



Student/Instructor Agreement for Scuba Training

WELCOME TO YOUR SCUBA TRAINING PROGRAM. This learning agreement is between you, the student, and our instructional staff, and covers mutual responsibilities. Diver training courses are meant to be fun, but like any form of learning, you will need to invest time and effort in reading, studying, participating, and practicing.

Student Responsibilities

The student agrees to study independently as specified by the instructor. The student will:

1. Read the appropriate assigned section(s) of the course manual(s), and complete the exercise questions.
2. Complete the appropriate Knowledge Review(s) to be handed in to the Instructor at each class.
3. Watch the appropriate or assigned portion(s) of the course video(s).
4. Follow all course procedures as set forth by the instructor and ask questions about any class related items that are not fully understood.

If the student arrives at class but fails to turn in the assigned work, or if the student fails to arrive on time or is unprepared in any way, it may be necessary to drop back to a subsequent class schedule and continue the class with them. The student is responsible for any additional costs and/or inconveniences this causes. In scheduling and determining costs, we will give every reasonable consideration to unforeseen events such as family or medical emergencies that led to this situation.

Instructor/Staff Responsibilities

If the student completes all course work as assigned, arrives for class promptly and prepared, and otherwise follows directions for learning as given by the instructor(s), we will accept responsibility for reasonable learning challenges. Course objectives must be met before the student is certified, but in this situation, we will schedule any necessary training sessions, at no additional charge to the student, until either (A) the student masters the course objectives, or (B) the student voluntarily withdraws.

General Terms and Conditions

1. Your paid tuition reserves your place in the course of your choosing.
2. Our policy on diving, drugs, and alcohol is simple: *zero tolerance*.
3. We will provide all required scuba equipment for the pool portion of the scuba Diver course.
4. You are responsible for providing an appropriate mask, snorkel, fins, boots, weight belt and mouthpiece. Store staff will need to verify fit and quality of items. We do not have nor do we provide loaners in the event you come to class ill prepared.
5. The scuba equipment you use in class is the equipment you must rent and use for the certification dive. If you appear on-site for your certification trip with equipment other than what you used throughout your entire scuba class, you will not be permitted to dive.
6. In addition to the scuba equipment used in class, each certifying student diver is required to have an underwater timekeeper (watch or computer), gloves for our certification dive trips.
7. If you do not go on our trip, you may elect to take a referral letter to the destination of choice.
8. You agree to allow Adventure Scuba Company to use your photograph(s) and sound in any of our videos, prints, films, website and/or publications.
9. DAN membership and insurance is highly recommended for *all* diving persons.
10. Equipment for advanced level classes must be owned or rented and must be current with service requirements as required by Adventure Scuba Company.
11. Rescheduling: If you need to change your class dates within 10 days of the start of your class, you will forfeit \$50 deposit on class.
12. Certain medical conditions will require a physicians approval to participate in training. Students must have this release completed *prior* to training. If you are unable to participate in class for *any* reason including medical, the deposit of \$50 is non refundable.

Refunds are only issued prior to start of class.

By my signature below, I certify that I have read, understand, and agree to be bound by the above.

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____



RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT FOR TECHNICAL DIVING

PLEASE READ AND BE CERTAIN YOU UNDERSTAND THE IMPLICATIONS OF SIGNING THIS TECHNICAL DIVING RELEASE.

EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISK ASSOCIATED WITH TECHNICAL DIVING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

I, _____ hereby affirm and acknowledge that I have been fully informed of the unique and inherent hazards of Technical Scuba Diving activities. I fully understand that Technical Scuba Diving with compressed air, oxygen or multiple mixed gases involves certain inherent risks including, but not limited to decompression sickness, embolism, oxygen toxicity, narcosis, barotrauma and hyperbaric injuries that can lead to serious permanent injury and even loss of life. I understand that diving operations may be conducted at a site that is remote from a recompression chamber and competent medical assistance. Nevertheless, I choose to proceed even in the absence of a recompression chamber and competent medical assistance. Additionally, I understand that there are also risks associated with dive travel, including, but not limited to the possible injury or loss of life as a result of a dive boat accident, as well as travel to and from dive sites. Despite the potential unique hazards and dangers associated with the activity of Technical Scuba Diving, I wish to proceed and I freely accept and expressly assume all risk, dangers and hazards that may arise from technical diving activities which could result in personal injury, loss of life and property damage to me.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY WAIVER OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration of being allowed to participate in this Technical Scuba Diving course of instruction, as well as the use of any of the facilities and the use of the equipment of the below listed Releasees, I hereby agree as follows:

1. TO WAIVE AND RELEASE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS based upon negligence, active or passive, with the exception of intentional, wanton or willful misconduct that I may have in the future against any of the following named persons or entities (hereafter referred to as "Releasees"); National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI):

(Instructors) _____

(Facility/ies) _____

(Others) _____
2. To release the Releasees, their officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents and volunteers, from any liability and responsibility, whatsoever for any claims or causes of action that I, my estate, heirs, executors or assigns, may have for personal injury, property damage or wrongful death arising from Technical Scuba Diving activities, whether caused by active or passive negligence of the Releasees or otherwise. By executing this document, I agree to save and hold harmless the Releasees from any claim or lawsuit by me, my family, estate, heirs or assigns arising out of my participation in this Technical Scuba Diving course, including both claims arising during the course or after I have received my certification.
3. I fully understand that Technical Scuba Diving activities are physically strenuous and I will be exerting myself during this course of instruction. I understand and agree that if I am injured or killed as a result of heart attack, panic, hyperventilation, oxygen toxicity, narcosis, drowning or any other cause that I expressly assume the risk of these injuries and/or attended death and that I will not hold the Releasees included in this agreement responsible in any other way.
4. By entering into this Agreement I am not relying on any oral or written representations or statements made by the Releasees, other than what is set forth in this Agreement. I further agree that this Agreement shall be governed by, and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of California, United States of America.
5. If any provision of this release is found to be unenforceable or invalid, that provision shall be severed from this Agreement. The remainder of this Agreement will then be construed as though the unenforceable provision had never been contained in this document.

I hereby declare that I am a qualified Scuba Diver and have been truthful in stating my qualifications as a certified Scuba Diver from the following training agency _____ and that I am aware of the required certification or equivalent experience. I have been a certified diver since _____ and I have conducted a total of ____ dives to a maximum depth of ____ feet or ____ meters.

I fully understand that the terms of this Agreement are contractual in nature and not a mere recital. I further state by way of my signature I have signed this Agreement of my own free act. I also declare that I am of legal age and competent to sign this Agreement.

I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT, I UNDERSTAND IT, AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY IT.

Signature of Participant Date

Witness Date

INSTRUCTOR/LEADER CONFIRMATION

I HAVE REVIEWED THIS AGREEMENT AND CONFIRM THAT IT HAS BEEN PROPERLY COMPLETED.

Signature Of Instructor/Leader _____ Date _____

Important Instructions

The proper presentation, completion and keeping of records are important considerations if the desired protection is to be afforded a practicing professional by a RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT. To ensure the completed agreement will be most valuable to you in case a claim of negligence is made against you, follow these steps.

