3. Divemaster

3.1 Introduction

This program is designed to develop the skills and knowledge necessary for an individual to lead certified divers in the open water environment.

3.2 Qualifications of Graduates

Upon successful completion of this course, graduates may:

1. Assist an active SDI Instructor during approved diving courses provided the activities are similar to the graduate's prior training
2. Supervise and conduct dives for certified divers and any specialized scuba diving activities that they have been trained in, provided the activities are similar to the graduate's prior training
3. Plan and execute emergency procedures appropriate for the diving environment and activities

3.3 Who May Teach

An active SDI Instructor

3.4 Student to Instructor Ratio

Academic

1. Unlimited, so long as adequate facility, supplies and time are provided to ensure comprehensive and complete training of subject matter

Confined Water (swimming pool-like conditions)

1. A maximum of 8 students per instructor

Open Water (ocean, lake, quarry, spring, river or estuary)

1. A maximum of 8 students per instructor are allowed; it is the instructor's discretion to reduce this number as conditions dictate

3.5 Student Prerequisites

1. Minimum age 18
2. Certified SDI Advanced Adventure Diver or equivalent; advanced certification must include verifiable experience in deep, navigation, night, and limited visibility specialties
3. Certified SDI Rescue Diver or equivalent
4. Provide proof of current CPR, first aid and oxygen provider*, where local law permits
5. Provided proof of at least 40 logged dives (see 3.11 for number of dives/hours required for graduation)

   ***Note**: SDI CPROX, CPR1st or CPROX1stAED courses may be combined with the SDI Divemaster program by qualified instructors

3.6 Course Structure and Duration

The student must

1. Give a minimum of 5 briefs/debriefs
2. Show preparation, planning, and control in dive management and diving activities
3. Guide a minimum of 4 dives with varying sites and environmental conditions

Course Structure

1. SDI allows instructors to structure courses according to the number of students participating and their skill level

Duration

1. A minimum of 40 hours; a minimum of 30 hours under the direct supervision of the SDI Instructor

3.7 Administrative Requirements

Administrative Tasks:

1. Collect the course fees from all the students
2. Ensure that the students have the required equipment
3. Communicate the schedule to the students
4. Have the students:
   a. Complete the *SDI Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk* Form
   b. Submit the *SDI Medical Statement* Form signed by a licensed physician

Upon successful completion of the course the instructor must:

1. Issue the appropriate SDI certification by submitting the appropriate SDI Dive Leader Registration form and other required paperwork to SDI Headquarters

3.8 Training Material

Required material:

1. *SDI Divemaster* Manual, in conjunction with online training where available
2. *SDI Divemaster* Instructor Guide
3. *SDI Standards and Procedures* Manual
4. *SDI Divemaster* Slates

Optional Material:

1. *SDI Divemaster* Instructor Resource CD
2. *SDI Divemaster* PowerPoint Presentation

3.9 Required Equipment

Basic open water scuba equipment for diving leaders as described in section two of this manual

3.10   Required Subject Areas

Instructors may use any additional text or materials that they feel help present these topics. The following topics must be covered:

1. SDI Standards and Procedures
2. History of SDI
3. Code of Ethics and Professionalism of an SDI Divemaster
4. Products and Procedures
   a. How to place an order
   b. Yearly renewals
5. Liability and Insurance
   a. Risk management
   b. Waivers and releases
   c. Filling out an accident report
6. Knowledge Development
   a. Equipment
   b. Physics and physiology of diving
   c. Medical problems related to diving
   d. Use of dive computers and tables
   e. Diving environment
   f. Dive planning and dive management control
      i. Pool/confined water
      ii. Open water
   g. Problem solving
      i. Pool/confined water
      ii. Open water
   h. Underwater and surface communications
   i. Diver assistance
   j. Avoiding out of air and emergency situations
   k. Recommended safe diving practices
   l. Boat diving procedures
   m. Shore/Beach diving procedures
   n. Night diving procedures
   o. Accident management
   p. Emergency procedures
      i. First aid
      ii. Oxygen (O_2) administration
      iii. Cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
7. Leadership Development
   a. Planning group dives

    b.   Divemaster check lists and logs

3.11   Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

Confined Water Requirements:

1. Snorkeling skills – Minimum equipment: mask, fins, snorkel and additional equipment as required
   a. 800 metre swim with mask, snorkel, and fins non-stop without the use of arms in less than 17 minutes
   b. 400 metre swim on the surface, non-stop, any stroke, without the use of swimming aids, in less than 10 minutes; swim goggles permitted
2. Scuba skills - minimum equipment: all equipment required for a SDI Dive Leader
   a. In water, transport another diver in full scuba equipment at a quick pace for 4 minutes
   b. Demonstrate a complete rescue scenario satisfactorily
   c. Perform underwater skills with and without a mask
   d. Swim on the surface, in full scuba equipment, using the snorkel, 100 metres
3. Bring a diver, simulating unconsciousness, up from depth, not greater than 6 metres / 20 feet; at the surface swim them 100 metres in less than 4 minutes
4. Confined water skills:
   a. Preparation and planning
   b. Briefing and debriefing
   c. Group control
   d. Problem recognition and solving
   e. Diving equipment assembly and disassembly
   f. Equipment inspection
   g. Entries / exits
   h. Proper weighting and buoyancy control
   i. Snorkel and regulator clearing
   j. Regulator recovery
   k. Controlled descents and ascents
   l. Underwater swimming
   m. Mask clearing
   n. Buddy system techniques
   o. Weight system removal and replacement
   p. Out-of-air emergency alternatives
   q. Equipment care and maintenance

Open Water Requirements:

1. Minimum of 10 open water dives conducted during DM training, for a minimum time of 20 minutes each. Candidates must have a logged total of 60 logged dives OR 50 logged dives and an accumulated underwater time of 25 hours in order to graduate. At least 30 of these dives shall include as wide a range of environmental factors as possible.
2. Training dives must not exceed 40 metres / 130 feet

3. Demonstrate, to an active SDI Instructor in open water**,** preparation, planning, group control, and problem solving for at least 3 open water diving activities from the topics outlined below

4. Students must demonstrate all the skills required in previous courses at divemaster quality in leadership level equipment. Skills include:

    a. Preparation and planning

    b. Briefing and debriefing

    c. Group control

    d. Diving equipment assembly and disassembly

    e. Equipment inspection

    f. Entries / exits

    g. Proper weighting and buoyancy control

    h. Snorkel and regulator clearing

    i. Regulator recovery

    j. Controlled descents and ascents

    k. Underwater swimming

    l. Mask clearing

    m. Buddy system techniques

    n. Weight /ballast system removal and replacement

    o. Scuba system removal and replacement

    p. Problem recognition and solving

    q. Out-of-air emergency alternatives

    r. Equipment care and maintenance

    s. Evaluation of navigational skills both natural and compass

5. Students must practice and demonstrate, at DM quality the use of a surface marker buoy (SMB) delayed or permanent

6. Upon successful completion of the dives, students must complete their logbooks and the instructor must sign off on the completed dives

Instructors are required to evaluate all the following skills and the candidate's ability to:

1. Satisfactorily complete the SDI Divemaster written examination, or online version with a minimum score of 80 percent and 100 percent remediation

2. Complete all water requirements

3. Demonstrate to an active SDI Instructor the ability to solve in-water and out-of-water diver problems

4. Demonstrate mature and sound judgment concerning dive planning and execution

5. Operate as a Divemaster in a wide variety of environments