



CSAC Dive Leader Syllabus

Theory and practical skills for the SAA Dive Leader Qualification.

A Dive Leader is an experienced and competent diver that following the extra training of the Dive Leader syllabus is qualified to take inexperienced divers on open water dives.

An inexperienced diver will look to the Dive Leader to maintain their safety and will develop their skills from the knowledge and example of the Dive Leader.

An inexperienced diver may also be unable to assist the Dive Leader in the case of an emergency, thus placing extra risk on the Dive Leader.

As such a potential Dive Leader should have a responsible attitude, have a good knowledge of diving, should display good diving practices as well as showing competency in the required practical skills.

Prerequisites

1. Club Diver grade.
2. 15 additional open water dives in a variety of conditions (max. depth 50m).

Theory lectures

(followed by Dive Leader written exam)

Lecture	Title	Overview
L1	Decompression illness (DCI)	Rudiments of SAA Bühlmann System and how it affects bottom times, dive profiles etc. Understanding the concepts of DCI and the difference between DCS and AGE. How PFO can increase chance of AGE. Understanding silent bubbles. Recognising symptoms and signs of DCI & managing a DCI incident.
L2	Burst lung	Understanding the condition and various types of burst lung. Symptoms & signs of a burst lung and first aid required. Dive procedures to prevent burst lung.
L3	Search diving	Principles of search diving. Conducting a search and considerations that need to be applied. Recognising the need for accurate dive planning.
L4	Advanced diving	Understanding the principles and practices of: night diving, ice diving, wreck diving. Safety factors involved in advanced diving.

L5	Dive leadership	Responsibilities of a dive leader. Attitude and behaviour of a dive leader. Planning and leading a dive.
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Pool Skills

There are no additional pool skills for the Dive Leader grade, although revision of pool skills is recommended, particularly:

- Out of air drills
- Free flowing regulator drills
- Tired diver towing
- Alternative air source ascent
- Assisted ascent
- Diver rescue
- Diver resuscitation and first aid

Open Water Assessment

Competency in the tasks is required – doing the task will not qualify unless it is done competently and safely.

1. 20m dive preferably with an outside examiner.
2. 20m assisted ascent using buddy's octopus (donor and receiver).
3. Recovery of an unconscious diver from 20m to 10m using a buoyant lift.
4. Air share from 10m to 3m.
5. Act as a dive leader on 4 occasions.
6. Carry out a rope search.
7. Demonstrate on land an emergency ascent drill.
8. Plot a simple underwater navigation course taking into account the tidal stream.