- 1. Instruction-** Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary © 1994 defines "safe" as, "1. secure from liability to harm, injury, danger, or risk: *a safe place.*" Clearly scuba diving is not safe! One of the attractions of scuba diving is the adventure and "danger" of the activity. We can make diving "safer." We can minimize risk. In concept every diving instructional program is in reality a risk management program, in that, we develop the attitude, skills and knowledge necessary for the diver to participate in an adventure activity while minimizing the risks thereof.
- 2. Explain -** An individual must be cognizant of the risks of an activity for which they are being asked to accept responsibility. Read the waiver and release agreement to the participants. Use the Risk Management video, item # 28005, to present the information during a scheduled orientation session to all prospective students. In circumstances where this is not feasible, such as an organized dive wherein participants are asked to sign a release prior to participating, cover the information fully by explaining the risks associated with diving and specifically the pending dive's location and planned activity so that individuals may make an informed decision to accept responsibility for their own safety.
- 3. Answer Questions -** Leave ample time to ask for and answer any questions regarding the release and risks of the planned dive or instructional activity. Refer to #1 as the reason releases are necessary.
- 4. Accuracy -** It is important from a legal perspective that those named in the release, instructors, students, divers being supervised, and other entities be identified by their full legal names (middle initials are acceptable). Do not use nicknames such as ScubaBob for the instructors or assistants or other variations like Jimmy for James. Also, list each instructor or assistant on staff by name, not just as "staff." Waiver and release agreement wording is based upon recent legal developments and legal counsel's review and must not be altered in any way.
- 5. Complete -** The entire release must be completed. This is the reason for requiring the confirming signature of the instructor/leader who collects and reviews the release agreements. The reaffirmation signature line may be used before the trainees' first open water training dive or when they are transferring to a continuing education course with the same instructor. In either case the instructor supervisor must complete steps 1 through 3 to ensure that students or divers understand and have an opportunity to withdraw from the activity should they not wish to accept the risks and responsibility of the activity.
- 6. Timing -** Participants must be given an opportunity to withdraw from the activity should they not wish to accept the risks and responsibility of the activity. This decision to participate or not must be theirs, and be free from coercion or penalty - monetary or otherwise. Therefore, it is important that the release agreement review session be scheduled as far in advance of an activity as is possible.
- 7. Record Keeping -** The WARRANTIES – CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF COVERAGE state, "All records relating to individual students shall be retained for a minimum of five (5) years." Use the Student Record Folder, item # 80021, to ease the record keeping process. Master copies of the waiver and release agreements are also included in the Risk Management Handbook, item # 12908, for your convenience. These are for use whenever students or divers are in the water and under your supervision.
- 8. Producing the waiver and agreement in the event of a claim -** It is required, upon request by the Association or its representatives, that you be able to provide an original, completed, properly executed waiver and release agreement. This is expressed in the warranties of the insurance policy and in NAUI Standards and Policies.
- 9. In case of an incident -** Refer to the Risk Management Handbook. There you will find accident management guidelines and a report form. Direct your completed report form and any questions you may have regarding an incident or the reporting form directly to NAUI's claims counsel. Doing so establishes attorney-client privilege. Submit a complete report as soon as possible to: Monroe & Shapiro, LLP. Attorneys at Law, Royal Airport Center, 5933 West Century Blvd. Suite 800, Los Angeles, California 90045-5471, (310) 670-1381 • Fax (310) 670-2148
- 10. \$\$-** A properly executed waiver protects you, the Association and the insurance company from claims made against you. The lack of same can result in significant monetary losses to all involved and could result in a restriction or denial of your coverage because of your violation of the policy's warranty regarding waivers.

Last revision April 2001



MEDICAL EVALUATION AND PHYSICIAN APPROVAL FORM

Please print or type

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

To the Instructor: If any condition listed on the medical history information is marked by a **Yes**, you are required to individually interview the student. If, as a result of the interview, you are unsure whether or not the condition is a contraindication to diver training send the student to a physician for a medical exam.

To the Physician: This person is an applicant for training in diving with self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA). This is an activity which puts unusual stress on the individual in several ways. A list of contraindications is on the reverse of this form for your reference.

MEDICAL HISTORY INFORMATION

HISTORY STATEMENT: I understand that skin and scuba diving are strenuous activities involving significant pressure changes and that normal, healthy heart, lungs, ear and essential prerequisites for my safety and well-being. I hereby confirm that to the best of my knowledge my circulatory and respiratory systems and body air spaces are normal and that I have no severe emotional or neurological problems or communicable diseases. I understand that I need to seek unconditional approval for diving from a licensed physician if I am uncertain as to my physical fitness for the rigors of diving.

