DIVEMASTER COURSE
INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

Standards outlined in the General Standards and Procedures Guide apply to the PADI Divemaster Course, except as noted otherwise in this guide.

Divers completing this course have met ISO 24801-3 Requirements for the training of recreational scuba divers – Part 3: Level 3 – Dive Leader

Section One

Course Standards

Certification Requirements

Divemaster candidates meet course performance requirements and:

- **Complete knowledge development segments including Knowledge Reviews in the PADI *Divemaster Manual* or through *Divemaster eLearning*, and pass the Divemaster Final Exam.**
- **Create an Emergency Assistance Plan for a designated dive site.**
- **Complete waterskills exercises.**
- **Complete a diver rescue assessment.**
- **Complete the dive skills workshop and assessment.**
- **Complete practical application skills.**
- **Complete divemaster-conducted programs workshops.**
- **Complete practical assessments.**
- **Meet the professionalism criteria.**

At time of certification, verify the candidate has:

- **Logged at least 60 scuba dives including experience in night diving, deep diving and underwater navigation.**
- **Completed EFR Primary and Secondary Care training within 24 months.**
- **Read and agreed to the PADI Membership and License Agreements.**

Diver Prerequisites

- **Certified as a PADI Advanced Open Water Diver and PADI Rescue Diver**
- **18 years old**
- **Logged 40 scuba dives**
- **Completed EFR Primary and Secondary Care training within 24 months**
- **Medically evaluated and cleared for diving by a physician within 12 months**

Equipment

As described for Instructors and Certified Assistants in the General Standards and Procedures Guide.

Forms

Download the most current forms from padi.com/Pros' Site. Check with your PADI Office for region specific releases, applications or forms.

Required

Divemaster Application (10144)

Release of Liability/Assumption of Risk/Non-agency Acknowledgment Form – General Training (10072)

Diver Medical form (10346)

Standard Safe Diving Practices Statement of Understanding (10060)

Recommended

Divemaster Candidate Information and Evaluation Form (10147)

Instructor Rating

Instructor

Materials

Required

- **PADI *Divemaster Manual* or *Divemaster eLearning***
- **PADI *Instructor Manual***
- **RDP — Table and eRDPML including associated Instructions for Use booklets**
- ***The Encyclopedia of Recreational Diving***
- **Divemaster Slates**
- **Log book**

Divemaster candidates must view the PADI *Divemaster Video.*

Recommended

- PADI's *Guide to Teaching*
- *Diving Knowledge Workbook* or *Dive Theory eLearning*
- PADI Skill Practice and Dive Planning slate

Ratio

8:1

Sequence

1. **Knowledge Development Topic 1 — The Role and Characteristics of a PADI Divemaster precedes all water sessions: exercises, workshops, assessments and practical application.**

Note: This instructor-delivered presentation is required even if the candidate completes *Divemaster eLearning.*

2. **Knowledge Development Topics 2 and 3 — Supervising Certified Divers and Assisting with Student Divers precedes all Practical Assessments.**

3. Knowledge Development Topic 5 — Divemaster-Conducted Programs should precede Divemaster-Conducted Programs Workshops.

Supervision

As described in the General Standards and Procedures Guide.

See General Standards and Procedures for supervision requirements specific to Waterskills Assessment and Development.

Section Two
Knowledge Development

Conduct Knowledge Development Topic 1 — Role and Characteristics of a PADI Divemaster.

Have candidates complete all knowledge development topics, including successfully completing all Knowledge Reviews. Candidates may study independently using the PADI *Divemaster Manual* and *Video* or through *Divemaster eLearning.* Knowledge development may include a combination of independent study, presentations and discussions.

For digital learners, have candidates complete any assessments that were not completed online. Administer the Divemaster Quick Review to candidates who completed all assessment online.

If administering the PADI Divemaster Final Exam in person, candidates may use an RDP Table and eRDPML, a calculator and the PADI *Instructor Manual* for reference. Candidates who have completed *Dive Theory eLearning* within 12 months (eRecord is proof) may receive credit for Part 2 of the exam.

Have candidates prepare an emergency assistance plan complete with information needed to manage a diving accident at that site.

Look for Knowledge Review and Exam Answer Keys on the Pros' Site at padi.com.

Section Three

Waterskills Development

See General Standards and Procedures for supervision requirements specific to Waterskills Assessment and Development.

Waterskills Exercises

Have candidates complete five waterskills exercises, earning a combined exercise score of at least 15. Candidates must score at least a 3 in the equipment exchange; there is no passing score for any other single exercise.

