

SCUBANAUT DIVING CLUB - WELFARE STATEMENT



Health and Safety

Whilst recreational scuba diving has a good safety record it is an indisputable fact that diving - a sport carried out in an alien underwater environment - carries with it a risk to life. The BSAC training courses will teach students the skills and knowledge to prevent incidents, react to situations if they do occur, and be of assistance to other divers.

Fitness

Sub-aqua diving is a sport that requires general physical fitness and good health. Anyone with a medical history of diabetes, blackouts (epilepsy, etc.), perforated eardrums, high blood pressure or heart disease, any lung or respiratory disorder (such as Asthma), or dependence on drugs, may not be able to dive safely and so MUST seek specialist advice before contemplating taking up this sport including a Try Dive

Membership of BSAC requires all divers to complete a medical self-declaration form on joining and annually when re-joining. Also if a medical condition arises between these times, it is necessary to use this process.

Physical contact

Certain underwater skills both in training and diving activity require close physical contact, such as Rescue Breathing (RB), Controlled Buoyant Lift, etc. This may involve physical contact with instructors, assistants and other trainees of different sex and ages. Where physical contact is involved the instructors will endeavor to give a verbal commentary to students what they are going to do, so as to prevent any misinterpretation. Any student who feels uncomfortable or has concerns should inform their instructor or the Training Officer. We advise students to wear Tee shirts or pool suits. This can avert potentially embarrassing situations.

Photography and Video

Photography and video photography is an increasingly popular part of scuba diving. Members should be aware that photography is actively undertaken by many members during trips and training as a part of normal diving/snorkelling activity. In accordance with the BSAC Welfare of Vulnerable People Policy and Procedures, where possible the Branch will not permit photographs, film, video or other images of children (under 18s) or vulnerable adults to be taken or used without the consent of the child/vulnerable adult and their parents/guardians or carers. The Branch will take all reasonable measures to ensure these images are used solely for the purposes for which they are intended

Children (under 18's) and Vulnerable Adults

As defined in the Children Act 1989, anyone under the age of 18 years should be considered as a child for the purposes of BSAC Policy. If any members have concerns about an incident involving a child or vulnerable adult that seems untoward or unusual they must report their concerns as soon as possible to a Branch Officer.

Welfare Self-Declaration

Instructors and Branch Officers within the Branch may, as a result of their position, have significant contact with children or vulnerable adults in training and supervision. For such members, as a minimum requirement, a Welfare Self-Declaration should be completed. This will ask for any information about a criminal record or other matter that has a bearing on their suitability to have significant contact with children to be revealed (e.g. previous investigations by police or social services or disciplinary investigations in relation to contact with children).