Write Y (Yes) or N (No) next to all of the following, and explain under NOTES, any Yes answers.

The student applicant's medical history below was provided during the enrollment process.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral health problems | <input type="checkbox"/> Bronchitis | <input type="checkbox"/> Contact lenses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Claustrophobia | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuberculosis | <input type="checkbox"/> Dental plates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agoraphobia | <input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory problems | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical disability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Migraine headaches | <input type="checkbox"/> Back Problems | <input type="checkbox"/> Serious injury |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Epilepsy | <input type="checkbox"/> Back/spinal surgery | <input type="checkbox"/> Over 40 years old |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ear or hearing problems | <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes | <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trouble equalizing pressure | <input type="checkbox"/> Ulcers | <input type="checkbox"/> HIV positive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sinus trouble | <input type="checkbox"/> Colostomy | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular medication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Severe hayfever | <input type="checkbox"/> Hernia | <input type="checkbox"/> Drug allergies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heart trouble | <input type="checkbox"/> Dizziness or fainting | <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol or drug abuse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High blood pressure | <input type="checkbox"/> Recent surgery | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected from any activity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Angina | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitalized | for medical reasons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heart surgery | <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant | <input type="checkbox"/> Any medical condition not listed: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma | <input type="checkbox"/> Motion Sickness | |

NOTES:

I certify that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT: _____ Date: _____

I am a minor and my parent or guardian has signed below.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN: _____ Date: _____

Please note that the medical examination form presents a choice under IMPRESSION. We can only accept unconditional approval as stated for student applicants desiring to begin or continue training. If you conclude that diving is not in the individual's best interest or that their medical condition is likely to present a probable direct threat to others, please discuss your opinion with the person and check disapproval.

IMPRESSION:

- APPROVAL (I find no medical conditions I consider incompatible with diving.)
- DISAPPROVAL (This applicant has medical conditions which in my opinion clearly would constitute unacceptable hazards to health and safety in diving.)

Date _____ Signature _____, MD.

Physician's Name (print) _____

Address _____

Phone _____



CONTRAINDICATIONS TO DIVING

This list of relative and absolute contraindications is not all inclusive. Contraindications that are absolute permanently place the diver and his diving partners at increased risk for injury or death. Relative contraindications to scuba may be resolved with time and proper medical intervention or may be intermittent. A bibliography is included to aid in clarifying issues that arise. The Divers Alert Network (DAN) physicians are available for consultation by phone (919) 684-2948 during normal business hours. For diving related emergencies call, DAN at (919) 684-8111 24 hours, 7 days a week.

OTOLARYNGOLOGICAL

Relative Contraindications:

- History of...
 - significant cold injury to pinna
 - TM perforation
 - tympanoplasty
 - mastoidectomy
 - mid-face fracture
 - head and/or neck therapeutic radiation
 - temporomandibular joint dysfunction
- Recurrent otitis externa
- Significant obstruction of the external auditory canal
- Eustachian tube dysfunction
- Recurrent otitis media or sinusitis
- Significant conductive or sensorineural hearing impairment
- Facial nerve paralysis not associated with barotrauma
- Full prosthodontic devices
- Unhealed oral surgery sites

Absolute Contraindications:

- History of...
 - stapedectomy
 - ossicular chain surgery
 - inner ear surgery
 - round window rupture
 - vestibular decompression sickness
- Monomeric TM
- Open TM perforation
- Tube myringotomy
- Facial nerve paralysis secondary to barotrauma
- Inner ear disease other than presbycusis
- Uncorrected upper airway obstruction
- Laryngectomy or status post partial laryngectomy
- Tracheostomy
- Uncorrected laryngocele

