

Guidance notes regarding PADI Open Water and Advanced Open Water Divers

These notes have been compiled to clarify PADI OW and AOW's diving limits and the training required to cross them over to the BSAC Ocean Diver qualification.

1. Under BSAC rules a PADI Advanced Open Water diver can dive to 30m if they are paired with a BSAC Dive Leader or equivalent. If they are buddied with a Sports Diver, Ocean Diver or another PADI AOW the maximum depth they can go to is 20 m. If they also have the PADI 'Deep Diving' qualification they can go to 40m (or the maximum depth achieved during training if this was less than 40m) if they are paired with a BSAC Dive Leader or equivalent. Two PADI AOWs may not dive together unless accompanied by a BSAC Dive Leader or equivalent.

PADI Open Water divers are limited to a maximum of 18m no stop diving.

PADI OWs and AOWs do not have to crossover to BSAC if they simply want to dive to their existing qualification and do not want to continue their training with BSAC. However, we do require that they attend a couple of orientation lectures and undertake some basic rescue training, as set-out below:

1. A brief 'Introduction to BSAC' lesson based on OT1 which describes the branch structure and how BSAC functions as a governing body
2. OT4, which covers BSAC tables and using Nitrox.
3. Controlled buoyant lift and alternative source ascents in the pool and sea from 6 m. (Basic Life Support is taught during the next qualification level, which is Sports Diver).

If divers wish to progress their training with BSAC, then they will need to "crossover" to BSAC, which, in addition to the orientation and rescue sessions described above, will then enable them to progress to Sports Diver level when the branch next runs this course (we usually run it once a year). In order to commence the crossover process, they will need a crossover pack, which the branch can order from BSAC. The cost of the crossover pack is £38 including postage. This contains 'The Diving Manual', qualification filofax, Sports Diver Student notes with A5 ring binder. The branch provides pool sessions and lectures for Sports Diver training free of charge to members, but trainees will need to pay for any boat dives involved.