



TRAINING BULLETIN

A Training and Education Update for PADI® Members Worldwide

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Training Bulletin Required Reading

This update is the primary training communication from your PADI Regional Headquarters to you. It announces PADI training standards and procedures changes and their implementation dates. Your PADI Membership commitment requires you to keep abreast of PADI standards by reviewing and putting into practice the information in this quarterly update.

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Divemaster Teaching Opportunities Expanded

Effective immediately, PADI Divemasters may qualify to teach these specialty courses without dives:

- ▶ Equipment Specialist
- ▶ Coral Reef Conservation
- ▶ Project AWARE Specialist
- ▶ PADI Distinctive Specialty Diver courses that don't include dives*

This is in addition to the two standardized PADI Specialty Diver courses Divemasters may teach, once qualified – Digital Underwater Photographer and Emergency Oxygen Provider. This new list of course options provides additional opportunities for PADI Divemasters to conduct continuing education training, which gives them valuable practical experience, increases their income opportunities and provides more flexibility for busy dive centers and resorts to staff diver training programs.

Divemasters qualify to teach these courses by:

1. Completing the “Learning, Instruction and the PADI System” presentation from the Assistant Instructor Course (either online or in person from a current PADI IDC Staff Instructor or Course Director).

2. Successfully completing a Specialty Instructor Course taught by a qualified Specialty Instructor Trainer.
3. Receiving approval to teach from the PADI Regional Headquarters after submitting a [PADI Specialty Instructor Application](#) and an eRecord (or the [Instructor Candidate Information and Training Record 10525](#)) that shows completion of the “Learning, Instruction and the PADI System” presentation from the Assistant Instructor course.
4. Purchasing [professional liability insurance](#) (where required).

Note: Although the PADI Enriched Air Diver Specialty certification may be earned without training dives, the course does outline and recommend optional dives. Consequently, PADI Divemasters are not eligible to earn the PADI Enriched Air Instructor rating.

*PADI Specialty Instructor Trainers qualified to teach distinctive specialty instructor courses (without dives) may update course prerequisites to include divemasters by submitting a copy of the specialty outline with a note requesting this prerequisite change to their PADI Regional Headquarters.



Standards Updates

General Standards and Procedures Training Standards - Open Water Dive

To clarify that the standard applies to student divers and not to the instructor, change point 9 to:

- 9. Conduct Student divers may participate in no more than three open water training dives in a single day, night or combination thereof.”**

Paperwork and Administrative Procedures - Referral

Second bolded sentence, change to:

Issue a referral if the student diver has met course requirements completed at least one segment of the course and has met any agreed-upon financial arrangements.

Open Water Diver Course

Open Water Dive 1 Performance Requirements

To accommodate deaf student divers, please make the following change:

- 1. During briefing, recognize the hand signals for “okay,” “something is wrong,” “ear problem,” “low air,” “up/end the dive,” “stay with your buddy,” and the audible (or tactile) and visual signal for “look at me.”**



Advanced Open Water Diver Course

Section One - Course Standards - Equipment

Second paragraph, change to:

Check Section Three **and/or the related Specialty Instructor Guide** for equipment requirements specific to each Adventure Dive.

Section Three - Elective Dives - Boat Adventure Dive

Add Considerations:

Considerations

Student divers must have an inflatable signal tube or DSMB to use.

Section Three - Elective Dives - Digital Underwater Imaging Adventure Dive

Add Considerations:

Considerations

Each student diver must have an underwater camera system.

Section Three - Elective Dives - Dry Suit Adventure Dive

Add point 3 under Considerations:

3. Each student diver must use a dry suit.

Section Three - Elective Dives - Fish Identification Adventure Dive

Add Considerations:

Considerations

1. Each student diver must have a slate or wet book.

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Section Three - Elective Dives - Night Adventure Dive

Add Considerations:

Considerations

Each student diver must have an underwater light. A backup underwater light and marker/chemical light is recommended.