Exercise 1: 400 Metre/Yard Swim

Swim 400 metres/yards nonstop, without swimming aids and using any stroke or combination of strokes.

400 metres Time	Score	400 yards Time
under 6:30 min	5	under 6 min
6:30 to 8:40 min	4	6 to 8 min
8:40 to 11 min	3	8 to 10 min
11 to 13 min	2	10 to 12 min
more than 13 min	1	more than 12 min
stopped	incomplete	stopped

Exercise 2: 15-minute Tread

Tread water, drown-proof, bob or float using no aids and wearing only a swimsuit for 15 minutes, with hands (not arms) out of the water during the last two minutes.

> **Exceptions:** A candidate with a physical impairment that makes it difficult/impossible to hold hands out of the water is exempted from that portion of the exercise with no effect on the score.

Criteria	Score
Performed satisfactorily	5
Stayed afloat, but hands not out of water the entire two minutes	3
Used side/bottom for momentary support no more than twice	1
Used side/bottom for support more than twice	incomplete

Exercise 3: 800 Metre/Yard Swim

Swim 800 metres/yards face down, using mask, snorkel and fins, nonstop, without flotation aids and without using arms to swim.

Exceptions: A candidate with leg-use limitations, who normally arm-swims, may use arms.

800 metres Time	Score	800 yards Time
under 14 min	5	under 13 min
14 to 16:30 min	4	13 to 15 min
16:30 to 18:30 min	3	15 to 17 min
18:30 to 21 min	2	17 to 19 min
more than 21 min	1	more than 19 min
stopped	incomplete	stopped

Exercise 4: 100 Metre/Yard Inert Diver Tow

Tow (or push) a diver for 100 metres/yards nonstop, at the surface, without assistance – both divers equipped in full scuba equipment.

100 metres Time	Score	100 yards Time
under 2:10 min	5	under 2 min
2:10 to 3:15 min	4	2 to 3 min
3:15 to 4:20 min	3	3 to 4 min
4:20 to 5:30 min	2	4 to 5 min
more than 5:30 min	1	more than 5 min
stopped	incomplete	stopped

Exercise 5: Equipment Exchange

In confined water, demonstrate the ability to effectively respond to an unusual circumstance underwater by exchanging all scuba equipment (except exposure suits and weight belts) **with a buddy while neutrally buoyant earning a minimum score of 3. During the exchange, when divers switch scuba kits, they should go to and breathe from their buddy's alternate air source, not the primary second stage. Instead of exchanging masks, divers remove and replace their own masks.**

Conduct:

- Give buddy teams less than five minutes to discuss the exercise.
- Have candidates complete the exercise in water too deep in which to stand, instructing them to avoid touching the bottom or breaking the surface.
- Do not assign problems – allow candidates to resolve any naturally-occurring ones.

Score	Criteria
5	Task performed in a well-thought-out, efficient and purposeful manner with no sign of problems; very low anxiety level. Looks routine, easy and neither diver touched the bottom or the surface.
4	Task performed competently with a relatively low anxiety level. Challenges encountered were easily and efficiently handled. Neither diver touched the bottom or the surface.
3	Complete exchange occurred while neutrally buoyant. However, numerous challenges were encountered that delayed the speed and efficiency of the performance. This score is also appropriate for a diver overly dependent on another.
2	Significant problems demonstrated, and exchange completed only after one or both team members surfaced once.
1	Inability to complete the exchange; or exchange completed with one or both divers surfacing more than once.

Diver Rescue

Respond to an unresponsive, nonbreathing diver, including these steps:

- **Enter the water, locate and surface a submerged diver who is about 25 metres/yards away.**

- **Turn the diver face up and establish buoyancy.**

- **Remove the diver's mask and regulator, open the airway and check for breathing.**

- **Call for help.**

- **Give two initial rescue breaths, and continue with an effective rescue breath every five seconds with no or very few interruptions.**

- **Tow the diver to safety while protecting the airway, continuing rescue breathing.**

- **Remove both sets of equipment** (equipment handlers allowed).

- **Exit the water with the diver.** (Assistance allowed only when physical challenges or the environment make it necessary.)

Conduct: Develop and assess a divemaster candidate's rescue skills in either confined water or open water.

Dive Skills Workshop

Demonstrate all scuba and advanced snorkeling skills, scoring at least a 3 on each skill, and scoring at least 82 points total, with at least one underwater skill to a 5.

