Standards and Procedures
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A Note Regarding Units of Measure

The depth limitations associated with various levels of NASE training are based on depth in Atmospheres Absolute (ATA), and not on an arbitrary number of meters or feet — typically two, three or four ATA. For simplicity, however, we have rounded most of these values to the closest five- or ten-meter, or five- or ten-foot increment.

Yes, we know that 30 feet is not the same as 10 meters, nor is 65 feet the same as 20 meters. For that matter, 10 and 20 meters of salt water are not absolutely the same as two and three atmospheres absolute (and this differs even more in fresh water).

So before you waste time calling or e-mailing us to tell us that we don’t know the difference between meters, feet and atmospheres, relax. We are only going to hold you to the underlying value in Atmospheres Absolute...okay?
General Standards

Administrative Standards

The following procedures apply to all NASE Worldwide training, classes, and courses under the supervision of certified NASE Worldwide Instructors of all levels who are renewed, and in active teaching status.

Required Paperwork

Every student who enrolls in an NASE Worldwide diver course is to fill out the following forms prior to the start of training. The sole exception is the Acknowledgment of Safe Diving Practices and Release After Training form, which is to be completed following training but prior to certification.

NASE forms may be printed out and completed by hand, or they may be completed and signed digitally. Completing these forms electronically is faster, more convenient, more legible and helps save paper. It also enables completed forms to be transmitted by e-mail between the student and instructor or dive center.

Instructors are encouraged to download these forms, as needed, from the NASE Worldwide website (naseworldwide.org). Doing so will help ensure that only the latest, most up-to-date forms are used.

Liability Release and Assumption of Risk

The liability release informs students of the risks associated with diving and diver training. It helps provide instructors, dive operators and training agencies with legal protection against unwarranted or frivolous lawsuits. The release, however, does not absolve instructors or dive operators from maintaining strict adherence to course standards, nor does it in any way mitigate the instructor’s responsibility to provide as safe a training environment as possible for every student.

NASE recommends that students complete and sign this form as soon as possible — preferably before making any commitment of time, money or effort. In other words, do it before students sign up and pay for the course, not after. Doing so will help reduce the possibility that a student or his survivors will claim the release was signed under financial, emotional or other duress.

If students are under 18 years of age, the release form is to be signed by a custodial parent or legal guardian.
Medical Statement

Students are to answer every question on the NASE Medical Statement by checking either Yes or No.

- If students answer No to all questions on the Medical Statement, they may — at their instructor's discretion — participate in training without seeking a physician's approval.
- If a student answers Yes to any question, however, he or she must get a physician's approval before the start of training.

Instructors may, if they choose, require any or all students to obtain a physician's approval prior to the start of training. An instructor may also refuse to accept any student for training, even if the student has been able to secure a physician signature on the Medical Statement.

Under no circumstances, however, is an instructor to train a student who has answered Yes to any question on the Medical Statement unless a physician's approval has been obtained.

If a physician's approval is required, the instructor is to supply the student with a copy of the Medical Statement and a copy of the Guidelines for Recreational Scuba Diver's Physical Examination to take to his or her doctor.

Students are to sign the Medical Statement form where indicated, unless they are under 18 years of age, in which case the form is to be signed by a custodial parent or legal guardian. If the student is a doctor, he or she may not sign his or her own Medical Statement as the approving physician.

Student Enrollment and Registration Form

- Prior to training, students are to complete the top portion of this form.
- Once all training requirements have been met, the student and instructor are to sign where indicated at the bottom of the form.

Students in NASE leadership-level courses or in some NASE technical diver courses will complete an application specific to that course, in lieu of this form.

Acknowledgment of Safe Diving Practices and Release After Training

As mentioned earlier, this form is to be completed and signed following training but prior to certification. If students are under 18, a custodial parent or legal guardian must sign as well.
Certification

Who May Certify NASE Divers?

Only NASE Worldwide Instructor members in good standing and in teaching status may certify students under the NASE Worldwide sanctioned Scuba and/or Underwater course programs according to their level of training and authorization. (See Member Standards).

Members in good standing means dues paid Instructor Member, currently insured under a NASE Worldwide authorized Scuba Instructor Liability Insurance program, and under no adverse actions or other sanctions taken by the NASE Worldwide Quality Assurance Board.

Processing Diver Level Certifications

Instructors can submit diver-level registrations to NASE Worldwide headquarters in any of three ways:

- The preferred method to use the online registration application at naseworldwide.org.
- If available, registrations may also be submitted using NASE pre-paid diver certification envelopes. (Note, however, that these are being phased out in favor of online registration, which helps ensure greater speed and accuracy, and wastes less paper and other natural resources.)
- Alternately, instructors can submit individual signed copies of the NASE Student Enrollment and Registration form, along with a NASE Worldwide order form containing payment information.

All student registrations must be accompanied by a head-and-shoulders digital photo of each student (no hats or sunglasses). This photo must be:

- A digital photo at least 375 pixels wide by 450 pixels high (TIFF or JPEG, no larger than one megabyte). Submit one photo per individual per certification, no group photos will be processed or edited by NASE.

Student registrations must be submitted to NASE Worldwide headquarters within 14 days of satisfying all the requirements for certification.

Leadership Level Applications

Students applying for various levels of NASE Divemaster, Assistant Instructor, Instructor, Specialty Instructor and Instructor Trainer certification are to submit the appropriate leadership-level application for the rating sought (refer to individual course standards). The most current forms are available online and shall be completed in full and signed by the certifying Instructor or Instructor Trainer.
There is a space on each form for the applicant to provide credit or debit card information. The applicant will then be charged the registration fee appearing on the current NASE price list.

Applicants are to submit the application form and NASE Instructor and/or Member Agreements, as required by standards. The certifying instructor is responsible for maintaining copies of all other applicable student records, as listed below.

**Student Records**

NASE Instructors are to maintain the following records for each student:

- **Liability Release and Assumption of Risk.**
- **Medical Statement.**
- **Student Enrollment and Registration** form or a copy of the applicable leadership-level application.
- **Acknowledgment of Safe Diving Practices and Release After Training.**
- Copies of any prerequisite certifications and/or proof of experience.
- All completed homework assignments, quiz and exam answer sheets, etc.

Student records are to be maintained as long as required by local statutes of limitation or standards of practice. Under no circumstances, however, are student records to be maintained for less than five years.

**Non-Certification Forms**

**Lost Card Replacement Form**

NASE Divers to can use this form:

- Replace lost certification cards.
- Upgrade from Junior to adult certification.
- Effect legal name changes.

The form is self-explanatory and does not require an instructor signature.

**Incident Report Form**

NASE Worldwide members who have witnessed or are involved in a diving accident have a responsibility to submit an Incident Report to NASE Worldwide headquarters no later than seven calendar days after the incident. However, it is important that the report is filed as soon as possible to minimize the loss of important information.
An accident is herein defined as a set of circumstances occurring while traveling to or from a confined or open water dive site, during setup or disassembly of equipment, or during an actual dive in which there is any form of personal injury or loss resulting from a diving activity. An incident is herein defined as sets of circumstances in which there remains a potential for personal injury or loss of equipment claims.

Filing the Incident Report Form with NASE Worldwide headquarters does not replace the requirement to file an accident/injury report with your Professional Liability Insurance agent or legal representation.

All information requested on the Incident Report form must be provided to the best of the member’s ability. Information concerning victim(s), witness(es), and circumstances surrounding the accident/incident should be collected from the individuals involved while at the dive site to avoid potential loss of important information. Diving professionals at the site must take the lead in gathering this information.

If you are unsure that someone else is collecting the data the best approach is to step forward whether involved in the accident/incident personally, or as a witness, or merely as an observer.

**Quality Assurance Report Form**

NASE Worldwide members recognize the need to maintain a uniform teaching program that is recognized in the industry as one of the highest in quality and discipline. Each professional member has both a unique opportunity and a responsibility in assisting in maintaining this quality. This responsibility not only includes the way that the individual member conducts underwater training in adherence to these standards, but also extends to an awareness of circumstances occurring around them.

An instructor teaching a non-standard program can affect the way our programs are perceived in a given area for months or even years to come. If a NASE Worldwide member witnesses a sub-standard program being taught by another NASE Worldwide Instructor in the deviation from these standards, or in a haphazard, careless, or unsafe manner, the circumstances and individual(s) involved must be reported to the NASE Worldwide Quality Assurance Board in a sure and timely manner. The report shall be submitted in writing via a letter or e-mail. The best method for reporting Quality Assurance deviations is with the Quality Assurance Report Form.

Reports forwarded to the Quality Assurance Board will receive a quick and timely review with careful consideration. Reports are held in confidence, and individuals affected by the report are given every opportunity to provide mitigating information about the circumstances.
Quality Assurance Reports can result in the suspension, or expulsion, of another member. False reports should not be submitted capriciously, or to gain competitive or political advantage. Purposely submitted false reports will result in Quality Assurance Board action taken against the submitting member.

**Waiver Request Form**

Professional members in teaching status may occasionally encounter circumstances regarding individuals, equipment, or environment that conflicts with training standards set forth in the NASE Worldwide Instructor Manual. There can be good reason established for some deviation from the standards as written.

Members should not deviate from the established standards without being granted a waiver by NASE Worldwide headquarters in writing. To do otherwise is to risk invalidation of your Professional Scuba Liability Insurance coverage.

Members, with good reason, may submit a NASE Waiver Request Form to NASE Worldwide headquarters for consideration and approval. All requests that do not result in a safety issue, or a deviation from National or Internationally established training standards would be evaluated in a timely manner. Decisions made by NASE Worldwide Headquarters will provided to the requester in writing upon completion of a thorough review.

Waivers are granted on an individual basis, not for a training location, and may be granted for a single occurrence, or for a period of up to one year. Upon expiration of a waiver, a new waiver request must be submitted to NASE Worldwide Headquarter for re-approval. Waiver Request Forms must include all information requested about the applicant, the specific details of the waiver request, and in the details based upon the member’s best judgment as to why the waiver is needed. By submitting any and all supporting information is beneficial and will expedite the approval process. Supporting information that cannot be included on the Waiver Request Form should be provided on an additional sheet of plain white paper and attached to the Form.
Ethics Requirements

Our ethics define who we are and how we relate to those around us. As professional Scuba Diving leaders, we are responsible to maintain the highest of ethical standards in our relationships with each other, our students and customers, and our Training Agency. The following set of standards is not defined as an upper limit of ethical behavior, but to assist us in recognizing and meeting the minimum levels of this responsibility to the diving community worldwide.

Standards

NASE Worldwide members must adhere to the following set of ethics:

1. Comply with all standards and procedures in both form and intent as given in the NASE Worldwide Instructor Manual and training updates while conducting any and all NASE Worldwide courses and training programs.

2. Promote and personally uphold the principles of safe diving as given in the NASE Worldwide Acknowledgment of Safe Diving Practices whether acting in a leadership role or not.

3. Not represent them as being capable to issue NASE Worldwide certifications unless they are currently in teaching status, physically fit to dive, and in compliance with these standards.

- Individuals not in teaching status, whether members, former members, or nonmembers, who knowingly and wrongfully: accept money from potential students, or conduct courses represented as being NASE Worldwide courses, or issue certification cards (temporary or otherwise), or allow students from courses that they conduct to be certified through another instructor, or certify students that they have not trained, may be faced with legal action by NASE Worldwide.

4. Refrain from making derogatory or defamatory remarks concerning NASE Worldwide, its representatives, NASE Worldwide members, or others in the recreational scuba diving industry.

5. Maintain the highest of financial responsibility in dealings with students, customers, and NASE Worldwide.

- Returned checks made payable to NASE Worldwide, or credit card “charge backs” not authorized by NASE Worldwide constitute financial “irresponsibility” and may incur disciplinary action by the NASE Worldwide Quality Assurance Board.

- Financial disputes with a student or former student are not grounds for withholding certification with the exception that certification can be withheld for nonpayment of fees directly related to the certification.
6. Be honest in your dealings

7. Cooperate fully with all official investigations conducted by NASE Worldwide, or the NASE Worldwide Quality Assurance Board, or Professional Scuba Liability Insurance investigators. Required responses must be given fully and timely within the time period required.
Membership Status

NASE Worldwide members must pay their annual dues, be covered by a current NASE Worldwide headquarters approved Professional Scuba Liability Insurance policy, and in teaching status in order to conduct NASE Worldwide sanctioned courses.

