
Discover Scuba[®] Diving Program

Instructor Guide



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Standards outlined in the General Standards and Procedures Guide apply to the PADI Discover Scuba Diving Program, except as noted otherwise in this guide.

Section One

PROGRAM STANDARDS

Depth

Confined Water — 6 metres/20 feet.

Open Water — 12 metres/40 feet.

Diver Prerequisites

10 years old

Equipment

Mask, fins, scuba cylinder, buoyancy control device with low-pressure inflator, regulator and submersible pressure gauge.

Instructor Rating

Confined Water — **Divemaster who is a Discover Scuba Diving (DSD) Leader.**

Note: See Professional Membership Guide for Discover Scuba Diving Leader training requirements.

Open Water — **Instructor**

Materials

PADI Discover Scuba Diving Participant Guide.

Use the Discover Scuba Diving Cue Card or Flip Chart.

Participant Registration

Register Discover Scuba Diving participants with your PADI Office within 7 days of their experience. Include the participant's complete contact information for quality management purposes.

Use the registration portion of the *Discover Scuba Diving Participant Guide*, register online or use the Discover Scuba Diving Program Registration Form (10119).

Ratios

You must apply continuous and sound judgment before, during and after the dive. It's your professional responsibility to conduct a risk assessment by evaluating variables such as water conditions, temperature, visibility, water movement, entries and exits, ability of participants, certified assistants available, your and your assistant's personal limitations, etc., to determine what ratio will fit the situation — reducing the ratio from the maximum if needed. Take into account changing variables and your ability to directly supervise and observe participants. Reassess during the dive.

Participant-to-Instructor

PADI Member	Pool	Confined Open Water	Open Water	Additional OW Dive**
Instructor	8:1	4:1*	4:1*	4:1*
Assistant Instructor	8:1	4:1*	—	2:1
DSD Leader	4:1	2:1	—	2:1
Divemaster	—	—	—	2:1

* May add a maximum of two participants with certified assistant.

** After participants have completed an initial open water dive with an instructor.

If certified divers join Discover Scuba Diving participants, count the certified divers in the ratio and stay within the Discover Scuba Diving participant-to-instructor ratio.

Supervision

Do not leave participants unattended, either at the surface or underwater.

- **Position yourself so that you or a certified assistant can make immediate physical contact with, adjust buoyancy for, and render assistance to, participants.**

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- **Continually observe participants with only the brief, periodic interruptions needed to lead the dive and to provide assistance to individual divers.**
 - **Do not engage in any other activities, such as taking photographs or video, while supervising participants.**

Divemasters who are Discover Scuba Diving Leaders and assistant instructors may only conduct the program in a pool or confined open water.

Note: See Professional Membership Guide for Discover Scuba Diving Leader training requirements.

An instructor directly supervises the initial open water dive. Participants can make additional open water dives directly supervised by a certified assistant or instructor. **Instructors indirectly supervise any additional dives conducted by a certified assistant.**

Section Two

KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

Conduct a knowledge development session or briefing that covers:

- **Breathing rules and equalization techniques**
- **Equipment purpose and use**
- **Hand signals**
- **Regulator and mask clearing techniques**
- **Respect for aquatic life (if appropriate)**
- **Importance of watching and staying close to instructor**
- **Limitations of the program and value of further training**

Have participants complete and sign the *Discover Scuba Diving Participant Guide*, including the Discover Scuba Diving Knowledge and Safety Review.

Section Three

CONFINED WATER

- **Conduct the briefing** (see Section Two - Knowledge Development)
- **Help participants with their equipment.**
- **For a pool experience, have participants practice BCD inflation and deflation at the surface in shallow water.**
- **For confined open water, have participants complete all Skill Performance Requirements.**
- **Supervise participants as they swim around underwater in shallow water.** When comfortable, take participants to deeper water as appropriate while monitoring comfort and air consumption.
- **Conduct a debriefing and encourage participants to move on to a PADI certification course.**

Skill Performance Requirements

Have participants complete the following skills in shallow water:

Exception: Only BCD inflation/deflation required for pool-only experience.

- **Breathing underwater**
- **Regulator clearing**
- **Regulator recovery**
- **Mask clearing**
- **Equalization techniques**
- **Inflate and deflate a BCD at the surface**

If participants will go on an open water dive, and shallow water for skills practice is inaccessible, an instructor conducts the skills session from a boat, dock or other surface support station by using a descent line, horizontal bar or platform that is within 2 metres/6 feet of the surface. The ratio is 1:1 when using the descent line option.

Section Four

OPEN WATER (optional)

An instructor:

- **Conducts Section Two - Knowledge Development.**
- **Conducts the Skill Performance Requirements (see Section Three - Confined Water).**
- **Guides participants on a tour of the dive site while monitoring comfort and air consumption.**