Conduct:

- Describe for candidates the characteristics of a demonstration-quality skill, and explain that the focus is on exaggerating the critical attributes.

- Demonstrate each skill, and have candidates practice.

- After practice, have candidates perform each skill for a score. Remediate as necessary until candidates meet the performance requirement.

Score	Criteria
5	Exercise performed correctly, slowly and with exaggerated movement – appeared easy.
4	Exercise performed correctly, and slowly enough to adequately exhibit or illustrate details of skill.
3	Exercise performed correctly, though too quickly to adequately exhibit or illustrate details of the skill
2	Exercise performed with significant difficulty or error.
1	Candidate unable to perform exercise.

Note: These criteria are used to score skill evaluations throughout all levels of PADI leadership training.

Dive Skills

1. Equipment assembly, adjustment, preparation, donning and disassembly

2. Predive safety check (BWRAF)

3. Deep-water entry

4. Buoyancy check at surface

5. Snorkel-regulator/regulator-snorkel exchange

6. Five-point descent, using buoyancy control to stop descent without contacting the bottom

7. Regulator recovery and clearing*

8. Mask removal, replacement and clearing*

9. Air depletion exercise and alternate air source use (stationary)

10. Alternate air source-assisted ascent

11. Free flowing regulator breathing

12. Neutral buoyancy, rise and fall – using low pressure inflation

13. Five-point ascent

14. Controlled Emergency Swimming Ascent

15. Orally inflate BCD to hover for at least 60 seconds

16. Underwater swim without a mask

17. Remove and replace weight system underwater

18. Remove and replace scuba unit underwater

19. Remove and replace scuba unit on the surface

20. Remove and replace weight system on the surface

21. Head-first surface dive, snorkel out of mouth

22. Disconnect low-pressure inflator

23. Re-secure a loose cylinder band

24. Perform an emergency weight drop

* To earn a 5, diver must demonstrate skill while neutrally buoyant.

Section Four

Practical Application

Have divemaster candidates successfully complete the following practical skills, workshops and practical assessments. Combine the skills with workshops and practical assessments as appropriate.

Practical Skills

Skill 1 — Dive Site Setup and Management

Have divemaster candidates in buddy teams or individually set up a dive site and manage predive preparation, including:

- **Choosing a location appropriate for divers to assemble equipment.**

- **Preparing emergency equipment, such as a first-aid kit and oxygen unit.**

- **Greeting divers as they arrive at the site/boat and providing direction.** For example – where to place equipment, location of nearest facilities, etc.

- **Organizing a dive roster and reviewing check in and check out procedures with divers.**

- **Preparing and setting a float/dive flag if diving from shore, or ensuring the descent line and dive flag are ready, as appropriate, when diving from a boat.**

- **Choosing an appropriate vantage point from which to monitor the dive.**

- **Being accessible to answer diver questions and prepared to assist divers both before and after the dive.**

Skill 2 — Mapping Project

Have divemaster candidates in buddy teams survey an open water dive site and create a detailed map of the site showing (as applicable to the site) underwater relief, important points of interest, any relevant environmental notes, recommended entry/exit areas, local facilities, and potential hazards.

Skill 3 — Dive Briefing

Have each divemaster candidate conduct a dive briefing for a familiar dive site covering all 10 points as listed below and on the Divemaster Slates. Encourage candidates to use their Mapping Project dive site map, if possible.

1. **Dive site name**
2. **Site description**
3. **Your role and how divers can recognize you underwater, if appropriate**
4. **Entry and exit techniques**
5. **Dive procedures**
6. **Emergency procedures**
7. **Signal review specific to the dive**
8. **Roster and buddy check**
9. **Environmental orientation**
10. **Predive safety check**

Skill 4 — Search and Recovery Scenario

Set up various search and recovery scenarios that allow divemaster candidates to complete the following:

- **Demonstrate a methodical search of an area to find a small submerged object.**

- **Demonstrate a methodical search of an area to find a submerged object not more than 11 kilograms/ 25 pounds negatively buoyant.**

- Tie the following knots correctly underwater: the bowline, two half-hitches and a sheet bend.
- Demonstrate how to safely rig and bring to the surface an object not more than 11 kilograms/ 25 pounds negatively buoyant using an appropriate lifting device.