Membership renewal cycle is January 1 to December 31 and all memberships will expire December 31 unless renewed. This status is without regard to when an individual’s membership was initiated. In order to maintain an unbroken period of service and the occurrence of possible retraining requirements, membership renewal fees, signed membership agreements for the upcoming renewal cycle, and signed membership renewal applications must be received on or before the expiration date.

As a member based organization, different levels of professional membership exist. These can be defined as leadership levels of certification. Individuals must have one of these levels to apply for membership. Current levels include:

- Divemaster
- Assistant Instructor
- Open Water Scuba Instructor
- Specialty Instructor
- Master Instructor
- Instructor Trainer
- Regional Training Director

*Effective September 31st, 2010 the Resort Divemaster is now the Divemaster course. The Assistant Instructor, Level 1 and Senior levels have been combined. The prerequisites and functions are detailed in the specific course standards.*

Definitions

Teaching Status

In order to be placed into, or to remain in Teaching Status, NASE Worldwide Instructors and Assistant Instructors must meet the following requirements:

- Be a renewed, dues paid member of NASE Worldwide within your renewal cycle.
- Complete, sign, and date a current NASE Worldwide membership agreement.
- Complete, sign, and date a current Membership Renewal Application.
- Have proof of NASE Worldwide approved Professional Scuba Liability insurance coverage on file with NASE Worldwide headquarters.

Instructors living or teaching only within those areas identified by NASE Worldwide as areas not requiring insurance coverage may have this requirement waived.
Was renewed in Teaching Status the previous renewal cycle, has become a new member within the previous 12 months, or one or more of the following:

- Audited or assisted with an ITP
- Attended an annual Member Update
- Attended a Specialty Workshop with a NASE Worldwide Instructor Trainer.

**Non-Teaching Status**

Renewed, dues paid, NASE Worldwide Instructors and certified assistants who have not met all the requirements to be placed in, or remain in, Teaching Status will automatically be placed in Non-teaching Status. Instructors and certified assistants may not teach NASE Worldwide sanctioned courses. They may however, assist NASE Worldwide Instructors who are in Teaching Status as certified assistants and will continue to receive all membership benefits.

NASE Worldwide headquarters may place Instructors and certified assistants in Non-teaching Status for one or more of the following reasons:

- Failure to meet one or more of the conditions of Teaching Status as given above.
- Administrative reasons pertaining to Quality Assurance Board or pending Quality Assurance Board actions.
- Request from the member to be placed in Non-teaching Status.

**Inactive Status**

NASE Worldwide headquarters for the following reasons may place NASE Worldwide Instructors, Assistant Instructors, and Divemasters into Inactive Status:

- Unpaid membership fees
- NASE Worldwide Quality Assurance Board places the Instructor, Assistant Instructor, or Divemaster for Ethics violations or Standards violations.
- By the request of the member, Emeritus

**Inactive Medical Status**

NASE Worldwide members are personally responsible to assure that they are in good health, and physically fit for supervisory diving. NASE Worldwide expects that if temporary or permanent physical conditions exist where the member is unable to meet the physical standards necessary for diving instruction and/or supervision, they will voluntarily remove themselves from actively teaching or assisting in NASE Worldwide courses until they are again fully able to resume. This may require clearance from their Physician. (See “NASE Worldwide Medical Guide for Instructors” in the appendix section of this manual.)
By granting a NASE Worldwide Instructor or Assistant Instructor Teaching Status, NASE Worldwide retains the right to place that Instructor or Assistant Instructor into Inactive Medical Status if it becomes aware of physical conditions that make him or her incapable of safely conducting dive training or supervisory activities. While in Inactive Medical Status, the Instructor or Assistant Instructor is not authorized to teach, supervise, or assist with NASE Worldwide sanctioned courses.

Instructors and Assistant Instructors who are placed in Inactive Medical Status by NASE Worldwide headquarters will be required to obtain medical clearance from their Physician prior to being returned to Teaching Status.

NASE Worldwide Instructors and Assistant Instructors placed in Inactive Medical status will continue to receive all membership benefits.

**Suspended Status**

Members may be placed into Suspended Status as a result of a NASE Worldwide Quality Assurance Board decision based upon safety, quality, or the well being of the general NASE Worldwide population. Decisions of the Quality Assurance Board may be based upon one or more of the following:

- Gross violation of training standards
- Gross ethical violations
- Failure to complete retraining requirements as determined by the Quality Assurance Board.
- Failure to issue student certifications if all certification requirements have been met by the students.
- Financial irresponsibility toward NASE Worldwide.

Suspended Members may not affiliate or represent themselves as being NASE Worldwide members. They may not teach or assist any NASE Worldwide courses, and may not certify students at any level. Suspended members will not receive any NASE Worldwide materials except at the discretion of NASE Worldwide headquarters. Suspended members may not purchase NASE Worldwide training materials.

Suspended members will have their names published on the NASE Worldwide websites.

**Reinstatement Procedures**

NASE Worldwide Instructors, Assistant Instructors, and Resort Divemasters placed into Inactive Status or Suspended Status may be reinstated to active or teaching status by completing all of the following:

- Pay current membership renewal fees.
Sign and date the current Membership Renewal Agreement, and Membership Agreement.

Complete all remedial requirements as required by the NASE Worldwide Quality Assurance Board.

If an Instructor member has been in Inactive Status or Suspended Status for twelve months or more, one of the following must be completed:

- Assist a NASE Worldwide Instructor with two complete Open Water Courses. (Courses must consist of a minimum of four Students or more).
- Audit or assist with an ITP and pass the Instructor Exam (I.E.)
- Attend an annual Member Update
- Attend a Specialty Workshop with a NASE Worldwide Instructor Trainer.

Members who are Instructor Trainers at the time of being placed into Suspended Status by the Quality Assurance Board will only be reinstated to the level of Open Water Instructor. The reinstated member may submit application to be returned to Master Instructor level after maintaining one year in Teaching Status.

Master Instructors wishing to be re-qualified as an Instructor Trainer may submit their request to the NASE Worldwide Quality Assurance Board for consideration.
General Membership Standards

Corporate Structure
NASE Worldwide consists of corporate officers and employees whose purpose is to provide the recreational diving community with leading and innovative training concepts and materials with an emphasis on diver and diving safety.

All programs created for NASE Worldwide are established in concert with standards adopted by ANSI and ISO under the recommendations of the RSTC and are recognized by all major recreational scuba-training agencies.

Concurrent with the distribution and adoption of latest standards, which creates a common curricula, renewed and dues paid NASE Worldwide Instructors in teaching status will be free to teach NASE Worldwide programs.

Mission Statement
NASE will introduce the world to diving by providing superior, innovative training materials and methods. We will provide our members with a profitable business model that focuses on 3 key factors: safety, integrity and education while building confidence that ensures the enjoyment of diving for all participants.

Goals
As a world presence in the recreational scuba community, NASE Worldwide will:

■ Be the educational company providing quality, convenience and value worldwide.

■ Focus on safety, building confidence and ensuring the enjoyment of diving for all participants by using defined proficiency standards

■ Provide members the cutting edge resources needed to profit through training divers and promote best business practices by our membership

■ Enforce a code of conduct for its members to ensure the highest possible adherence to these standards and procedures.
General Training Standards

The standards given in this section of the Standards and Procedures apply to all NASE Worldwide courses of instruction unless otherwise specified. NASE Worldwide members in active training status must follow these standards during all training activities sanctioned by NASE Worldwide when either training or supervising student divers of any level.

Additional standards and procedures may apply to individual courses. Refer to the specific standards for each training course for further information.

Policies applying to all Training

■ Teaching status NASE Worldwide Instructor must be present and in control of all activities during any NASE certification course.

■ All performance objectives in a NASE course are to be personally witnessed by a NASE Instructor (although a certified NASE Assistant Instructor may be the one actually conducting the skill, under direct instructor supervision.)

■ Under no circumstances are student divers to be left unattended at anytime during in-water training. This includes any confined water sessions or open water dives. Students are to be with dive buddy and under direct to in-direct instructor supervision during in-water training.

■ Minimum age is to be reached by the beginning of the in-water phase of training.

■ Students who have not reached their sixteenth birthday by the time of certification may be issued an NASE Worldwide Junior Diver rating for that particular certification. Junior divers possess the same qualifications as adult divers unless modified by individual course standards; however, until their sixteenth birthday, they must be accompanied at all times by a certified buddy who is at least 18 years of age.

■ Exams for Junior level certifications require student and parent or guardian signatures.

■ The parent or guardian of a Junior level certification agrees to restrictions placed on that level of training (see individual course standards).

■ Student registration must be processed without unnecessary delay once the certifying instructor has ensured each student has met the minimum requirements for certification.

■ NASE Worldwide materials are to be used for all courses in which they are available.

■ Upon completion of each dive required for certification, the instructor is to review and sign student logbook.
Definitions for Key Terms

Certified Assistant

A certified assistant is an individual who has successfully completed and is in teaching status as a NASE Worldwide Divemaster or Assistant Instructor and non-teaching status Instructor — providing they all have current professional liability insurance, where required. Certified assistants may be used by the Instructor to increase student to instructor ratios for confined water or open water training sessions according to the individual standards for the specific course (see specific course training standards).

Direct Supervision

Direct Supervision requires that the Instructor accompany students and be in a position that allows for immediate intervention on the students behalf. If direct supervision of enrolled students is required, the certifying instructor is to personally observe and evaluate each student’s performance of all skills required for certification. The maximum allowable student/instructor ratio for any dive requiring direct instructor supervision is eight to one, regardless of whether or not certified assistants are used.

Indirect Supervision

Indirect Supervision requires the certifying instructor to prepared to lend assistance and enter the water if necessary. The Instructor is not required to personally observe and direct all in-water student-training activities. The maximum allowable student/instructor ratio for any dive requiring indirect instructor supervision is eight to one, with an additional four students per certified assistant, up to a maximum of twelve.

For confined water or open water activities the certifying instructor must be present at the dive site, oversee and approve the activities, preparations, equipment assembly and inspection, entries, and exits. The instructor must be at the dive site, prepared to enter the water, while students are in the water. For academic classroom activities, the certifying instructor must be in the area and ready to take control of the classroom when necessary.

Confined Water

Confined water is any body of water that provides similar conditions as a swimming pool to introduce diving skills. Should include: good visibility, calm (free of surf and current), adequate water depth to perform required skills.

Open Water Dive Site

An Open Water dive site is defined as any body of water with a minimum depth of 5 m/15 ft and approximates entry level diving conditions of the local area. Pools of any depth cannot be considered as an Open Water Dive.
With the exception of Cave, Cavern, Ice and Wreck Diver courses, no open-water training dives are to be conducted in, or within diver access, to caves, caverns, under ice, inside wrecks or in any situation where direct access to the surface is not possible at all times.

*The dive site must be chosen with safety in mind. Moderate to high surf conditions, or currents present wherein the instructor cannot maintain direct contact with all students are not allowed. Visibility conditions must be present that allows the instructor to see and maintain physical contact with all students in the water.*

**Bottom Time**

This is defined as the time a diver spends underwater while using scuba. Time begins as diver submerges and continues until diver surfaces.

**Skill Competency**

A combination of related knowledge, skills and attitudes that leads to successful participation in scuba diving and is measured against well-accepted standards and is improved through training and experience.

NASE Worldwide defines competency as the ability to meet the stated performance objective: Whenever asked, repeatedly, without undue stress and without significant error.

*Model for Competency based training is in the Instructor Candidate Workbook.*

**Disabilities**

As disability is defined as any physical or mental impairment that obstructs or interferes with a student’s ability to learn or perform the skills required during the course of training.

Disabilities may range from complete inability to engage in in-water activities to minor challenges that can be overcome by the student and instructor with adaptive techniques.

Prospective students with disabilities must obtain approval from a licensed physician before engaging in any aspect of NASE Worldwide sanctioned courses. However, the certifying instructor has the authority to decide who will enter the course.

Individuals with disabilities must satisfactorily complete all aspects of the required training before becoming certified.

