classification/membership may be revoked at any time.

A PADI Retail and Resort Association member or PADI Freediver Center may not advertise it is a PADI Freediver Center until it receives written approval from its PADI Regional Headquarters.

Renewal Requirements

The PADI Freediver Center classification/membership is valid from 1 January through 31 December each year. To remain current, a Freediver Center member must:

1. Continue to meet PADI Freediver Center membership requirements.
2. Acknowledge any quality management actions taken during the previous year, by PADI or any other organization. The PADI Quality Management Committee will review these reports as part of the renewal process. Failure to disclose these actions may result in membership revocation.
3. Have issued three PADI Freediver certifications in the 12 months prior to 31 December of the renewal year. Acceptable certifications are: PADI Basic Freediver, PADI Freediver, PADI Advanced Freediver, PADI Master Freediver and PADI Freediver Instructor.

Non-renewal or failure to meet the renewal criteria results in the loss of all benefits associated with the PADI Freediver Center classification/membership. A non-renewed PADI Freediver Center may not represent itself as a PADI Freediver Center nor use any PADI Freediver trademarks or logos.