Skill 5 — Deep Dive Scenario

Conduct a deep dive in which each divemaster candidate completes the following:

- With a buddy before the dive, prepare emergency breathing equipment, and position it at the safety stop depth.
- Descend using a reference line, wall or sloping bottom as a visual guide only, while staying with a buddy and controlling the descent rate.
- Navigate with a compass at least 20 kick cycles away from and back to the reference line or designated spot.
- Use a depth gauge and timing device, or a dive computer to monitor an ascent rate no faster than 18 metres/60 feet per minute while using a reference line, wall or sloping bottom as a visual guide only.
- Perform a 3-minute safety stop at 5 metres/15 feet before surfacing without holding on to a reference line for positioning.

Divemaster-Conducted Programs Workshops

Workshop 1: ReActivate Program

- Access ReActivate program standards in the PADI *Instructor Manual*.
- State ReActivate knowledge assessment options.

- **Demonstrate the prescriptive ReActivate method for determining skills to practice.**
- **Recognize and correct problems during skill practice.**

Conduct:

- Review ReActivate standards with candidates in the PADI *Instructor Manual*, and discuss knowledge assessment options.
- Conduct a role-model ReActivate waterskills session either in confined or open water – demonstrate how to organize participants and equipment; provide an area orientation, etc.
- Have candidates take turns interviewing participants and prescriptively deciding skills to practice while other candidates/staff act as participants. Ask participants to request skills to practice or imply a need to review certain skills based on period of inactivity or past dive experiences.
- During skill practice, randomly assign problems to participants for the candidate to catch and correct. Remediate demonstrations and problem solving as necessary.
- Review procedures for processing certification cards with ReActivate dates through PADI Online Processing Center.

Workshop 2: Advanced Snorkeler (Skin Diver) Course and Snorkeling Supervision (conduct in either confined water or open water)

- **Give the Advanced Snorkeler course briefing or a snorkeling tour briefing.**
- **Conduct a Advanced Snorkeler course confined water or open water dive; or lead a snorkel tour, demonstrating control and supervision.**
- **Recognize and correct problems during the dive or snorkel tour.**

Conduct:

- Discuss the difference between a scuba dive briefing and a snorkel tour briefing.

- Have each candidate conduct a briefing based on a scenario you assign. For example, 20 snorkelers on a tropical reef from a large boat; four advanced snorkelers in temperate water entering off the beach through mild surf; two families with children snorkeling in a calm lagoon, four Advanced Snorkeler (Skin Diver) course students learning performance requirements in the pool, etc.

- Have candidates take turns leading a short tour or practicing advanced snorkeling skills while other candidates/staff act as participants. Randomly assign problems to participants for candidates to catch and correct. Remediate supervision techniques and problem solving as necessary.

Workshop 3: Discover Scuba Diving Program in Confined Water

- **Access Discover Scuba Diving program standards in the PADI *Instructor Manual,* and explain a divemaster's role as an assistant during a confined water experience.**

- **Locate the Discover Scuba Diving Leader Internship Requirements in the PADI *Instructor Manual,* and explain how a divemaster qualifies as a Discover Scuba Diving Leader.**

- **Demonstrate proper positioning relative to the participants as directed by the instructor.**

- **Recognize and correct problems during the experience.**

Conduct:

- Review Discover Scuba Diving standards with candidates and discuss what a divemaster can do as a certified assistant during a confined water experience.

- Review Discover Scuba Diving Leader Internship Requirements with candidates and discuss how candidates can qualify as a Discover Scuba Diving Leader after certification as a divemaster.

Note: Only certified PADI Divemasters qualify to participate in DSD Leader Internship training – divemaster candidates do not qualify.

- Conduct a role-model confined water session. Have candidates take turns acting as a certified assistant while other candidates/staff act as participants. Randomly assign problems to participants for candidates to catch and correct. Remediate assistant positioning, supervision and problem solving as necessary.

Workshop 4: Discover Scuba Diving Program — Additional Open Water Dive

- **State the ratio and supervision requirements for an additional dive (subsequent to an initial dive with an instructor) for Discover Scuba Diving participants conducted by a PADI Divemaster.**
- **Give a dive briefing appropriate for Discover Scuba Diving participants for an additional open water dive.**
- **Lead the dive, demonstrating proper control and required supervision.**
- **Recognize and correct problems during the dive.**

Conduct:

- Review Discover Scuba Diving standards with candidates relative to ratios and supervision during a divemaster-led additional open water dive.

- Have candidates conduct a dive briefing.

- Have candidates take turns leading the dive while other candidates/staff act as participants. Randomly assign problems to participants for candidates to catch and correct. Remediate supervision techniques and problem solving as necessary.