**Open Water Dives**

Open water training dives for recreational-level NASE Worldwide diver courses must meet the following requirements:

- To count as an open-water training dive, a dive must be one in which students accrue at least 15 minutes of Actual Bottom Time (ABT) or consume the equivalent of at least 1,400 liters/50 ft$^3$ of breathing gas.
- The *minimum* depth for an open-water training dive is 5.0 m/15 ft.
- The *maximum* depth for an open-water training dive is 40 m/130 ft.
All dives must be planned to keep students well within the no-decompression limits.

The minimum time between dives is ten minutes.

With the exception of Cavern Wreck and Ice Diver courses, students must always have direct access to surface.

With the exception of Advanced Open Water and Night Diver course night dives, dives are to begin at least 30 minutes after sunrise and end 30 minutes before sunset.

All training dives conducted above 300 m/1,000 ft must follow altitude diving procedures.

**Required Equipment**

Each student, instructor, and certified assistant engaged in the open water portion of any NASE Worldwide sanctioned course of underwater instruction must be equipped with the following personal equipment:

- An exposure suit for thermal and environmental protection that is adequate for the needs of each individual at the specific dive site.
- A scuba unit consisting of a minimum of the following:
  - Scuba cylinder for compressed gases with sufficient volume for planned dive.
  - First and second stage regulator complete with alternate second stage (octopus)
  - BC with a low-pressure inflator
  - Submersible pressure gauge
  - Depth gauge or dive computer
- Mask and fins
- Weight system and weights as required.
- Dive watch, dive computer, or other timing device.
- Personal Dive Log

**Note:** Students enrolled in the Open Water Diver course who are receiving training in the Integrated Dive Computer program must each have access to their own dive computer.

Each instructor and certified assistant must also have the following equipment for all open water dives:

- Compass.
- Knife or other cutting device (unless prohibited by law).
- Signaling device (audible and/or visual device as appropriate for the dive location).

Dive flags must be present at all dive sites where they are required by law. It is a good practice to use a dive float with flag at all underwater training areas for surface support during open water activities.
Course Criteria

General

In the NASE Competency based training, each course generally has a minimum defined minutes of Actual Bottom Time (ABT) as opposed to a minimum number of dives. Each course will outline the required skills to be preformed, it is up to the certifying instructor to ensure student has demonstrated competency for each skill. To achieve a level of training, competency is required for all required skills and each skill.

Unless modified by the individual course standard, no more than three open water training dives are to be conducted on a given day.

Students enrolled in advanced courses above the Open Water Diver certification level may, at the instructors discretion, dive recreationally after all training dives have been satisfactorily completed. (This does not modify or remove individual responsibility of the involved divers to carefully observe all depth, time, and surface interval requirements for conducting multiple dives.)

Except as noted in individual course standards, all open-water training dives must be conducted during daylight hours. Training dives for technical (NASE Worldwide Extreme Scuba) refer the individual course for limits.

All training dives must contain the following:

1. A briefing
2. Equipment assembly
3. An entry
4. Training activity/Tour
5. An exit
6. Debriefing
7. Equipment disassembly
8. Logging the dives in the student’s personal logbook.

Student to Instructor Ratios

The ratio for Open Water training dives is eight students per instructor. These ratios may be modified for dive experience dives and advanced training dives as given in each particular course outline. (See individual course standards)

The ratio for Confined Water training is 12 students per instructor, 14 if using a certified assistant.
Quality Assurance Program

Every Member a Professional

Quality Assurance is every member’s responsibility. The quality of our training affects our students by the kind of underwater training that they receive, our instructors and assistant instructors by their pride and how they feel about themselves, and our training agency by how the world perceives the training that we provide. Quality then is the very essence of who we are as worldwide professional scuba educators.

NASE Worldwide has the responsibility of providing its members with training, training programs, and training materials that rival or better then the best. However good the material and the instructor training are; the quality of training that the student receives depends upon the instructor.

Professionals care about how their job is performed, and how their colleague’s jobs are performed. That is why we have named our Quality Assurance program “Every Member a Professional”.

How is Quality Assured?

Instructors are the front line in quality assurance. We must assure that the instructors that we train are motivated individuals who love diving, who are self monitoring, who like people, and who are well trained.

The NASE Worldwide approach to assuring quality is divided into three major categories:

1. Assuring that our instructors receive quality training and are up to date on current standards and procedures
2. Providing quality up-to-date training materials
3. Quality Assurance reports.

Instructor Updates

1. Instructors must attend a biennial (every two years) a training update to remain in teaching status.
   - Conducted by HQ staff or Regional Training Director or
   - Available online from NASE Headquarters
2. Instructor Trainers required must attend a biennial (every two years) IT Workshop to remain in IT Status
   - Conducted by HQ staff or Regional Training Director or
3. Regional Training Directors must attend all Conferences
   - Held quarterly online.
   - Regional Training Director updates to be held once each year at a predetermined location.

**Training Materials**

NASE Worldwide as a commitment to its members will maintain its training materials up-to-date with respect to safe diving practices and methods for teaching scuba diving. All revisions will be outlined and made available to the membership. Members are required to utilize the most recent versions of all materials.

**Quality Assurance Reports**

Quality Assurance management is best brought about by each member’s adherence to the principles that brings quality to underwater training programs.

By agreeing to the annual membership agreement over signature, NASE Worldwide Instructors, Instructor Trainers, Divemasters and Assistant Instructors assume an obligation to maintain strict adherence to these standards and procedures, by keeping themselves physically and mentally fit to fulfill their roles as scuba educators and dive leaders. Included in this obligation is a responsibility to use the Quality Assurance Report form to report any gross violations of standards or training procedures by NASE Worldwide members that have been personally witnessed, to the NASE Worldwide Quality Assurance Board.

The Quality Assurance Board will respond as quickly and fairly as possible to all Quality Assurance Reports submitted to NASE Worldwide headquarters. Reports received in this manner will be held in as strict a confidence as is possible.

The following standards must be followed to assure the fidelity of the Quality Assurance Reporting system:

1. The Quality Assurance Board will not respond to hearsay in the form of second or third party reports.
2. Quality Assurance Reports must be submitted in writing.
3. False or capricious reports are a violation of standards and may result in Quality Assurance Board action against the reporting party.
4. Reports made to gain political or competitive advantage are a violation of standards and may result in Quality Assurance Board action taken against the reporting party.
Legal Risk Management

Risk management techniques provide our instructor members with the tools necessary to minimize unnecessary exposure to unwarranted or unnecessary legal actions. They also help in the recognition of potential problems that can be corrected before a problem happens.

The primary function of risk management is prevention.

Sometimes, no matter how careful we are, circumstances are set in motion that result in an unfortunate scuba accident. Students, former students, and their families may seek legal remedies to recover their loss. This can, and usually does, include everyone involved in their scuba training.

The first step of risk management is to make yourself aware of your legal responsibilities to your students, to yourself, and to your training agency. By understanding thoroughly your responsibilities, you can take the necessary steps to assure that your responsibilities are fulfilled, and head off any potential problems long before they can happen.

Certain recognized hazards are an intrinsic part of the sport of scuba diving. When you as a scuba instructor accept a student into one of your classes, a contractual relationship is formed. You agree to provide the student with training, and the student agrees to provide you with a fee for that training. In addition to the obvious contract, an implied contract is also formed. Because you are the expert, and there are inherent hazards present in the training, you contract with the student to apply reasonable and prudent care in protecting the student from those hazards. Part of that care involves fully informing the student as to the nature of the hazards involved so that he or she can make an informed decision about whether or not to risk the exposure. Actual neglect may occur if the instructor fails to take reasonable and prudent action in protecting the student from the known hazards present, and an actual accident occurs. The benchmark that the courts use to measure the conduct is a fictional “reasonably prudent person”. In a similar situation, what would a “reasonably prudent person” do? Extended to the scuba instructor, the court may ask, “what would a reasonably prudent scuba instructor do?”

If an accident does occur, you may be required in a court of law to prove that you did provide reasonable care.
Standards

Training standards fill an important role in the management of risk. NASE Worldwide standards conform to nationally and internationally recognized diving principles and procedures. Standards conforming to industry wide practices help to establish the set of actions in a scuba-training environment that a “reasonably prudent scuba instructor” would take in the execution of his or her duties to the scuba student. By strictly following training standards, the instructor’s behavior and fulfillment of duty to the student is inherently more defensible in court than an instructor who deviates from standards or devises his or her own training system.

Documentation

Documentation provides the “paper trail” showing the path that the diving instructor took in providing the contracted instruction, how well standards were followed, and how informed the student was regarding inherent risk. In most courts of law, documentation in the form of student forms, logbooks, and student files are adequate proof.

*Student and Instructor log books*, signed and dated with the appropriate entries document the training dives that were conducted, and the dates that they were conducted, with bottom times and depths, surface intervals, and water conditions. This can all be valuable information showing evidence of the manner in which open water training was given.

*Medical Statement forms*, signed and dated by the student or guardian, or a physician if required, gives ample warning to the student that existing or potential medical conditions may increase the risks that he or she will be exposed to during underwater training. The Medical Statement form also warns the student of mitigating circumstances related to health or fitness that may enhance the potential dangers in the underwater environment.

*The Liability Release and Assumption of Risk* establishes and confirms that the student has been informed of the risks inherent to scuba diving, that the student acknowledges those risks, and assumes the risk releasing the instructor from liability.

Important: the Liability Release and Assumption of Risk form does not release the instructor from applying reasonable and prudent care in protecting the student from those risks. Remember that you are the expert!

*The Acknowledgment of Safe Diving Practices and Release After Training* documents that the student has been informed of safe diving practices and habits necessary to enhance the safety and quality of their diving. The Release After Training section of the form reiterates to the student the inherent risks of diving, the student acknowledges and assumes that risk, and releases the instructor and diving facility from liability pursuant to the students own diving.
Important: as with the Liability Release and Assumption of Risk form, this does not release the Instructor or Dive Facility from actual negligence. You must take care in following prescribed standards, and insuring that the student receives the best training available. Only when the student is well taught, understands the principles of safe diving, and has learned his or her lesson well, can the instructor feel reasonably released from liability.

Exams provide proof of student’s comprehension of the academic material. If course requires an exam, the original exam, signed by student must be kept with other required paperwork. If the student has not passed the exam with the minimum passing score (80% unless modified by individual course standard) the instructor is to review it and ensure student understands material and administer a re-test.

*Junior certifications (ages 10 through 15) are required to have parent of guardian sign exam in-addition to student.*

**Liability Insurance**

All NASE Worldwide Instructors in training status are required to have industry standard, agency recognized, Professional Scuba Liability Insurance coverage, and if your insurance is not NASE Worldwide sponsored you must list NASE Worldwide as a co-insured.

If you, in your capacity as a scuba instructor, are named in a civil liability suit by a student or former student, you may be required to pay the student’s losses, damages, lost income, future earnings, court costs, legal fees, etc. if found by the courts to be responsible, or partially responsible. These costs can be considerable. When covered by a Professional Scuba Liability Insurance policy, the insurance company is required to defend you in a court of law, and pay all costs and judgments up to the coverage limits. Your liability insurance coverage is another part of your legal risk management program.

All professional members of NASE Worldwide who are engaged in student certification activities should have liability insurance coverage as a part of their risk management program. Even though Assistant Instructors, Divemasters, and instructors in non-teaching status are not required to have liability coverage, if they are engaged as certified assistants they should. The fact remains that because of their current activities in the instructional process, or in the past, they can be named as a correspondent in a civil liability action, and may be found by the courts to have partial or full responsibility for losses.

With liability insurance coverage comes yet another inherent responsibility for the scuba instructor, the responsibility to minimize legal risk for yourself, your training agency, and your insurance company.
Legal Risk Management Summary

Follow these steps to manage your exposure to legal risk:

1. Use the NASE Worldwide training materials and training system in all your courses. Providing a quality form of instruction to your students can prevent problems, and prevention is the best form of risk management.

2. Strictly follow the NASE Worldwide standards as given. Deviation may expose your students to greater risk, and you to greater legal risk.

3. Use all the risk management forms as given below, assure that your students have completed them fully and signed and dated them. Keep them together in the “Student Training Record” folder. Students must be required to complete and sign these forms for every course that they enroll in. The Student Training Record folder can be used to keep them all together.

☐ Liability Release and Assumption of Risk form
☐ Medical Statement and Physicians Release for Diving (if required)
☐ Acknowledgment of Safe Diving Practices and Release After Training
☐ All student quizzes and exams with student’s initials by the questions that they have missed.

