

TUG Terms and Conditions

- Safe Diving Practices Statement

Terrigal Underwater Group (TUG) is a non-profit SCUBA diving club managed by volunteers who, even if they do hold relevant professional qualifications, do not consider themselves to be acting in a professional capacity. All advice given and actions taken are done in good faith, but the committee and agents of the club (including but not limited to the committee, convenors and endorsed boat drivers) take no responsibility for their advice, actions or omissions, negligent or otherwise. You cannot assume any agent of the club to hold any qualification other than Open Water SCUBA Diving Certification and, in addition, a Waterways boat licence if they are the boat drivers.

Your presence at any club diving activity is not in any way an endorsement of your diving skills and/or qualifications. You are wholly responsible for your own safety when diving with the club and are expected to use your own training and experience to determine whether you can safely participate in any club activity.

Any fees levied by the club are purely there to recover running costs. No member of the club is financially rewarded for their services. Should you decide that you cannot safely participate on any given activity, you will incur no charge for that activity. It is your responsibility to ensure that any equipment you use, whether you own it or not, is in working order and that it will allow you to safely participate in any club activity.

TUG members accept full responsibility for their actions and further acknowledge that no Committee Member or other member of Terrigal Underwater Group Inc. is in any way responsible either personally or as a Club for any mishap or injury that individual members may suffer.

The TUG dive club has a good record of safe diving. The club membership contains many divers with strong training, and vast experience, who conduct dives in a safe and sensible manner. This is something of which the club can be justifiably proud.

In order to maintain this safety record, especially with the rapid increase of diving as a sport, the introduction of new members to the club, and to stay in line with safety guidelines such as those expressed in the Australian Standards, the following safety practices listed below are recommended. Compliance with these recommendations remains the responsibility of each individual diver and cannot be assumed to be monitored by the committee or any agent of the club.

1. Each diving member should ensure they are appropriately physically and medically fit for diving.
2. The following list of equipment is considered to comprise the recommended minimum essential for diving with TUG:
 - I. Mask, snorkel and fins
 - II. Exposure suit appropriate for expected water temperature
 - III. BCD, tank and weight system (weight belt or integrated weights of correct mass)
 - IV. Regulator, air pressure gauge
 - V. Dive knife or cutting implement.

VI. Emergency signalling equipment, including a surface marker buoy (SMB) and whistle.

3. All first stage regulators must be equipped with an alternate air source regulator (octopus or integrated inflator regulator) as well as a primary second stage regulator and an air pressure gauge.
4. All tanks, mechanical or electronic equipment should be serviced according to the manufacturer's recommendations or at least to Australian Standards, to prevent incidents caused by avoidable malfunctions.
5. Twin tanks are to be used by divers on deep dives, such as the Kiama and Galava, and equivalent sites. (For our purposes a normal tank with a pony bottle does not fulfil a twin tank set-up)
6. Twin tanks must have their own independent regulator systems or manifold and isolation valve. This is to prevent loss of air from a malfunctioning (eg free-flowing) regulator where two tanks are joined to allow the use of one regulator system. Members diving with the manifold system should be familiar with the use of an isolation valve, be capable of using it and be practiced in it's use.
7. All members are encouraged to obtain or maintain current Senior First Aid qualifications (or better) and to be familiar with the use of the oxy-viva equipment on the dive boat.
8. The use of a dive computer or alternately dive tables (eg DCIEM), watch and depth gauge is required.
9. Where an incident has occurred during a dive the dive convenor must be informed, especially where it involves any missed decompression stops or insufficient time at a stop.
10. A member should not dive beyond the limits of their experience and qualifications.
11. Members participating in a Club dive using other than standard air mix must inform the Dive Convenor of their different mixture. All cylinders must be marked accordingly.
12. Make sure you understand the dive you are about to undertake; the conditions, applicable regulations and hazards associated. Do not rely on the dive briefing alone.
13. Any dive evacuation Insurance or dive specific insurances (e.g. income protection, life or property) is the responsibility of the individual members not of TUG.

A Dive Convenor shall have the right to refuse to allow a TUG member or guest to dive if their equipment, training or health does not appear to be appropriate for the dive, in the interests of the safety of all divers in the dive group. Whilst on the boat obey directions given by the boat driver.

A diver, by signing the TUG membership form (new member or renewal), when applying for membership, shall take full legal responsibility for his or her own diving safety and agrees to dive in a manner that does not compromise the safety of others.

PERSONAL RISK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I hereby affirm that I am a certified diver and that I thoroughly understand the hazards of scuba diving including those hazards occurring during boat travel to and from the dive site. I understand that these hazards include, but are not limited to, air expansion injuries, drowning, DCI, slipping or falling while on board, being cut or struck by a boat while in the water, injuries occurring while getting on or off a boat and other perils of the sea. By signing this release, I certify that I am fully aware of and expressly assume these and all other risks involved when participating in diving activities with TUG.

Incidents or near misses that happen during club activities should be reported to the committee ASAP by phone. Committee members can also be reached at committee@terriganunderwatergroup.com

Environmental Awareness

While the Club requires members to accept responsibility for reading and understanding the appropriate rules and legislation applicable to various dive sites, the club is committed to raising and actively contributing to environmental awareness. Please be mindful when diving in marine parks, critical habitats and other designated aquaculture areas that special rules may apply. We have provided one such example below, the Grey Nurse shark critical habitat; however this is not exhaustive. Please ask fellow divers, boat drivers and do further research on the sites you plan to dive.

Critical Habitat Diving Regulations (Read full bulletin on the Department of Primary Industries website)

A person must not, on or in critical habitat of the grey nurse shark, do any of the following:

- *swim or dive between sunset and sunrise while using any apparatus capable of supplying air to facilitate breathing underwater,*
- *block an entrance to a cave or gutter containing a shark,*
- *feed or touch a shark,*
- *chase or harass a shark*