

**UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC.)**

BY-LAWS



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Revision History

First Edition passed by Committee 3rd July 2013

Second Edition passed by Committee 7th August 2013

Third Edition requirement for DO RST (Item 1(a) removed by Committee 2nd October 2013

Fourth Edition passed by committee April 2014

Fifth Edition passed by Committee April 2016

1. Rescue Dingy

- a) The dingy should only be operated by qualified crew unless in an emergency where no qualified crew are available. Qualified crew are Skippers and Dive Officers who have completed the UEC training. As the motor is 6Hp an RST is not a legal requirement (RST requirement is for engine capacity in excess of 6Hp).
- b) Anyone operating the dingy must wear a lifejacket and attach the dead man's switch (the red cord) to their person.
- c) During diver recovery there must be no towing of divers in the water without a towing bridle and a propeller guard. If not towing, the dingy engine must be in neutral before approaching the diver and all divers must be brought into the boat before the engine is put back in gear.
- d) Ensure that the procedure for getting divers in the dingy is discussed during the dive briefing e.g. remove weight belt and BCD/Tank and place in the dingy but keep fins on. No more than two divers should be rescued at one time.
- e) The crew should, depending on the site and conditions, run the dingy engine in the water before the first diver goes in to make sure the motor is working and available.
- f) Ensure that there are at least two people assisting when launching and recovering the dingy off the transom to ensure it does not flip over. This has happened on a number of occasions resulting in costly engine repairs with the added risk of the rescue boat not being available during the dive.

2. Anchor Use

- a) Skipper must nominate a diver to check the anchor during the dive
- b) If the anchor is stuck and requires diver intervention then there must also be a buddy diver in the water who can maintain sight contact and help as necessary. Freeing the anchor can be a difficult operation and the diver performing the operation should be suitably experienced. While divers are in the water retrieving the anchor, the dive boat motor should be in neutral or preferably turned off completely. If it is necessary to manoeuvre the dive boat during retrieval operations extreme care should be taken and observers should be positioned around the boat to advise the Skipper of divers location.
- c) It is recommended that the DO and Skipper take along a spare tank to ensure that there is sufficient air to perform any anchor operations.

3. Diving

- a) Always set a maximum dive time even in shallow water e.g. 60 minutes, 75 minutes etc. If you leave it open ended then at what point to you consider someone overdue? The minimum of 50 bar remaining in the tank must always be set by the DO for every dive.
- b) Solo diving is permitted with the appropriate certification and equipment. It is the solo divers responsibility to have the appropriate equipment and failure to do so would result in an incident report being completed. The Membership Officer will maintain a register of qualified solo divers and advise the Dive Coordinator accordingly.
- c) Carrying an SMB or Safety Sausage is mandatory. Deployment required at the discretion of the diver.
- d) Divers to use two arms waving for urgent rescue and one hand waving for rescue required but not urgent
- e) Carrying a pressure gauge, computer or dive tables is mandatory.
- g) Spear fishing is not permitted at any time during boat dive trips and line fishing from the boat is not permitted before diving at the same location and is at the Skippers discretion . Any fishing must have the appropriate licence. Bag and boat limits must be adhered to.
- f) Junior divers aged fourteen and fifteen must dive with their parent or legal guardian. Junior divers aged sixteen and seventeen may dive with a nominated adult with the provision of a Junior Diver Authorisation form signed by their parent or legal guardian for each dive.

4. Dive Boat & Loading

- a) All Dive Officers should be familiar with the procedure for starting the dive boat. If you do not already know how to do this please get the Skipper to show you on your next trip.
- b) If there are any incidents or near misses please fill out an incident report form and send it to the Safety Officer with a copy to the President. It is preferable but not mandatory to record on the form the date, the Skipper, the Dive Officer and the person(s) involved in the incident.
- c) A qualified Skipper must remain on-board the dive boat while divers are in the water. The D.O. must ensure there is a competent person on board (someone

who is able operate the anchor and dingy) in addition to the skipper before leaving the boat e.g. to go swimming or snorkelling.

- h) Trolleys must never be left on the jetties. They must be returned to the car park after use
- i) Costs incurred for any damage to SYC property will be for the UEC member responsible to pay
- j) Skippers must use appropriate speed when passing the SYC pens and on approach to the loading jetty to minimise wash
- k) Loading and unloading time at the jetty should be kept to a maximum of 15 minutes
- l) Boat departure time is 8am in summer (1st Oct to 30th April) and 9am in winter (1st May to 30th Sept). Divers should have their gear ready on the jetty 15 minutes beforehand to prevent delay. It is at the Skippers discretion to wait for members who are late.
- m) Rostered crew and Dive in Lieu's (DIL's) count as paying divers when minimum numbers are being assessed for a boat dive to proceed. The minimum number of divers required for a boat dive to proceed is six. If there is a last minute cancellation resulting in only five divers then it is at the Skippers discretion for the boat dive to proceed.
- n) Use of Boat by Members
 - i) UEC members may hire the boat for personal use. The person who books the boat must be on the boat and must pay for the hire at conclusion of the trip or within 2 business days or by arrangement with the Treasurer
 - ii) Members must not make personal gain through the use of the boat.
 - iii) No SCUBA diving is permitted from the boat on private hire
 - iv) The boat must be crewed by a UEC Skipper and a UEC deckhand
 - v) It is upto the Skipper to decide if the deckhand is competent to support boating activities on the river
 - vi) If the boat is to go outside of the harbour (through the heads) then the deck crew must be a qualified Dive Officer
 - vii) The member booking the boat is responsible for ensuring their guests behave in a manner that does not endanger themselves, other guests or the boat. Any damage incurred will be the cost of the member and disciplinary

action may be taken against the member. The Skipper is empowered to remove any person from the boat for unacceptable behaviour.