Don’t change the wording of these forms or allow your students to change the wording to accommodate the individual student’s concerns. Changes may invalidate any protection that the form can offer.

4. Consult a legal expert in your local area to gain additional information as to the things that local law may require in addition to these presented here.

5. Use your best judgment when evaluating a student’s suitability for enrollment in your course in the areas of health, fitness, and maturity. Remember that it is your course that you are teaching.

6. Evaluate conditions at the dive-training site before committing students to the water. Under marginal conditions, be conservative and err on the safe side. It may be best to reduce ratios or change to another site, or delay to another day if conditions are not the best.
Incident Report

Sometimes the very best planning and steps to prevention cannot prevent an accident. What you do after an accident happens can be as important to Risk Management as what you do before. You must be trained and prepared to provide quick and competent assistance at the accident scene. Your first responsibility is to provide necessary first aid and to activate the emergency response system. If suspected decompression illness is involved, contact DAN (Diver's Alert Network) or other diving emergency services.

Steps must be taken to document the circumstances surrounding the accident or incident whether you are involved in the accident or just a witness. The Scuba Diving Accident/Incident Report Form is for use in reporting this information to NASE Worldwide headquarters. This information should also be given immediately to your liability insurance agent. Depending on the incident they may require you to contact their legal representation directly.

Local authorities may also be at the accident scene taking information. It is your responsibility, and in your best interest, to cooperate fully with their inquiries. There are some things that you need to be aware of:

1. Don’t disassemble the victim’s scuba equipment. A third party will need to assess whether or not it is in working order. Local authorities may request that it be placed their possession.

2. Even though you feel responsible and empathize with the victim, be careful not to admit fault. It actually may not be your fault, but it is difficult to retract statements that may have been made while distressed.

3. When cooperating with local authorities state only the factual information surrounding the accident. Don’t speculate or offer opinions.

4. You are not obligated to give information to the news media, friends, or family members even though feel that you should. It is recommended that you don’t.

5. Use the Scuba Diving Accident/Incident Report form to guide you in the type of information that you must collect at the scene, and forward the report in a timely manner to NASE Worldwide headquarters (See “Administrative Standards” Non-Certifying Forms and Procedures).
Course Standards

Open Water Diver Course

The Open Water Diver course is NASE Worldwide’s entry-level certification program. It is designed to help prepare divers to:

- Independently plan and conduct no-stop (no-decompression) dives, with a qualified buddy or buddies, to depths of 20 m/65 ft (12 m/40 ft for divers 10 and 11), in conditions similar to those in which the divers were trained or have gained prior experience.

- Make guided dives, under direct Instructor, Assistant Instructor or Divemaster supervision, to depths of 30 m/100 ft (12 m/40 ft for divers 10 and 11; 20 m/65 ft for divers ages 12 to 15).

- Continue their education through NASE continuing education courses.

General Prerequisites

To enroll in the NASE Worldwide Open Water Diver course, students must:

- Meet all of the prerequisites outlined in the NASE Worldwide General Course Standards and Procedures.

- Be at least ten years old by the start of the course.

There are no prerequisite diver certifications for this level.

Special Requirements for Junior Open Water Diver Students

Students who have not reached their sixteenth birthday by the time of certification may be issued an NASE Worldwide Junior Open Water Diver certification. Junior divers possess the same qualifications as adult divers; however, until their sixteenth birthday, they must be accompanied at all times by a certified buddy who is at least 18 years of age.

Junior divers ages ten and eleven are subject to the following additional requirements.

- Instructors are to evaluate student maturity levels and ability to safely manage the necessary equipment prior to enrollment. Exposure suits, BCs and scuba units must fit younger students comfortably.

- During all phases of confined and open-water training, ten- and eleven-year-old Junior Open Water Diver students are to have at least one parent or legal guardian present. (The parent/guardian does not have to be a student or certified diver, nor do they need to be in the water with the student.)
Following certification, ten- and eleven-year-old Junior Open Water Divers must be accompanied at all times by a certified buddy who is either a parent or legal guardian, or a certified Divemaster, Assistant Instructor or Instructor.

The depth limit for 10- and 11-year-olds is 12 m/40 ft.

Participation by any student, of any age, is subject to the instructor’s discretion.

Watermanship and Comfort Level Assessment

Prior to certification as an NASE Worldwide Open Water Diver, students are to demonstrate the following:

- Swim a distance of 180 m/200 yards using any combination of strokes. There is no time limit; however, use of snorkels, fins, flotation devices or standing in shallow water to rest is not allowed.
- Tread, float or drown proof in water to depth to stand for at least ten uninterrupted minutes.

If water temperature requires the use of exposure suits, students are to be weighted for neutral buoyancy.

Student/Instructor Ratios and Supervision

All Open Water Diver course students are to be under the direct supervision of an NASE Worldwide Instructor or certified assistant at all times (refer to General Course Standards and Procedures for more information on direct and indirect supervision).

- Students are to be under direct instructor supervision during all phases of Open Water Dive One.
- Certified assistants who have current professional liability insurance where required may independently supervise and guide students during the non-skill-assessment portion of subsequent dives, as long as the students have demonstrated competency in mask clearing, regulator recovery and clearing, alternate air source use and the ability to maintain depth through buoyancy control. A ratio of no more than two students per certified assistant while under the indirect supervision of a NASE instructor with active Teaching status.
- Certified assistants may also independently escort student divers to and from entry and exit points on the surface, and temporarily attend to remaining students while an instructor conducts skills with other divers.
- Current NASE Worldwide Assistant Instructors may conduct skill assessments during confined- and open-water training, provided both they and the students are under the direct supervision of an NASE Worldwide Instructor.
There is no maximum student/instructor ratio for academic knowledge development and assessment. Nevertheless, smaller ratios generally result in greater learning.

The maximum allowable student/instructor ratio during confined water training is ten students per instructor (twelve students if one or more certified assistants are used).

The maximum allowable student/instructor ratio during open water training is eight students per instructor — regardless of whether or not certified assistants are used.

The maximum allowable student/instructor ratio during any in-water training in which one or more ten- or eleven-year-old students are taking part is four students per instructor — regardless of whether or not certified assistants are used.

Please Note: These are the maximum allowable ratios under ideal conditions. Real-world conditions, however, generally dictate the use of more conservative ratios to ensure maximum student safety and enjoyment.

Required Materials

Instructor Materials

To teach the NASE Worldwide Open Water Diver course, instructors are to have and use a minimum of the NASE Worldwide:

- Instructor Manual
- Open Water Diver Course DVD*
- Open Water Diver Course Power Point*
- Open Water Diver Course Final Exam Booklet(s)*
- Open Water Diver Course Skill Slates

*Not required if students will be taking advantage of the NASE Worldwide Open Water Diver online training course.

Student Materials

To take the NASE Worldwide Open Water Diver course, each student is to own and use a minimum of the NASE Worldwide:

- Open Water Diver Manual or Open Water Diver Online Course
- Recreational Dive Tables (RDT)*
- Dive Log
- Student Record Folder

*Not required if students will be taught using a personal dive computer throughout the course.
Required Equipment
All instructor and student equipment listed in the General Standards and Procedures is to be used during the Open Water Diver course. Additionally:

- If students are taught using dive computers in lieu of dive tables, each student is to be equipped with a personal dive computer during open-water training dives (i.e., buddy teams are not to share a single dive computer).
- If computers are not used, each student is to be equipped with a depth gauge and dive watch or timer during open-water training dives.

Academic Development and Assessment
To be certified as NASE Worldwide Open Water Divers, students must meet the academic performance objectives outlined in the NASE Worldwide Open Water Diver manual or online training course. This must take place before the first open-water training dive. Mastery of these objectives can be demonstrated by:

- Successfully completing the NASE Worldwide Open Water Diver online training program, followed by successful completion of the Open Water Diver Rapid Exam.
- Successfully completing the NASE Worldwide Open Water Diver Final Exam (for students not taking part in online training).

Note that there are no “passing” scores for these exams (although students who fail to score at least 80 percent are to review the material they missed and re-take the alternate versions of the exams). To “pass” either exam, students are to score at least 80 percent and review the questions they missed with their instructor until the instructor is satisfied the students fully understand the correct answers to the missed questions.

Knowledge Development Using Traditional Learning Materials
Students who elect not to take part in the NASE Worldwide Open Water Diver online training program are to develop their knowledge as follows:

- Watch the NASE Worldwide Open Water Diver course DVD.
- Read the corresponding sections in the Open Water Diver manual.
- Complete the Pop Quiz (homework assignment) at the end of each section.
- Review each homework assignment with the instructor, who will ensure students fully understand the required material.
- Demonstrate mastery of the required material by successfully completing the NASE Worldwide Open Water Diver course Final Exam.

Instructors may use any of a variety of materials to help students meet these goals, including the NASE Worldwide Open Water Diver Power Point presentation.
In-Water Skill Development

Prior to applying the required course skills in open water, students must first develop these skills in confined water. (See General Course Standards and Procedures for definitions and requirements for confined water training.)

With the exception of compass and natural navigation, and certain site-specific entry and exit skills that can only be introduced in open water, no student is to be asked to perform a skill in open water unless he or she has had the opportunity to master it first in confined water. (See the section on Open Water Training below for a list of in-water skill performance objectives.)

There are no minimum time requirements or number of sessions for confined water training, as each individual student’s needs and abilities will be different. Nevertheless, before progressing to open water, each student must be able to demonstrate competency in of all required skill performance objectives. It is up to the instructor to assess each individual student’s readiness for open-water training.

As previously discussed in the General Course Standards and Procedures, competency is defined as the ability to meet the stated performance objective:

■ Whenever asked.
■ Repeatedly.
■ Without undue stress.
■ Without significant error.

NASE Worldwide does not have a rigid sequence in which skills must be introduced and mastered in confined water (although the Open Water Diver Course Instructor Guide and Skills Slates suggest ways in which this may be accomplished). Confined water training requires:

■ Skill development is to progress by moving from simple to complex skills.
■ Components of more complex skills are to be mastered individually before being combined with others.
■ Ample time must be allowed for practice and repetition of skills, especially for those students who need additional time to gain comfort performing certain skills.
■ It is better to repeat essential skills multiple times, than it is to introduce unrealistic and unnecessary skills, if doing so consumes time that could otherwise be used achieving mastery of required skill performance objectives.

Please refer to the Open Water Diver Course Instructor Guide for a complete listing of recommended confined water skills and suggested sequences to teach them. Instructors are free to include skills in confined water that directly relate to required skills.
Under no circumstance, however, is the instructor to include skills designed solely to wash students out, or which require students to “bail out” of scuba systems or exchange equipment underwater.

Additionally, practice of weight system and scuba unit removal and replacement under water, and Independent Emergency Ascents (swimming and buoyant) are to be limited solely to confined water and not repeated in open water.

The following general standards apply to confined water skill development:

- NASE Worldwide recommends that students complete all confined water sessions before participating in open water training. At the instructor’s discretion, however, — and only if necessary to complete training within unavoidable time restraints — instructors may conduct some open-water training dives before all confined water training has been completed. If, however, this happens, skills are to be limited to just those students have mastered in confined water. Students must also successfully complete the Final Exam or the Open Water Diver Rapid Exam if they took the NASE online course before any open-water training takes place.

- Students must be given ample confined water time for learning and repetition of skills. Some individuals may require that additional confined water sessions be scheduled to provide for repetitive learning and reinforcement.

- At the instructor’s discretion, open water training may also include practice of snorkeling and/or breath-hold diving skills. See the Open Water Diver Course Instructor Guide for specific recommendations.

Open Water Training

Open water training is where students learn to apply the skills they mastered in confined water in a realistic, open-water setting. Some skills, such as compass and natural navigation, as well as certain site-specific entry and exit techniques, can only be introduced and practiced in open water.

Bottom Time and Number of Dives

NASE Worldwide does not have a set number of open water dives that must be completed prior to certification. During the Open Water Diver course, students are to:

- Accrue a minimum of at least 100 minutes of Actual Bottom Time (ABT).
- Assemble and disassemble their scuba units a minimum of three times.
- Enter and exit the water completely a total of at least three times.
- Log a minimum of three distinct open water dives.
Although these requirements could, theoretically, allow students to be certified in as little three dives conducted on a single day, a more realistic expectation is that students will make a minimum of four dives conducted over two days (more may be required depending on student comfort and ability, and environmental conditions).

