

Totnes Branch Rules

GENERAL

1. To be a branch dive it needs to have at least 4 members to be present, at least one advanced diver or, by exception and at the discretion of the Diving Officer, a suitably qualified and experienced dive leader, and the dive must have the prior consent of the Diving Officer.
2. Branch equipment may only be used on Branch Dives, unless the committee has sanctioned other use.
3. All diving incidents and accidents must be reported to the Diving Officer at the earliest opportunity.
4. The Dive Manager must submit a report form to the Diving Officer and pay monies to the Treasurer.
5. All divers must have completed an annual medical self-declaration form.
6. Buoyancy compensators are to be worn on all branch dives and all divers should carry an alternative supply.
7. Surface marker buoys will be used on open water dives. However the Dive Manager has the discretion to waive this rule if it is felt impractical.
8. Mixed gases are allowed on club dives, but members must satisfy the Diving Officer that they hold the relevant and recognized qualifications for their use. All diving to be carried out in accordance with the latest recommendations from BSAC's National Diving Committee.
9. It is the responsibility of the individual diver to advise the Dive Manager if they are using a mixed gas or rebreather, and to state the limitations/constraints that this imposes, to enable the Dive Manager to plan the dive and dive pairings accordingly.
10. If you personally abandon a boat dive for whatever reason, you will be expected to pay for the dive. You may appeal to the committee for a refund.
11. All members must comply with the branch Safeguarding Policy for children and vulnerable adults.

BOAT RULES

1. The boat will carry appropriate safety equipment.
2. An approved boat handler must be present in the boat at all times. Only persons having undertaken a recognized boat handling course and subsequently satisfied one of the club's Boat Handling Instructors of their competence may handle the boat unsupervised. The Diving Officer will keep a register of approved boat handlers.
3. All persons on the boat must be in possession of a buoyancy device.
4. Loading of the boats should be within the manufacturers recommended limits.

DIVING LIMITATIONS

1. "Trainees for Ocean Diver:- no deeper than their previous training dive, unless on a training dive. Maximum depth 20 metres.
2. Club/Ocean Divers:- Maximum 20 metres limited to no stop diving. PADI Open Water divers:- 18metres limited to no stop diving.
3. 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 or Ocean Diver 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.
4. Sports Divers (no matter how experienced):- Maximum 35 metres.
5. For diving deeper than 30 metres, divers should have done at least five recent dives deeper than 20 metres.
6. For dives in excess of 50m, mixed gas or Trimix should be used and BSAC technical qualifications are currently available to a recommended maximum depth of 80m. Technical divers trained by other organizations who have a depth limit in excess of 80m may dive to the limit of their qualification, but for dives planned to depths below 80m an appropriate Risk Assessment must be submitted to the NDO (via HQ) for review and approval. The Diving Officer is not responsible for such dives but should ensure that approval from NDO has been sought. All diving to be carried out in accordance with the latest recommendations from BSAC's National Diving Committee.

Any diver using a drysuit must have received suitable instruction and satisfied the Diving Officer of their competence in the use of their drysuit.”

VISITING DIVERS

Visiting members of the BSAC or other recognized organizations are welcome to dive with the branch if it is possible under the prevailing circumstances. The Dive Manager must satisfy himself of their status and experience by examining their logbook. They should be paired with an experienced diver until their practical ability has been established.

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