Section Three - Elective Dives - Search and Recovery Adventure Dive

Add Considerations:

Considerations

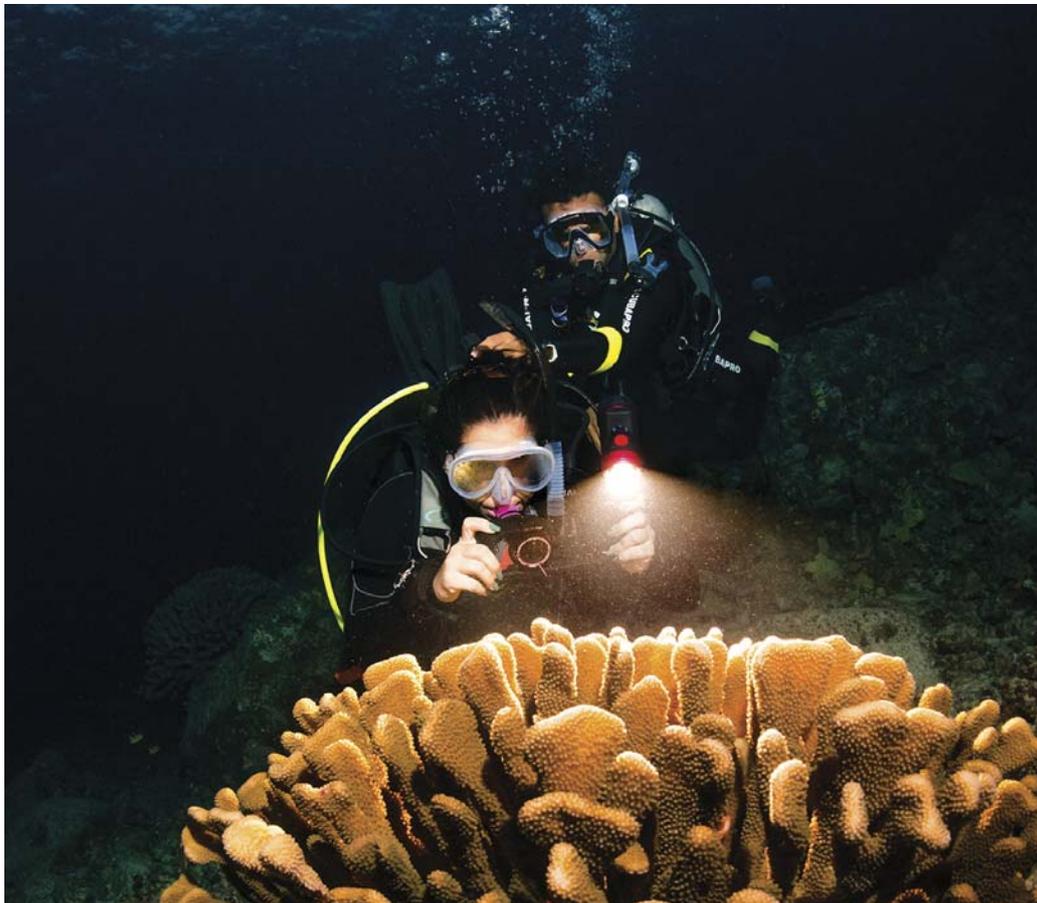
To conduct the dive, have a small object, large object (maximum 11 kilograms/25 pounds), line and lift bag with rigging.

Divemaster Course

Section Four - Practical Assessment

Add second sentence to last paragraph: (See FAQs)

Do not use divemaster candidates to increase student diver to instructor ratios. However, divemaster candidates do not count as student divers toward maximum student diver to instructor ratios. Directly supervise candidates who are working with student divers. Fill in any gaps or make any corrections necessary to assure that student divers receive complete and accurate training.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Clarifications

Night Adventure Dive

Q During the Night Adventure Dive, must each student diver have a light/torch? Can two divers share one?