Any time students make more than two open-water training dives on a single day, instructors must consider:

- Students’ motivation, readiness, and physical and mental stamina.
- Whether environmental conditions are suitable for more than two training dives in a single day.
- Residual nitrogen levels and surface interval time.

If instructors elect to make more than two training dives on a single day:

- The minimum surface interval between dives is to be no less than 45 minutes between Dives One and Two, and 60 minutes between all subsequent dives.
- The maximum depth for all dives made during the day is to be no more than 15 m/50 ft.
- No mandatory/required decompression stops are permitted at any time. All dives are to be completed within the no-decompressions limits.

**Minimum and Maximum Depths**

- The minimum depth for skill assessments during open-water training dives is 5.0 m/15 ft.
- The maximum depth for the first 50 minutes of open water training is 15 m/50 ft.
- The maximum depth for all subsequent bottom time is 20 m/65 ft.

**Skill Performance Objectives**

To be certified as NASE Worldwide Open Water Divers, students must be able to demonstrate the following abilities in *confined water only*:

- Remove and replace a scuba unit under water in water too deep to stand up in.
- Remove and replace a weight system under water in water too deep to stand up in.
- Simulate an independent emergency (out-of-air) ascent.

Students are to demonstrate the following abilities in both *confined* and *open water*:

- Assemble and test a personal scuba unit as well as any other equipment required for the dives.
- Perform a pre-dive systems and safety check, using buddy assistance, as needed.
- Enter and exit the water using techniques appropriate for the dive site or dive vessel.
- Remove and replace a scuba unit at the surface.
- Remove and replace a weight system at the surface.
Simulate a cramp release at the surface.

Tow another diver a distance of at least 20 m/65 ft at the surface.

Descend both with and without visual references, while equalizing and maintaining control over rate of descent (i.e., “arrive at the bottom neutral”).

Demonstrate buoyancy control throughout the dive through proper weighting, BC use and breath control.

Note: Mastery of buoyancy control is defined as the ability to:

- Swim effortlessly in a near-horizontal position while maintaining control over depth and direction.
- Make repeated changes in depth without losing control over buoyancy.
- Initiate a hover by simply stopping. Note - Students who can only maintain depth by aiming fins thrust upward or downward are not demonstrating mastery of this important skill and are not ready for certification.

Additionally, students must be able to:

- Simulate power inflator failure by orally inflating a BC both at the surface and under water.
- Remove, replace and completely clear a mask of water.
- Remove, clear and resume breathing from a regulator second stage that has fallen behind the shoulder.
- Share gas with another diver, using an alternate air source, while both stationary and ascending. Ascents are to be made no faster than 10 m/30 ft per minute, and include a safety stop. Each diver is to do this as both donor and receiver.
- Monitor breathing gas supply and communicate this status with the instructor, dive leader or buddy(s) as needed.
- Communicate with the instructor, dive leader or buddy(s) using common hand signals.
- Maintain buddy team cohesion by keeping team members in sight (and close enough to respond quickly in an emergency) at all times.
- Ascend at a rate of no more than 10 m/30 ft per minute, while making at least a three-minute safety stop between 3 and 6 m/10 and 20 ft.
- Disassemble and clean a scuba unit and other equipment, and prepare it for transport (or another dive).

Students must also be able to demonstrate the following abilities in open water:

- Identify potential risks and hazards, as well as environmental and other features unique to the open-water training site.
Identify how to summon emergency medical assistance as well as how to initiate any emergency action plan that may be in place at the dive site or on the dive vessel.

Plan a series of no-stop (no-decompression) dives using dive tables or computers, accounting for residual nitrogen time as needed.

Finally, students are to log each dive made during open-water training in the NASE Logbook. Students should be able to record (with minimal instructor assistance):

- Dive date and location.
- Maximum depth.
- Actual Bottom Time (ABT).
- Starting and ending gas pressure.
- Ending letter group (if using dive tables).

If it can be done so accurately (i.e., if students’ dive computers record average dive depth, or a substantial portion of the dive was at a relatively constant depth), students should also calculate and record Surface Air Consumption (SAC) rate data. Although doing so is not essential to safety, it can help show students how their gas consumption improves as they gain more experience — and it can even be used to determine how much gas will likely be needed for upcoming dives.

**NASE Philosophy on the Impact of What Students See and Experience**

In class, we tell students about the importance of slow ascents and safety stops, and about the vital role buoyancy control plays in safety, enjoyment and protecting the environment. Unfortunately, while this may be what students hear, *it all too often is not what they learn.* Why?

Because the typical open water student sees his or her instructor make multiple, rapid ascents and descents, and are asked to do the same themselves as part of so-called “emergency” exercises.

Sadly, students are more likely to remember *what they see and do* than they are to remember what it is we told them. And what most students see is their instructor bouncing up and down like a yo-yo at ascent rates that make even the most liberal of dive computers howl in protest.

NASE Worldwide believes that practice of skills such as Controlled Emergency Swimming Ascents and Buoyant Emergency Ascents is best limited to confined water, where risk factors are lower and students may be less likely to assimilate this as acceptable behavior in open water. (We also believe it is better to teach and practice the prevention of out-of-gas emergencies than it is to stress mastering solutions students never practice once certified.)

Our recommendation for open water training is that:

- Every dive should be limited to just one descent and ascent.
- Dives should be planned so as to avoid “saw tooth” profiles.
Every ascent (including alternate air source ascents) should be at a rate of no more than 10 m/30 ft per minute, and should include a safety stop at between 6 m/20 ft and 3 m/10 ft. This doesn’t have to be an actual stop; swimming at safety-stop depth over a shallow reef or along a wall or slope will suffice (and can be a lot more enjoyable).

Similarly, NASE Worldwide feels that buoyancy control is a vital and integral part of diving — not a “skill” to be practiced on a training platform along with mask clearing and regulator recovery. Unfortunately, most open water students spend far more time planted on the bottom or kneeling on a platform than they do swimming and maintaining neutral buoyancy.

NASE Worldwide’s philosophy is that contact with the bottom should be kept to an absolute minimum. Whenever possible, skill practice and assessment should take place while students are neutrally buoyant.

Think about it. A diver whose mask floods unexpectedly is not going to pull a folding training platform out of his pocket so that he can kneel on it before clearing his mask. The diver who finds himself suddenly out of air is not going to be very happy with a buddy who insists that they must first settle on the bottom before passing an alternate air source.

All too often we’ve seen divers whose idea of buoyancy control is to drop like a rock from the surface, then wallow on a fragile bottom, doing a “fin pivot” to establish neutral buoyancy. And, as ludicrous as this sounds, it is what too many divers learn these days.

Referrals

Referring NASE Students to Other Instructors for Open Water Training

As is common in areas where academic and confined water training may take place during colder weather, NASE Worldwide Instructors may refer students to dive operators in other locations for completion of open-water training. To do so, use the NASE Worldwide Open Water Referral Form.

The referral form is fairly straightforward and all you generally need to do is read and follow the instructions. Of course, it is best if you can refer students to another NASE Worldwide Instructor or dive center; however, any instructor in Teaching status with a recognized agency may complete the students’ training.

Note that, as the referring instructor, it is you who will issue the students’ final certification card, after the signed referral form has been returned to you.

Accepting Referral Students From Other NASE Instructors

Again, the Referral Form will help make this process simple and straightforward. Prudence dictates you should conduct a skills review and assessment in confined water before taking students whose abilities you don’t know into open water.
After students have successfully completed their open water training dives, complete and sign the form (keeping copies for yourself), and give the original to the students to return to the referring instructor.

If approached by referral students from other agency instructors, you will need to follow the requirements of that training agency.

**Administrative requirements**

All administrative requirements outlined in the General Standards and Procedures apply to the Open Water Diver course. Additionally:

- Students must complete and pass the Open Water Diver Final Exam or Rapid Exam prior to taking part in any open water training dives.

- Immediately following completion of open water training, students are to complete and sign the *Acknowledgment of Safe Diving Practices and Release After Training* form.
Advanced Open Water Diver Course

The NASE Worldwide Advanced Open Water Diver course is designed to help students:
■ Gain additional knowledge and skills beyond those covered in entry-level diver training.
■ Receive an introduction to several specialty diving activities.
■ Qualify to plan and conduct dives, with a similarly qualified buddy, to depths of 30 m/100 ft, in conditions similar to or better than those in which the divers were trained.
■ Gain additional dive experience under the guidance and supervision of an NASE Worldwide Instructor.

The course consists of self study and at least five open-water training dives. Two of these dives, Underwater Navigation and Deep, are “core” dives and must be completed by all students. The remaining dives may be selected from a list of electives.

General Prerequisites

To enroll in the NASE Worldwide Advanced Open Water Diver course, students must:
■ Meet all of the prerequisites outlined in NASE Worldwide General Course Standards and Procedures.
■ Possess NASE Open Water Diver certification, or the equivalent from a recognized agency.
■ Be at least 16 years old by the start of the course (students who are 12 to 15 may qualify for NASE Junior Advanced Open Water Diver certification).

Special Requirements for Junior Advanced Open Water Diver Students

Students who are 12 to 15 years old may participate in this course. If they successfully complete all requirements, they may be issued an NASE Worldwide Junior Advanced Open Water Diver certification. As such, they must be accompanied at all times by a certified buddy who is at least 18 years of age. The maximum depth for any dive involving Junior divers is 20 m/65 ft.

Student Pre-Assessment

Students in the NASE Advanced Open Water Diver course must, as a minimum, possess the knowledge and skills of an NASE Open Water Diver prior to taking part in any open-water dive activities that are not directly supervised by an NASE Instructor. Assessment of this ability may include the following:
■ The instructor may have first-hand knowledge of students’ prior training and experience.
The instructor may conduct a pre-assessment of student knowledge and skills, if these abilities are not already known.

A recommended procedure for assessing these abilities is:

- Have students complete the NASE Open Water Diver course Rapid Exam. Discuss with students any question they may have missed and ensure that, after doing so, students fully understand the correct answers.
- Conduct a skills-assessment dive in confined or open water. This may take place on the first open-water dive of the course, at a depth of no greater than 12 m/40 ft.

During this dive, students must demonstrate proficiency in the following:

- Mask removal and replacement.
- Regulator recovery and clearing.
- Alternate air source use (stationary and swimming).
- The ability to swim, stop and change depth and direction while maintaining control of buoyancy.

**Student/Instructor Ratios and Supervision**

An NASE Worldwide Instructor in Active status is to be present and in control of all Advanced Open Water Diver course activities. Except as noted below, this may be in the form of *indirect* supervision (see General Course Standards and Procedures for more information).

Additionally, instructors must be in a position to personally assess student performance throughout the course. Examples may include:

- Watching as buddy teams tow a float during navigation exercises.
- Examining student photos or videos taken during underwater imaging dives.
- Having students turn in a list of aquatic plants and animals observed during an aquatic life identification dive.

If student abilities cannot be assessed in this manner, then the instructor is to personally observe student performance in the water.

Additionally, instructors are to provide *direct* supervision on any:

- Night dives.
- Deep dives (depths greater than 20 m/65 ft).
- Wreck dives.
- Dry suit dives (unless students possess prior drysuit training and experience).
- Any dive during which students simulate emergency decompression.
Any elective dive for which the corresponding Specialty Diver course standards require
direct supervision.

**Specific Student/Instructor Ratios**

- For any dives requiring indirect supervision: Eight students per instructor, with an
  additional four students per certified assistant, up to a maximum of twelve students.

- For any dives requiring direct supervision: Eight students per instructor, regardless of
  number of certified assistants used.

Certain Specialty Diver course standards may specify more restrictive ratios than these. If
so, the more restrictive ratios take precedence for corresponding Advanced Open Water
Diver course elective dives.

*Please Note:* These are the maximum allowable ratios under ideal conditions. Real-world
conditions, however, generally dictate the use of more conservative ratios to ensure
maximum student safety and enjoyment.

**Required Materials**

**Instructor Materials**

To teach the NASE Worldwide Advanced Open Water Diver course, instructors are to have
and use a minimum of:

- The *NASE Worldwide Instructor Manual*.
- The NASE Worldwide Advanced Open Water Diver student kit (or its current equivalent).