Workshop 5: Discover Local Diving in Open Water

- **Access Discover Local Diving program standards in the PADI *Instructor Manual.***
- **Assess dive site conditions, and plan the dive.**
- **Give a Discover Local Diving briefing.**
- **Lead a dive, demonstrating control and supervision.**
- **Recognize and correct problems during the dive.**
- **Demonstrate how to deploy a surface marker.**

Conduct:

- Review Discover Local Diving standards with candidates.
- Ask candidates to evaluate dive conditions and explain observations.
- Have candidates create a dive plan and conduct a dive briefing based on a scenario you assign. For example, divers who just completed ReActivate after not diving for several years; divers diving in cold water in a kelp forest for the first time; divers making their first boat dive; divers using a surface marker buoy (SMB) for the first time per local protocol, etc.
- Have candidates take turns leading the dive while other candidates/staff act as participants. Randomly assign problems to participants for candidates to catch and correct. Remediate supervision techniques and problem solving as necessary.
- Have candidates demonstrate how to deploy one or more types of surface markers used in the region such as an SMB, delayed surface marker buoy (DSMB) or inflatable signal tube.

Practical Assessment

Have divemaster candidates work with student divers during Practical Assessments 1-3. If actual student divers are not available, role playing is acceptable. Have at least four people to role-play during each assessment. Role players can be other divemaster candidates, instructional staff or certified divers.

Have divemaster candidates work with at least four certified divers during Practical Assessment 4.

Repeat assessments as necessary until divemaster candidates score at least a 3 on each performance requirement based on these criteria.

Score	Criteria
5	Independently accomplished the objective without error. Anticipated instructor and diver needs.
4	Accomplished the objective without error and without significant help from instructor or staff.
3	Accomplished the objective adequately, with a few insignificant errors. Instructor correction and intervention limited to brief reminders or suggestions.
2	Demonstrated rudimentary understanding of tasks required to meet objective. Made significant errors or omissions. Instructor correction and intervention was required for a competent result.
1	Made many or substantial errors and omissions in attempting to meet objective; or objective not met.

Do not use divemaster candidates to increase student diver to instructor ratios. However, divemaster candidates do not count as student divers toward maximum student diver-to-instructor ratios. **Directly supervise candidates who are working with student divers. Fill in any gaps or make any corrections necessary to assure that student divers receive complete and accurate training.**

Practical Assessment 1 — Open Water Diver Students in Confined Water

1. **Organize predive equipment setup by student divers.**

2. **Coordinate student diver flow during training.**

3. **Supervise student divers not receiving the immediate attention of the instructor during training.**

4. **Help a student diver overcome a learning difficulty.**

5. **Respond to, or prevent, student diver problems as they occur.**

6. **Demonstrate a skill for student divers.**

Practical Assessment 2 — Open Water Diver Students in Open Water

1. **Assess an open water training site; report to the instructor recommendations as to site suitability for training entry-level divers.**

2. **Organize predive equipment setup by student divers.**

3. **Assist in the preparation of the site.**

4. **Coordinate student diver flow during training.**

5. **Supervise student divers not receiving the immediate attention of the instructor during training.**

6. **Respond to, or prevent, student diver problems as they occur.**

7. **Lead student divers on an underwater tour (ratio 2:1).**

Practical Assessment 3 — Continuing Education Student Divers in Open Water

1. Coordinate student diver flow during training.

2. Escort continuing education student divers during a training dive that allows indirect instructor supervision; report performance and learning difficulties to instructor.

3. Help a continuing education student diver overcome a learning difficulty.

4. Respond to, or prevent, student diver problems as they occur.

Practical Assessment 4 — Certified Divers in Open Water

1. Conduct environmental and diver assessments, taking appropriate supervisory steps based on the assessments.

2. Give a predive briefing appropriate to the dive site.

3. Account for buddy teams entering and leaving the water.

4. Respond to, or prevent diver problems appropriately.

Professionalism

Verify that divemaster candidates score at least a 3 in each category below by the end of Practical Application.

1. Level of active, positive participation in the training sessions

2. Ability to serve as a mentor to student divers

3. Willingness to follow directions

4. **Positive attitude and demeanor toward student divers, certified divers and staff**

5. **Positive attitude and practice toward caring for the environment**

6. **General understanding of a divemaster's role**

7. **Appearance**

Score	Criteria
5	Excellent
4	Above average
3	Acceptable
2	Below average
1	Unacceptable