

AQUARIUS DIVE CLUB BY-LAWS

Annex C – Safety Policy

1. Each member shall:

- a. Regularly read and be familiar with the Aquarius Dive Club's Constitution, By-Laws, and Safety Policy;
- b. Provide a valid certification from a CF recognized SCUBA organization;
- c. Complete a medical history form found and inform Aquarius Dive Club immediately of any medical condition that is a contradiction to diving or any changes in medical condition since the form is completed;
- d. Provide and maintain a logbook to show proof of experience;
- e. Maintain good mental and physical fitness for diving. Avoid being under the influence of alcohol or dangerous drugs when diving. Keep proficient in diving skills, striving to increase them through continuing education and reviewing them in controlled conditions after a period of diving inactivity, and refer to their course materials to stay current and refresh themselves on important information;
- f. Be familiar with the dive sites. If not, obtain a formal diving orientation from a knowledgeable source. If diving conditions are worse than those in which the member is experienced, postpone diving or select an alternate site with better conditions. Engage only in diving activities consistent with the member's training and experience. During Aquarius Dive Club sanctioned dives; cave or technical diving shall not be conducted (procedures or techniques beyond recreational diving limits). If a dive exceeds the member's limits or comfort, the member is responsible to make this known to the dive leader;
- g. Use complete, well-maintained, reliable and familiar equipment and inspect it for correct fit and function prior to each dive. Have a buoyancy control device, low-pressure buoyancy control inflation system, submersible pressure gauge and alternate air source and dive planning/monitoring device (dive computer, RDP/dive tables - which-ever you are trained to use) when scuba diving. Deny use of diving equipment to uncertified divers;
- h. Listen carefully to dive briefings and directions and respect the advice of those supervising my diving activities. Recognize that additional training is required for participation in specialty diving activities (such as drift diving, enriched air etc), in other geographic areas and after periods of inactivity;

- i. Adhere to the buddy system throughout every dive. Plan dives – including communications, procedures for reuniting in case of separation and emergency procedures – with the buddy;
- j. Be proficient in dive planning. Make all dives no decompression dives and allow a margin of safety. Have a means to monitor depth and time underwater. Limit maximum depth to the member's level of training and experience. Ascend at a rate of not more than 18 metres/60 feet per minute. Make a safety stop as an added precaution, usually at 5 metres/15 feet for three minutes or longer;
- k. Maintain proper buoyancy. Adjust weighting at the surface for neutral buoyancy. Maintain neutral buoyancy while underwater. Be buoyant for surface swimming and resting. Have weights clear for easy removal, and establish buoyancy when in distress while diving. Carry at least one surface signaling device;
- l. Breathe properly for diving. Never breath-hold or skip-breathe when breathing compressed air, and avoid excessive hyperventilation when breath-hold diving. Avoid overexertion while in and underwater and dive within my limitations;
- m. Use a boat, float or other surface support station, whenever feasible; and
- n. Know and obey local dive laws and regulations, including fish and game and dive flag laws.

2. Sanctioned Aquarius Club Dives:

- a. Are defined as dives organized by the executive committee and supervised by a club member or charter operator certified as a Divemaster or above by a CF recognized certification agency;
- b. Must be properly documented and reported to the executive committee;
- c. Must take place in areas recognized by the club as being safe;
- d. Must take place IAW the skill level of all participating divers and within recreational limits;
- e. Must be planned so that a minimum of two divers are under the water at any one time within direct proximity to each other (the “buddy” system);
- f. The maximum occupancy of any boat dive shall not be exceeded;
- g. Weather, tidal and sea state conditions shall be assessed prior to commencing any dives. This is the responsibility of all members participating in the dive. If diving conditions are worse than those in which the member is experienced or deems unsafe,

the dive shall be postponed or an alternate site selected with better conditions;
and

h. Members operating an Aquarius vessel shall be certified to operate it and operate it in accordance with the Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations, Canada Shipping Act . (Pleasure craft operator card or Boat Coxswain certifications are sufficient). This operator shall adhere to all applicable boating regulations including, but not limited to those found in the Small Vessel Regulations, Canada Shipping Act.

Document Review: Responsibility

In consideration of my being permitted to participate/ join in Aquarius Dive Club activities, I acknowledge that I have read and understand this Safety Policy along with the Club's Application Form, Constitution, By-Laws and Annex's in full. My acceptance of this responsibility is by virtue of my signature. I will regularly review the aforementioned documents and update myself on any changes.		
Print Name	Signature	Date
Print Parent/ Guardian Name	Signature	Date