**Student Materials**

To take the NASE Worldwide Advanced Open Water Diver course, students are to have and
use a minimum of:

- The NASE Worldwide Advanced Open Water Diver Student Kit (or its current
  equivalent).

**Required Equipment**

Instructors and students are required to have all of the equipment outlined in NASE
Worldwide General Diving Course Standards and Procedures. Additionally, some dives may
require that students and instructors have and use additional equipment. Examples may
include:

- A primary dive light and backup light or personal marker light for night dives.
- A dry suit and undergarments for drysuit dives.
A dive knife or cutting tool is required whenever its use is allowed by local law. Consult the corresponding Specialty Diver course standards for a list of equipment that may apply to each elective dive.

In so far as underwater navigation is an integral part of the Advanced Open Water Diver course, students are to each have a personal underwater compass for all dives.

Dive computer use is strongly encouraged. Nevertheless, any student who does not have a personal dive computer is to have his or her own depth gauge, timer and dive tables.

**Academic Development and Assessment**

Prior to taking part in the NASE Worldwide Advanced Open Water Diver course, students are to read all of the materials included in the NASE Advanced Open Water Diver Student Kit (or its current equivalent), and complete all of the knowledge assessments contained therein. Instructors are to review these completed assessments with the students prior to any in-water training activities, and ensure that students understand the correct answers to each question.

**Open Water Training**

The NASE Worldwide Advanced Open Water Diver course consists of five open water dives. Two of these are “core” dives and must be completed by all students. The remaining dives may be selected from a list of electives.

The two core dives are:

- Underwater Navigation.
- Deep.

The list of available elective dives may include:

- Nitrox.
- Night/Low Visibility
- Search and Recovery
- Buoyancy Techniques and Propulsion
- Underwater Imaging.
- Wreck.
- Underwater Ecology and Fish ID.
- Dry Suit.

Additionally, instructors may, at their discretion, repeat either of the core dives in lieu of one of the electives, if they feel that doing so would help students remediate skills with which they are having difficulty.
Each of the Advanced Open Water Diver course dives is to cover the knowledge and skills contained in the first dive of the corresponding Specialty Diver course. As such, it may also count as the first dive toward these Specialty Diver certifications.

Finally, instructors who are qualified to teach NASE Worldwide-approved Distinctive Specialty Diver courses may include the first dive from one of these courses in lieu of one of the elective dives listed above.

**Bottom Time and Number of Dives**

During the five open-water training dives included in the NASE Worldwide Advanced Open Water Diver course, students are to accrue a minimum of at least 150 minutes of Actual Bottom Time (ABT). No more than three training dives may be conducted during any 24-hour period.

**Depths**

The maximum depth for the NASE Worldwide Advanced Open Water Diver course deep dive is 30 m/100 ft (20 m/65 ft for divers 15 or younger). Dives must reach a minimum of 20 m/65 ft (15 m/50 ft for divers under the age of 16) to qualify as a deep dive. All other Advanced course activities are to be conducted at a depth of 20 m/65 ft or less.

**Skill Performance Objectives (General)**

To be certified as NASE Worldwide Advanced Open Water Divers, students must be able to:

- Prepare a detailed dive plan that includes: planned and maximum depths and times; turnaround and minimum ascent pressures; potential risks and hazards; and, environmental and other features unique to the open-water training site.
- Assemble and test a personal scuba unit as well as any other equipment required for the dive.
- Perform a pre-dive systems and buddy check.
- Enter and exit the water using techniques appropriate for the dive site or dive vessel.
- Communicate with the instructor, dive leader or buddy(s) using common hand signals.
- Demonstrate buoyancy control throughout each dive by proper weighting, BC use and breath control, as demonstrated by:
  - Swimming effortlessly in a near-horizontal position while maintaining control over depth and direction.
  - Making repeated changes in depth without losing control over buoyancy.
  - Initiating a hover by simply stopping.
Note: Students who can only maintain depth by aiming fins thrust upward or downward are not demonstrating mastery of this important skill and are not ready for certification at this level.

- Monitor breathing gas supply and communicate this status with the instructor, dive leader or buddy(s) as needed.
- Maintain buddy contact and team cohesion by keeping team members in sight (and close enough to respond quickly in an emergency) at all times.
- Perform an out-of-air exercise sharing gas with another diver as both donor and receiver while swimming horizontally no less than 15 m/ 50 ft. Divers are to maintain control over buoyancy throughout this exercise.

Skill Performance Objectives (Core Dives)

For the underwater navigation dive, students must be able to:

- Swim a distance of at least 30 m/100 ft using either kick cycles or a timing device. The variance between when students end the swim and the actual distance to be covered must be no more than 20 percent.
- Swim a distance of at least 50 m/165 ft and return to within sight of the starting point using only natural navigation.
- Swim a rectangular or triangular compass course of at least 15 m/50 ft on each side, and return to within 5 m/15 ft of the starting point.

For the deep dive, students must be able to:

- Using Surface Air Consumption (SAC) rate data obtained during prior dives, determine whether they can remain at the target depth for the intended bottom time and still have sufficient breathing gas remaining for a safe ascent and safety stop.
- After having modified their dive plan, as needed, to account for SAC rate, monitor depth, time and pressure during the dive, so that the students do not exceed their minimum safe ascent pressure.
- Perform a controlled descent while maintaining buddy contact and team cohesion.
- Ascend at a rate of no more than 10 m/30 ft per minute, and then simulate an emergency decompression stop of at least five minutes at 3-6 m/10-20 ft.
Rescue Diver Course

This course leads to certification as a NASE Rescue Diver. The Rescue Diver Program provides the Recreational Diver with important self-rescue skills, advances their knowledge of basic first aid for diving emergencies and prepares them to begin looking beyond themselves and their buddy’s needs to include other divers as well. Instructors should be aware of local laws and requirements when teaching this program as there may be additional protocols when conducting this training. This program provides a foundation for which a diver can provide assistance in conditions similar to those in which the diver is trained. Divers are encouraged to practice the skills learned in this course in order to retain these skills and a rescue refresher course is recommended every two years.

General Prerequisites

To enroll in the NASE Worldwide Rescue Diver course, students must:

Meet all of the prerequisites as outlined in the NASE Worldwide General Course Standards and Procedures.

- Be at least 16 years old by the start of the course.
- Posses NASE Worldwide Advanced Open Water, or equivalent by a recognized agency.
- NASE Worldwide CPR /First Aid certification or equivalent from a recognized agency (AED training is recommended, but not required).
- NASE Oxygen Provider/ Oxygen administration or equivalent from a recognized agency.

Student Pre-Assessment

Students in the NASE Rescue Diver course must, as a minimum, possess the knowledge and skills of an NASE Advanced Open Water Diver prior to taking part in any open-water dive activities that are not directly supervised by an NASE Instructor. Assessment of this ability may include the following:

- The instructor may have first-hand knowledge of students’ prior training and experience.
- The instructor may conduct a pre-assessment of student knowledge and skills, if these abilities are not already known.

A recommended procedure for assessing these abilities is:

- Have students complete the NASE Open Water Diver course Rapid Exam. Discuss with students any question they may have missed and ensure that, after doing so, students fully understand the correct answers.
- Conduct a skills-assessment dive in confined or open water. This may take place on the first open-water dive of the course, at a depth of no greater than 12 m/40 ft.
Student/Instructor Ratios and Supervision

An NASE Worldwide Instructor in Active status is to be present and in control of all Rescue Diver course activities. Except as noted below, this may be in the form of indirect supervision (see General Course Standards and Procedures for more information).

Additionally, instructors must be in a position to personally assess student performance throughout the course. If student abilities cannot be personally assessed, then the instructor is to personally observe student performance in the water.

The maximum student/instructor ratio for in-water activities is eight to one, with four additional students allowed for each certified assistant, up to a maximum of twelve.

*Please Note:* These are the maximum allowable ratios under ideal conditions. Real-world conditions, however, generally dictate the use of more conservative ratios to ensure maximum student safety and enjoyment.

Required Materials

**Instructor Materials**

To *teach* the NASE Worldwide Rescue Diver course, instructors are to have and use a minimum of the following:

- NASE Instructor Guide
- Throw rope, throw ring, or surface float with line
- Emergency action plan for dive site
- Pocket mask or appropriate Barrier device
- First aid kit
- Visual and audible signaling devices

**Student Materials**

To *participate* the NASE Worldwide Rescue Diver course, each student is to own and use a minimum of the following:

- The NASE Worldwide Rescue Diver Manual (or its current equivalent).
- Pocket mask or appropriate barrier device

**Required Equipment**

All instructor and student equipment listed in the General Standards and Procedures is to be used during the Rescue Diver course.
Academic Development and Assessment

Prior to taking part in the NASE Worldwide Rescue Diver course, students are to read all of the materials included in the NASE Rescue Diver manual (or its current equivalent), and complete all of the knowledge assessments contained therein. Instructors are to review these completed assessments with the students prior to any in-water training activities, and ensure that students understand the correct answers to each question.

Knowledge Development : Course Academic Content Overview

1. Incident Prevention
   - Divers previous and continuing training
   - Physical and Psychological Fitness
   - Equipment
   - Experience
   - Emergency Action Plan
   - Self-Rescue Techniques

2. Anticipating and preparing for Incidents
   - Dive site / Environmental Conditions
   - Divers equipment / Equipment problems
   - Level and experience of divers
   - What risks are there to the Rescuer
   - To Dive or not to Dive
   - Reviewing Dive plan / emergency procedures with divers

3. Diving Related Illnesses / Injuries / FA Problems / CPR
   - AGE / DCS
   - Squeezes
   - Barotraumas
   - O2 Toxicity
   - Stress
     - Physical
     - Psychological
     - Perceptual narrowing
   - Panic
   - Over Exertion
   - Heat Exhaustion
   - Heat Stroke
   - Stroke
   - Heart attack
   - 5 (five) Minute Neurological Examination
   - Hazardous Marine Life Injuries
   - Near Drowning / Drowning
Risks to rescuer
- Use of an AED / O2 unit (Review)
- Diver requiring CPR (Review)
- Basic First Aid Treatment (Review)

4. Incident Reporting / Incident Report Forms
- Reporting incidents to NASE Headquarters
- Dealing with the press
- Dealing with Law Enforcement
- Maintaining records
- Safe keeping of an injured divers equipment
- Dealing with family / other divers present

5. Rescue Techniques Surface Skills
- Tows / Use of ropes / life rings / reach techniques
- Water entries
- Approaching conscious / unconscious divers
- Approaching a panicked diver
- When to do in-water resuscitation and when not to

6. Removing equipment and landing a diver, both shore and boat
- Sequence for removing an injured divers equipment
- How to get an injured diver to the shore
- How to get an injured diver into a boat

7. Helicopter Evacuation
- Getting the injured diver ready for evacuation
- Preparing the boat
- What needs to go with the injured diver

8. In-Water Rescues
- Approaching a conscious / unconscious diver
- Using an alternative air source (octopus rig / spare air / Buddy breathing)
- Assisted ascents
- Controlled Buoyant lift
- When to remove an injured divers weight system
- In-water Rescue breathing

9. Under Water Search Techniques
- Circular Searches
- Expanding Square search
- Missing Diver Procedures

10. Emergency / Rescue Equipment
- O2 Unit
- FA Kit
- AED
In-Water Skill Development

None required unless Instructor deems necessary in pre-assessment. See section on General Prerequisites.

Open Water Training

The NASE Worldwide Rescue Diver course consists of surface skills, underwater skills and a minimum of one scenario.

Depth, Time and Dive Requirements

- Due to the frequency and speed of ascents associated with Rescue Diver training, the maximum depth for any activity associated with this course is 20 m/65 ft. Whenever possible, depths should be limited to 10 m/30 ft or less.
- The maximum depth for any exercise in which students simulate surfacing an unconscious diver is 10 m/30 ft.
- There is no minimum number of open-water dives for this course; however, students are to accrue a minimum of 180 minutes of practical skill development time. This time is to be accrued while students are developing competency in rescue techniques in the water, on the water, at the shoreline, and underwater, in an open water setting.
- No mandatory/required stops are permitted at any time. All dives are to be well within the no-decompression limits.