A One light per diver is required, and it's recommended that each diver have a backup light/glow light.

Cavern Adventure Dive

Q Is there a Knowledge Review for the Cavern Diver course and related Adventure Dive?

A Yes. There is a [Knowledge Review](#) you can download from the Pros' Site for the Cavern Diver Specialty course that is also used for the Cavern Adventure Dive.

Also, for this Adventure Dive (and others, such as Enriched Air, Ice and Rebreather), it's important to remind student divers to complete the full specialty course before diving independently in these specialty areas. Reference the specialty instructor guide for more information.

PADI Digital Underwater Imaging Adventure Dive

Q To which specialty course does the new PADI Underwater Digital Imaging Adventure Dive link?

A The dive links to the PADI Digital Underwater Photography specialty course as Dive One of that course. When the PADI Digital Underwater Photography course is revised, its name will change to PADI Digital Underwater Imaging, and the Digital Imaging Adventure Dive will become Dive One of that course.

Rescue Diver Course Instructor Cue Cards

Q There is an inconsistency between the maximum depth in the Rescue Diver Course Instructor Guide and the Rescue Diver Instructor Cue Cards for Exercise 4. Which one is correct?

A The instructor guide is correct, it states that the maximum depth for Exercise 4 – Distressed Diver Underwater is 12 metres/40 feet. The Rescue Diver Course Instructor Cue Cards (Product No. 60205, rev 2.03) indicate the maximum depth is 6 metres/20 feet. Please update your cue card to read 12 m/40 f.

It's a good idea to make sure all of your cue cards are up to date before using them by comparing them to the course instructor guide, which is updated more often.

Self-Reliant Diver Instructor

Q When I take the PADI Self Reliant Diver Specialty Instructor training course, do I need to have issued at least 25 certifications as a prerequisite?

A No, because when taking a specialty instructor course, you receive practical experience and hands-on training from a PADI Course Director. This means that the teaching experience is not as critical, and therefore, not required. Keep in mind that you are required to have at least 10 logged self-reliant dives, and either the PADI Self Reliant Diver certification or PADI TecRec Diver certification (or qualifying certification.)

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Regulator Recovery While in Trim Position

Q How do I teach the Open Water Diver course regulator recovery from behind the shoulder skill when my student divers are off the bottom in a trim, horizontal position?

A Working on trim and buoyancy – even while learning other skills – can enhance a diver’s ability to master buoyancy control, and conducting skills with divers off the bottom more closely simulates skill performance on dives after certification.

However, when divers are in a trim, horizontal position (or in sidemount configuration) the regulator may hang straight down in front of them, not behind the shoulder, and be quite easy to recover.

The intent of the skill is for divers to be able to efficiently recover a regular in any situation. If necessary to meet the performance requirement, have divers recover the regulator from both the horizontal position as well as from a more upright position, even though the regulator may only be behind the shoulder when upright. While resting on the surface or in other circumstance, a diver will need to know how to recover a regulator from behind the shoulder.



Three Training Dives in a Day

Q In General Standards and Procedures, Open Water Dive standards states: “Conduct no more than three open water training dives in a single day, night or combination thereof.” Does this standard apply to student divers or instructors, or both?

A This restriction applies to student divers, not instructors or certified assistants. (See Standards Updates)

You should consider several factors before planning a third training dive in a day, including:

- ▶ Task loading
- ▶ Stamina and ability
- ▶ Adequate surface interval for the diver to rest and prepare for the next dive
- ▶ Adhering to safe diving practices such as planning each dive to successively shallower depths whenever possible
- ▶ Accounting for residual nitrogen
- ▶ Assessment of environmental conditions, etc.

Though there is no specified number of training dives a PADI Member may conduct or participate in, similar considerations should be factored in, and conservative practices are prudent; which also serves to set a good example for student divers.