viii) The final cost is dependent on actual engine hours Pen to Pen and PoB excluding the Skipper and Deckhand as per the table below. Members may pay more than these rates if desired:

No. of persons on board (excludes 2 crew)	Up to 10	11-12	13-14	15-16	17-18	19-20	21-22	23-24	25-26	27-30
1 hour	\$150	\$170	\$190	\$210	\$235	\$265	\$280	\$300	\$320	\$345
1.5 hours	\$205	\$225	\$245	\$275	\$300	\$335	\$360	\$380	\$410	\$435
2 hours	\$250	\$275	\$295	\$335	\$360	\$405	\$440	\$460	\$490	\$520
2.5 hours	\$290	\$320	\$340	\$390	\$415	\$470	\$500	\$525	\$550	\$585
3 hours	\$330	\$360	\$380	\$435	\$465	\$510	\$535	\$560	\$585	\$620
3.5 hours	\$360	\$390	\$415	\$465	\$505	\$540	\$565	\$590	\$615	\$645
4 hours	\$380	\$420	\$455	\$495	\$535	\$565	\$595	\$620	\$640	\$675

****Add an extra \$80.00 per hour for every hour over 4 hours**

ix) It is the member undertaking member use is responsible for ensuring the vessel is left in a clean and serviceable state in preparation for the next rip by the vessel. All litter must be removed, galley and toilet cleaned, water tank filled and at least 300litres of fuel.

o) For the comfort and safety of divers and crew the boat is designated a No Smoking zone

5. Financial

a) Committee Members (excluding the Boat Officer) are not permitted to spend more than \$100 on essential items on the clubs behalf without prior approval of

the Executive Committee (President, Treasurer & Secretary). Any expenditure must be declared to the committee with justification

- b) The Boat Officer, or his delegate, is not permitted to spend more than \$200 on the clubs behalf without prior approval of the Executive Committee
- c) Members must pay for all outstanding dives before diving from the boat. They may however book a dive provided on the day of the dive they pay cash for the dive and arrears owed.
- d) Trainee crew do not earn a DIL. Trainee crew may dive during the surface interval only at no cost. If trainees do a double dive with the regular divers then they pay a single dive rate.
- e) Skippers and Deck Hands for member use boat trips will earn a DIL
- f) Crew may dive during the surface interval only at no cost (no forfeit of DIL) as long as there is a back-up Skipper and DO on board.
- g) Regular scheduled boat dives are free for Life Members. All other diving specials e.g. Rottnest week, Night Dives etc are charged at the advertised rate.
- h) DIL's may only be used for regular scheduled dives
- i) Crew on the regular calendar roster may dive on any regular scheduled boat dive for free. No DIL's are accrued or used.
- j) DIL's have a nominal value of \$1 for accounting purposes only. They cannot be exchanged for cash or used for any other club fee e.g. annual membership
- k) Cancellation of any club event (dive or social) within 24 hours of event start time will incur a 50% cancellation fee. Appeal against a cancellation fee may be made to the committee in writing and the fee may be waived where good reason is accepted by the committee e.g. medical reasons or family emergency.

6. Membership

- a) New & lapsed membership fees will be pro-rated throughout the club year rounded up to the nearest dollar. Re-joining members will pay full fees irrespective of month in year.
- b) Members who introduce a full Ordinary member to the club after February 2014 will receive a free double dive in return. This does not apply to family members or student members. It is the members responsibility to claim the free dive and

this should be claimed within 3 months and used within 12 months of the new members joining.

c) Membership fees for the 2015 – 2016 club year are as follows

i. Full ordinary membership	\$155.00
ii. Family membership	\$240.00
iii. Student/Junior membership	\$45.00
iv. Social membership	\$45.00
v. CIO Membership	\$10.00

d) Diving fees for the 2014 – 2015 club year are as follows:

i. Scheduled single dive - member or nomination	\$40.00
ii. Scheduled double dive - member or nomination	\$70.00
iii. Non diving passenger - member or guest	\$20.00
iv. Tec diving – member or nomination	\$100.00

e) Family Memberships

- i. If parents live at separate addresses any children will be included in a family membership for either address
- ii. A family membership remains in place for a full club year even if the members move to separate addresses
- iii. All family members must live at the same address unless covered by 6.e.i) and ii)

f) Country Interstate & Overseas membership

- i. CIO Membership is available for any person residing more than 200km from the Swan Yacht Club. However the committee may, at its discretion, consider proposals and grant CIO membership within this radius on a case by case basis.