Skill Performance Objectives

To be certified as NASE Worldwide Rescue Diver, students must be able to:

Pre-dive

- Prepare a detailed dive plan that includes: planned and maximum depths and times; turnaround and minimum ascent pressures; potential risks and hazards; and, environmental and other features unique to the open-water training site.
- Identify how to summon emergency medical assistance as well as how to initiate any emergency action plan that may be in place at the dive site or on the dive vessel.

Surface skills

- Respond correctly to divers simulating:
  - Stress
  - Panic
  - Loss of consciousness
- Demonstrate at least four effective methods of diver tows
- Demonstrate effective equipment removal while simulating resuscitation
- Tow another diver a distance of at least 30 m/100 ft at the surface in full scuba equipment.
- Correctly demonstrate at least two methods for removing an incapacitated diver from the water.

**Underwater skills**

- Assist to a tired diver
- Assist a stressed diver
- Assist a panicked diver
- Surface nonresponsive diver who is simulating respiratory arrest
- Remove, clear and resume breathing from a regulator second stage that has fallen behind the shoulder.
- Using an alternate air source, share gas with another diver while both swimming and ascending. Ascents are to be made no faster than 10 m/30 ft per minute, and include a safety stop. Each diver is to do this as both donor and receiver.
- Conduct an effective search pattern and locate an object simulating a missing diver.
- Demonstrate the proper response to:
  - Cramping
  - Vertigo
  - Loss of buoyancy
  - Loss of airway control

**Scenarios**

- Respond to a minimum of one “Real Life” scenario that represents a typical situation that a NASE Rescue diver may encounter while recreationally diving. The Instructor shall evaluate proficiency of the students skills in: identification of the problem; use of resources available; steps taken to properly respond; steps taken to remove the victim from the water; care of the victim; post-accident management; that demonstrate competency of the student’s rescue skills
- Demonstrate competency to conduct an affective rescue in a timely manner without increasing the danger to the victim and the rescuer.
- Simulate, at the surface, the proper applications of:
  - First aid.
  - Neurological exam.
  - Oxygen administration.
Master Diver Course

The Master Diver course is the highest, non-leadership course and provides the student extensive knowledge and diving skills. This course provides the fundamentals for progression into leadership training. Subject areas include diving science, physiology, diving environment, equipment and dive planning. Students will also develop personal diving skills and become proficient in specialty areas including: deep, navigation, night diving, search and recovery and underwater mapping.

General Prerequisites

To enroll in the NASE Worldwide Master Diver course, students must:

■ Meet all of the prerequisites outlined in the NASE Worldwide General Course Standards and Procedures.

■ Possess NASE Rescue Diver certification, or the equivalent from a recognized agency.

■ Be at least 18 years old by the start of the course.

■ Have completed and logged a minimum of 25 dives or 500 minutes of accumulated Actual Bottom Time (ABT).

Student Pre-Assessment

Students in the NASE Master Diver course must, as a minimum, possess the knowledge and skills of an NASE Rescue Diver prior to taking part in any open-water dive activities that are not directly supervised by an NASE Instructor. Assessment of this ability may include the following:

■ The instructor may have first-hand knowledge of students’ prior training and experience.

■ The instructor may conduct a pre-assessment of student knowledge and skills, if these abilities are not already known.

A recommended procedure for assessing these abilities is:

■ Have students complete the NASE Rescue Diver course exam. Discuss with students any question they may have missed and ensure that, after doing so, students fully understand the correct answers.

■ Conduct a skills-assessment dive in confined or open water. This may take place on the first open-water dive of the course, at a depth of no greater than 12 m/40 ft.

Student/Instructor Ratios and Supervision

During this dive, students must demonstrate proficiency in the following:

■ Mask removal and replacement.

■ Regulator recovery and clearing.
■ Alternate air source use (stationary and swimming).
■ The ability to swim, stop and change depth and direction while maintaining control of buoyancy.

**Student/Instructor Ratios and Supervision**

An NASE Worldwide Instructor in Active status is to be present and in control of all Master Scuba Diver course activities. Except as noted below, this may be in the form of *indirect* supervision (see General Course Standards and Procedures for more information).

Additionally, instructors must be in a position to personally assess student performance throughout the course. If student abilities cannot be assessed in this manner, then the instructor is to personally observe student performance in the water.

Additionally, instructors are to provide *direct* supervision on any:

■ Night dives.
■ Deep dives (depths greater than 20 m/65 ft).
■ Wreck dives.
■ Dry suit dives (unless students possess prior drysuit training and experience).
■ Any dive during which students simulate emergency decompression.

**Specific Student/Instructor Ratios**

■ *For any dives requiring indirect supervision:* Eight students per instructor, with an additional four students per certified assistant, up to a maximum of twelve students.

■ *For any dives requiring direct supervision:* Eight students per instructor, regardless of number of certified assistants used.

*Please Note:* These are the maximum allowable ratios under ideal conditions. Real-world conditions, however, generally dictate the use of more conservative ratios to ensure maximum student safety and enjoyment.

**Required Materials**

**Instructor Materials**

To teach the NASE Worldwide Master Scuba Diver course, instructors are to have and use a minimum of:

■ The *NASE Worldwide Instructor Manual*.
■ Supporting materials such as The *US Navy Diving Manual* or *NOAA Manual*. 
Student Materials

To take the NASE Worldwide Master Diver course, students are to have and use a minimum of the NASE Worldwide:

- Students reference materials are at instructor’s discretion until such time as the NASE Worldwide Master Diver materials are available.

Required Equipment

Instructors and students are required to have all of the equipment outlined in NASE Worldwide General Diving Course Standards and Procedures. Additionally, some dives may require that students and instructors have and use additional equipment. Examples may include:

- A primary dive light and back-up light or personal marker light for night dives.
- A dry suit and undergarments for drysuit dives.

A dive knife or cutting tool is required whenever its use is allowed by local law. Consult the corresponding Specialty Diver course standards for a list of equipment that may apply to each elective dive.

Dive computer use is strongly encouraged. Nevertheless, any student who does not have a personal dive computer is to have his or her own depth gauge, timer and dive tables.

Academic Development and Assessment

To be certified as NASE Worldwide Master Scuba Diver, students cover the following academic requirements:

- Diving Science
- Diving physiology
- Scuba Equipment and accessories used in corresponding required dives
- Environment
- Dive Planning — specific presentations are required for each specialty area listed below and must prepare student to safely conduct dive.

Open Water Training

The NASE Worldwide Master Scuba Diver course consists of a minimum of eight open water dives. The core dives consist of the following: Underwater Navigation (2 dives), Deep Diving (2 dives), Search and Recovery, Night Diving and Underwater Mapping (2 dives).
The to be organized in ways that exposes the student to variety of realistic open water environments, allowing the student to apply skills and knowledge to new experiences. Examples include:

- Beach or shore dives, boat dives, freshwater versus saltwater, currents, wrecks, etc.

Dives are organized and conducted following detailed dive planning (as listed above) and focused on progressing the skill level of each student diver. Instructors need to organize dives in a way in which skills learned on previous dives can be applied on additional dives in the course.

**Bottom Time and Number of Dives**

During the eight open-water training dives included in the NASE Worldwide Master Scuba Diver course, students are to accrue a minimum of at least 240 minutes of Actual Bottom Time (ABT). No more than four training dives may be conducted during any 24-hour period with the following considerations: Students ability to safely perform dives with respect to fatigue, nitrogen levels, comfort and overall readiness.

**Minimum and Maximum Depths**

The maximum depth for the NASE Worldwide Master Scuba Diver course deep dive is 40 m/130 ft. Dives must reach a minimum of 20 m/65 ft to qualify as a deep dive. All other course activities are to be conducted at a depth of 20 m/65 ft or less.

**Skill Performance Objectives**

To be certified as NASE Worldwide Master Diver, students must be able to:

- Prepare a detailed dive plan for each of the core required dive that includes: planned and maximum depths and times; turnaround and minimum ascent pressures; potential risks and hazards; and, environmental and other features unique to the open-water training site.

- Assemble and test a personal scuba unit as well as any other specialty equipment required for the dive.

- Perform a pre-dive systems and buddy check.

- Enter and exit the water using techniques appropriate for the dive type, site or vessel.

- Communicate with the instructor, dive leader or buddy(s) using common hand signals.

- Demonstrate buoyancy control throughout each dive by proper weighting, BC use and breath control, as demonstrated by:
  - Swimming effortlessly in a near-horizontal position while maintaining control over depth and direction.
  - Making repeated changes in depth without losing control over buoyancy.
  - Initiating a hover by simply stopping.
Note: Students who can only maintain depth by aiming fins thrust upward or downward are not demonstrating mastery of this important skill and are not ready for certification at this level.

- Monitor breathing gas supply and communicate this status with the instructor, dive leader or buddy(s) as needed.
- Maintain buddy contact and team cohesion by keeping team members in sight (and close enough to respond quickly in an emergency) at all times.
- Perform an out-of-air exercise sharing gas with another diver as both donor and receiver while swimming horizontally no less than 15 m/50 ft. Divers are to maintain control over buoyancy throughout this exercise.

**Skill Performance Objectives (Core Dives)**

For the underwater navigation dive, students must be able to:

- Swim a distance of at least 60 m/200 ft using either kick cycles or a timing device. The variance between when students end the swim and the actual distance to be covered must be no more than five percent.
- Swim a distance of at least 100 m/330 ft and return to within sight of the starting point using only natural navigation.
- Swim a rectangular or triangular compass course of at least 20 m/65 ft on each side, and return to within 2 m/6 ft of the starting point.
- Use reel for navigation for at least 20 m/65 ft.

For the deep dive, students must be able to:

- Using Surface Air Consumption (SAC) rate data obtained during prior dives, determine whether they can remain at the target depth for the intended bottom time and still have sufficient breathing gas remaining for a safe ascent and safety stop.
- After having modified their dive plan, as needed, to account for SAC rate, monitor depth, time and pressure during the dive, so that the students do not exceed their minimum safe ascent pressure.
- Perform a controlled descent while maintaining buddy contact and team cohesion.
- Ascend at a rate of no more than 10 m/30 ft per minute, and then simulate an emergency decompression stop of at least five minutes at 3-6 m/10-20 ft.
- Perform Simulated Emergency Decompression due to exceeding bottom time at instructors discretion

For the night dive, students must be able to:

- Demonstrate underwater communication by using light signals, tactual signals audible surface signaling devises
Demonstrate both natural and compass navigation by planning courser for site and returning within visual distance of ascent/exit point.

Be able to respond to emergency procedures including: lost diver, disabled diver and other diving maladies associated with night diving.

For the search and recovery dive, students must be able to:

Demonstrate the following search methods and successfully locating missing item:

□ Parallel Search
□ Circle Search
□ Arc Search
□ Compass Directed Search

Rig an object for lift to the surface and demonstrate the following knots — Square, Clove Hitch and Bowline

Demonstrate lifting an object from the bottom using a lift bag

For the underwater mapping dive, students must be able to:

Draw a map of a local dive site (at instructors discretion) and include the following on the map — five unique features, two entry/exit points, headings/reciprocals between each point on map and include bottom contour marks.
Specialty Course Guidelines

General Prerequisites
To enroll in a NASE Worldwide Specialty course, students must:

■ Be a certified NASE Open Water diver or equivalent
■ Meet all of the prerequisites outlined in the NASE Worldwide General Course Standards and Procedures.
■ Be at least 15 years old by the start of the course or a minimum of twelve years old for Junior Specialty certification.
■ Have completed and logged a minimum of 100 minutes of Actual Bottom Time (ABT).

Special Requirements for Junior Specialty Diver Students
Students who have not reached their sixteenth birthday by the time of certification may be issued an NASE Worldwide Junior Specialty Diver certification. Junior divers possess the same qualifications as adult divers unless modified by individual course standards.

Student Pre-Assessment
Prior to admitting any student in the NASE Specialty course, students the instructor must make an assessment of the students diving skills and knowledge if the student is not previously known by the instructor. The student must be able to demonstrate proficiency in the skills and knowledge as described in the NASE Open Water Diver course standards. It is recommended that these students complete the NASE Open Water Diver Quick Quiz to assess the diver's knowledge. The Instructor must do at least one dive skill assessment dive with the student to evaluate the diver's skills.

Student/Instructor Ratios and Supervision
Students are to be under the supervision of an NASE Worldwide Instructor at all times (refer to General Course Standards and Procedures for more information on direct and indirect supervision).