Also note that PADI Open Water Diver students may not complete a third open water training dive if they’ve completed a confined water dive that same day, and a third dive may not exceed 12 metres/40 feet. For other courses, adhere to the depth restrictions stated in the course standards.

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Divemaster Candidates and Ratios

Q Do I count a divemaster candidate who is gaining practical experience by assisting me during PADI training as another student diver when it comes to ratios allowed for a particular training dive?

A No. Divemaster candidates do not subtract from maximum ratios set for student diver level training. For example, for the Open Water Diver course, you could have the maximum of eight student divers plus one or more divemaster candidates in open water, if risk assessment variables allow. You must consider whether you can maintain appropriate control in the prevailing conditions, perform the required evaluations, meet the required standards and provide a positive learning experience for everyone involved (including the divemaster candidate) when determining ratios. (See Standards Updates)

Acceptable Medicals

Q If a diver is required to see a physician for diving medical clearance, what documentation is needed?

- A** It's best to use the [RSTC Medical Statement](#) or a like form specific to scuba diving. Also be sure that the documentation:
- ▶ Has a physical exam date within 12 months of the course.
 - ▶ Includes the physician's name, signature and contact details.
 - ▶ Clearly states that the candidate is "fit for diving"
 - ▶ RSTC Medical Statement box is ticked: "I find no medical conditions that I consider incompatible with diving"
 - ▶ There are no "conditions" put on the diver. For example, the physician ticks the fitness statement, but then remarks on the form that the diver can't dive deeper than 10 metres/30 feet; or suggests that the patient should see a

hyperbaric physician – this makes it a conditional medical, and not acceptable.

PHYSICIAN	
This person applying for training or is presently certified to engage in scuba (self-contained underwater breathing apparatus) diving. Your opinion of the applicant's medical fitness for scuba diving is requested. There are guidelines attached for your information and reference.	
Physician's Impression	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I find no medical conditions that I consider incompatible with diving.	
<input type="checkbox"/> I am unable to recommend this individual for diving.	
Remarks _____	

Physician's Signature or Legal Representative of Medical Practitioner _____	Date _____
Physician _____	Clinic/Hospital _____
Address _____	
Phone () _____	Email _____

INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT

IDC/IE Diving Fitness Attendance Requirement

Just as in diver-level courses, you must confirm an instructor candidate's fitness to dive prior to acceptance on the course. The PADI *Course Director Manual*, Instructor Development Course Standards, prerequisite to both the IDC and IE, states: "medical clearance attesting to dive fitness signed by a physician within the previous 12 months." This means that the medical exam must have been conducted within the 12 months prior to the last day of the course.

These are PADI Standards and also international industry standards (reference WRSTC Minimum Course Content for Recreational Scuba Instructor Certification and ISO 24802-2:2014(E) Requirements for the training of scuba instructors Part 2: Level 2).

Why is medical clearance required?

1. Becoming an instructor is a benchmark certification in which the dive community feels that an assessment of diving fitness is necessary for diver safety,
2. Having a current medical form on file is a significant risk management tool in the event of an accident for everyone involved in the training.

3. Requiring medical clearance role-models the importance of documenting diving fitness for diver safety. It's what every instructor will need to do when conducting courses with similar medical form requirements.

If a candidate is missing medical clearance for the IDC, not only is this a standards violation, but it also means the candidate won't have it for the IE. Candidates who show up at an IE without an acceptable medical form are not allowed to participate in the confined and open water segments. This adds tremendous stress and frustration. In most cases, trying to secure medical clearance prior to the IE water sessions is impossible, thus the candidate must come back to another IE.

It's important to note that not only is the medical clearance required, there are also specific criteria on the medical approval documentation that must be met. (See the FAQ – Acceptable Medicals in this edition.) If you're uncertain about the validity of a medical provided by one of your instructor candidates, don't hesitate to contact a Regional Training Consultant at your PADI Regional Headquarters.