NEUROLOGICAL

Relative Contraindications:

- History of...
 - head injury with sequelae other than seizure
 - spinal cord or brain injury without residual neurologic deficit
 - cerebral gas embolism without residual, pulmonary air trapping has been excluded
- Migraine headaches whose symptoms or severity impair motor or cognitive function
- Herniated nucleus pulposus
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Trigeminal neuralgia
- Cerebral palsy in the absence of seizure activity

Absolute Contraindications:

- History of...
 - seizures other than childhood febrile seizures
 - TIA or CVA
 - spinal cord injury, disease or surgery with residual sequelae
 - Type II (serious and/or central nervous system) decompression sickness with permanent neurologic deficit
- Intracranial tumor or aneurysm

CARDIOVASCULAR

Relative Contraindications:

The suggested minimum criteria for stress testing is 13 METS.

- History of...
 - CABG or PCTA for CAD
 - myocardial infarction
 - dysrhythmia requiring medication for suppression
- Hypertension
- Valvular regurgitation
- Asymptomatic mitral valve prolapse
- Pacemakers-Note: Pacemakers must be depth certified by the manufacturer to at least 130 feet (40 meters) of sea water.

Absolute Contraindications:

- Asymmetric septal hypertrophy and valvular stenosis
- Congestive heart failure

PULMONARY

Asthma (reactive airway disease), COPD cystic or cavitating lung diseases all may lead to air trapping.

Relative Contraindications:

- History of...
 - prior asthma or reactive airway disease (RAD)*
 - exercise/cold induced bronchospasm (EIB)
 - solid, cystic or cavitating lesion
- Pneumothorax secondary to: thoracic surgery*, trauma or pleural penetration*, previous over inflation injury*
- Restrictive Disease**
(*Air Trapping must be excluded)
(**Exercise Testing necessary)

Absolute Contraindications:

- History of spontaneous pneumothorax
- Active RAD (asthma), EIB, COPD or history of the same with abnormal PFS or positive challenge
- Restrictive diseases with exercise impairment

GASTROINTESTINAL

Relative Contraindications:

- Peptic ulcer disease
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Malabsorption states
- Functional bowel disorders
- Post gastrectomy dumping syndrome
- Paraesophageal or hiatal hernia

Absolute Contraindications:

- High grade gastric outlet obstruction
- Chronic or recurrent small bowel obstruction
- Entero-cutaneous fistulae that do not drain freely
- Esophageal diverticula
- Severe gastroesophageal reflux
- Achalasia
- Unrepaired hernias of the abdominal wall potentially containing bowel

METABOLIC AND ENDOCRINOLOGICAL

Relative Contraindications:

- Hormonal excess or deficiency
- Obesity
- Renal insufficiency

Absolute Contraindications:

- Diabetics on Insulin therapy or oral anti-hypoglycemia medication

PREGNANCY

Absolute Contraindications:

Venous gas emboli formed during decompression may result in fetal malformations. Diving is absolutely contraindicated during any state of pregnancy.

HEMATOLOGICAL

Relative Contraindications:

- Sickle cell trait
- Acute anemia

Absolute Contraindications:

- Sickle cell disease
- Polycythemia
- Leukemia

ORTHOPEDIC

Relative Contraindications:

Chronic Back Pain
Amputation
Scoliosis - assess impact on pulmonary function
Aseptic osteonecrosis

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Relative Contraindications:

- History of...
 - drug or alcohol abuse
 - previous psychotic episodes
- Developmental delay

Absolute Contraindications:

- History of panic disorder
- Inappropriate motivation for scuba training
- Claustrophobia and agoraphobia
- Active psychosis or while receiving psychotropic medications
- Drug or alcohol abuse

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Physiology and Medicine of Diving, 4th edition, 1993; *Diving and Subaquatic Medicine*, 3rd edition 1994; *Diving Physiology in Plain English*, 2nd edition, 1997