■ Certified assistants who have current professional liability insurance where required may independently supervise and guide students during the dives unless specifically modified. A ratio of no more than four students per certified assistant while under the in-direct supervision of a NASE instructor with active teaching status. In this case, the certifying course instructor must review and debrief each dive.

■ There is no maximum student/instructor ratio for academic knowledge development and assessment. Nevertheless, smaller ratios generally result in greater learning.

■ Refer to individual course standards as some specialties may require modified student/instructor ratios and/or supervision.
Please Note: These are the maximum allowable ratios under ideal conditions. Real-world conditions, however, generally dictate the use of more conservative ratios to ensure maximum student safety and enjoyment.

Administration Requirements

All administrative requirements outlined in the General Standards and Procedures apply to the Specialty Diver courses.
Underwater Navigation

Student/Instructor Ratios and Supervision

Please refer to “Specialty Course Guidelines” general required ratios and supervision.

- Minimum certification for this course is the NASE Worldwide Advanced Open Water Diver or equivalent.
- Students ages 12 to 15 may participate in this course and, if successful, be awarded NASE Junior Underwater Navigator certification.
- Students in the Underwater Navigator course are to be under the direct or indirect supervision of an Active status NASE Worldwide at all times.

Please Note: These are the maximum allowable ratios under ideal conditions. Real-world conditions, however, generally dictate the use of more conservative ratios to ensure maximum student safety and enjoyment.

Required Materials

Instructor Materials

To teach the NASE Worldwide Underwater Navigator course, instructors are to have and use a minimum of the NASE Worldwide:

- Instructor Manual
- Lets Go Navigating manual

Student Materials

To take the NASE Worldwide Underwater Navigator Diver course, students are to have and use a minimum of the NASE Worldwide:

- Lets go Navigating manual
- Recreational Dive Tables (RDT)*
- Dive Log
- Student Record Folder

*Not required if students will be using a personal dive computer

Required Equipment

All instructor and student equipment listed in the General Standards and Procedures is to be used during the Underwater Navigator course, additionally:
Open Water Training

Bottom Time and Number of Dives
- Accrue a minimum of at least 60 minutes of Actual Bottom Time (ABT) over a minimum of three dives.
- Three training dives may be conducted per day of diving.

Minimum and Maximum Depths
- Minimum depth for skill assessments during open-water training dives is 5.0 m/15 ft.
- Maximum depth for skill assessment is 20 m/65 ft

Definition of a Navigation Dive
To meet the requirements of a navigation dive for this course, navigation training must be primary purpose of the dive. All navigation training dives must be conducted at depths of no more than 20 m/65 ft. Navigation training dives should be conducted during daylight hours, with the exception that the final navigation may be conducted at night provided that the student has received a previous certification as a night diver.

Dive requirements:
To be certified as NASE Worldwide Underwater Navigator Divers, students must be able to:

Covered Distance
- Counting kick cycles over a measured distance of at least 30 m/100 ft.
- Timing their swim using a timing device over a measured distance of at least 30 m/100 ft.
- Using arm spans to cover a measured distance (distances to be covered at the discretion of the instructor, however the distance should not be longer than about 6 m/20 ft.

Natural Navigation
The purpose of the natural navigation exercise is to familiarize the student with natural navigation techniques and to build confidence in their ability to safely navigate underwater using naturally occurring underwater features. The instructor or assistant instructor will brief and familiarize the student with naturally occurring features present at the dive site. The student will safely navigate, using natural navigation techniques only, an out and back course of a minimum of 50 yards (46 meters). Ample time and number of courses should be allowed to assure that the student has attained the confidence to use natural navigation
techniques for dive navigation. Kick cycle count is recommended as the technique for measuring distance during this exercise.

**Compass Navigation**

*Navigating a Pattern:* The purpose of this exercise is to familiarize the student with using a compass and timing device to navigate a prescribed course with three or more legs. Each leg should be at least 25 yards in length, but the instructor should use discretion according to the bottom topography at the dive site. It is desirable that the distances are far enough that the student cannot swim the course directly using visual cues. Distances should be measured using the timed distances discovered in the measured distance exercise. Ample time should be allowed for the student to become comfortable with the use of a compass to navigate a pattern.

*Measuring Distance with Kick Cycles:* The purpose of this compass exercise is to familiarize the student with using both a compass and counting kick cycles to navigate a prescribed course with three or more legs. Each leg should be at least 25 yards in length, but the instructor should use discretion according to the bottom topography at the dive site. It is desirable that the distances are far enough that the student cannot swim the course directly using visual cues. Distances should be measured using the kick cycles measurement obtained during the covered distance exercise. Ample time should be allowed for the student to become comfortable with this underwater navigation technique.

*Navigation using Approximation of Angles:* The purpose of this exercise is to familiarize the student with navigating a square pattern using the body and visual cues to make estimated course changes. The student will hold the arms at right angles to each other, one arm to point in the direction of travel, the other arm to estimate the change in direction to the new heading and sighting down that arm to a visual reference selected along the desired course. The student then changes course in the new direction to the selected visual cue. Covered distances can be measured by the student using either timed distance or kick cycles.

**Underwater Hazards and Problems Encountered While Navigating**

- The course instructor must assure that the navigation training dive site does not present an unreasonable hazard to the students.
- The instructor and/or certified assistant will familiarize the students with underwater terrain and topography that will be encountered at the training dive site.
- During the Open Water exercises, the student buddy teams should take turns with assignments for one diver to navigate, and the other to monitor depths, and to watch for hazards.
Deep Diver

Student/Instructor Ratios and Supervision

Please refer to “Specialty Course Guidelines” general required ratios and supervision. In addition, the Deep Diver course requires the following modification:

■ Minimum certification for this course is the NASE Worldwide Advanced Open Water Diver or equivalent.

■ Any dive containing the emergency decompression stop simulation must be under direct supervision of a certified NASE Worldwide instructor or above in teaching status.

■ Students in the Deep Diver course are to be under the direct supervision of an Active status NASE Worldwide instructor during all dive activities taking place below 20 m/65 ft.

■ Jr. Deep Diver specialty student requires a ratio of four students per instructor — regardless of whether or not a certified assistants are used.

*Please Note:* These are the maximum allowable ratios under ideal conditions. Real-world conditions, however, generally dictate the use of more conservative ratios to ensure maximum student safety and enjoyment.

Required Materials

Instructor Materials

To teach the NASE Worldwide Deep Diver course, instructors are to have and use a minimum of the NASE Worldwide:

■ Instructor Manual
■ *Lets go Deep Diving* manual

Student Materials

To take the NASE Worldwide Deep Diver course, students are to have and use a minimum of the NASE Worldwide:

■ *Lets go Deep Diving* manual
■ Recreational Dive Tables (RDT)*
■ Dive Log
■ Student Record Folder

*Not required if students will be using a personal dive computer*
Required Equipment
All instructor and student equipment listed in the General Standards and Procedures is to be used during the Underwater Navigator course, additionally:
- Underwater compass, each diver
- Surface signaling device

Open Water Training

Bottom Time and Number of Dives
- The Deep Diver course may consist of as many dives as needed to help ensure student competence and safety; however, at least two dives must qualify as deep dives, as defined below.
- The minimum accumulated Actual Bottom Time (ABT) for this course is 50 minutes.

Minimum and Maximum Depths
- Minimum depth for skill assessments during open-water training dives is 5 m/15 ft.
- The minimum depth to qualify as a deep dive is 20 m/65 ft (divers 16 and older).
- The minimum depth to qualify as a deep dive is 15 m/50 ft (divers 15 and younger).
- Maximum depth for open water dives is 40 m/132 ft (divers 16 and older).
- Maximum depth for open water dives is 20 m/65 ft (15 and younger).

Repetitive dives are to be conducted to either the same or a shallower depth as the dive preceding them.

Dive Requirements
All descents and ascents must be conducted with a visual reference, i.e., bottom contour when diving from the shore, an ascent/descent line attached to a float at the surface, or the anchor line or mooring buoy line when diving from a boat.

Altitude Dives: For all training deep dives conducted at altitudes between 300 m/1,000 ft and 2,400 m/8,000 ft above sea level, the maximum depth limits must be altitude adjusted depths. No deep training dives are to be conducted under any circumstances at altitudes above 2,400 m/8,000 ft above sea level.

Skill Performance Objectives
To be certified as an NASE Worldwide Deep Diver, students must be able to:
■ **Perform a simulated emergency decompression stop:** Students are to stop at a depth of 3-6 m/10-20 ft for no less than five minutes, student safety and air supply permitting, before ascending to the surface. The instructor is to ensure students understand that planned decompression stops are outside the parameters of recreational diving.

■ **Use an ascent/descent line:** At least one of the training dives must be conducted on an ascent/descent line. Students are to descend down and ascend up the line using the line for a reference. Students may hold to the line to control ascent/descent rates if necessary. Anchor or mooring lines will meet this requirement. *Note that ascents and descents with no visual reference are not allowed during Deep Diver training.*

■ **Collect and use Surface Air Consumption (SAC) rate data:** Students are to use data gathered on previous dives to determine their personal SAC rate (averaging data from multiple SAC rate runs will yield more accurate results). Using this data, students are to plan a dive calculating the gas likely to be used during descent, time spent at depth, ascents and safety stops. Gas reserves are to exceed expected gas use by 50 percent.
Night Diver

Student/Instructor Ratios and Supervision

Please refer to Specialty Course Guidelines general required ratios and supervision. In addition, the Night Diver course requires the following modification:

- Minimum certification for this course is the NASE Worldwide Advanced Open Water Diver or equivalent.
- Students ages 12 to 15 may participate in this course and, if successful, be awarded NASE Junior Night Diver certification.
- Students in the Night Diver course are to be under the direct supervision of an Active status NASE Worldwide instructor during all dives taking place between sunset and sunrise.

*Please Note:* These are the maximum allowable ratios under ideal conditions. Real-world conditions, however, generally dictate the use of more conservative ratios to ensure maximum student safety and enjoyment.

Required Materials

Instructor Materials

To teach the NASE Worldwide Night Diver course, instructors are to have and use a minimum of the NASE Worldwide:

- Instructor Manual
- Let’s go Night Diving manual

Student Materials

To take the NASE Worldwide Night Diver course, students are to have and use a minimum of the NASE Worldwide:

- Let’s go Night Diving manual
- Recreational Dive Tables (RDT)*
- Dive Log
- Student Record Folder

*Not required if students will be using a personal dive computer
Required Equipment

All instructor and student equipment listed in the General Standards and Procedures is to be used during the Night Diver course. Additionally, each student is to have:

- A primary dive light, plus a battery powered backup or marker light.
- An underwater compass.
- A surface signaling device.

Open Water Training

Bottom Time and Number of Dives

- Accrue a minimum of at least 50 minutes of Actual Bottom Time (ABT) over a minimum of two dives.

Minimum and Maximum Depths

- Minimum depth for skill assessments during open-water training dives is 5 m/15 ft.
- Maximum depth for skill assessment is 20 m/65 ft

Definition of a Night Dive

For training purposes a night dive is a dive conducted during the hours between sunset and sunrise. NASE Worldwide recommends that the night dive site be a site that the students are familiar with during daytime diving. This can be easily accomplished if one or more of the navigation dives are conducted prior to the first night dive. If this recommendation is not practical, the first dive must be started during twilight to familiarize the students with the bottom contour, and then continue through into darkness.

Dive requirements

All descents and ascents must be conducted with a visual reference, i.e., bottom contour when diving from the shore, an ascent/descent line attached to a float at the surface, or the anchor line or mooring buoy line when diving from a boat.

Required Activities

The following activities must be conducted over the duration of the course, and may be divided among the required dives, or they may occur on any one dive:

Buoyancy Control: A review of each student’s buoyancy control proficiency will be conducted under the direct supervision of the course instructor prior to that student’s participation in a night dive.
Use of Dive Lights: Proper use of and maintenance and care for the dive light(s) will be discussed and demonstrated to the student(s) by the course instructor and/or assistant instructor.

Underwater Communication and Procedures: The course instructor and/or assistant instructor will demonstrate and assure student understanding of underwater hand and light signals in standard use during night time underwater operations.

The course instructor and/or assistant instructor will discuss and assure student understanding of disorientation and emergency procedures. If operations are conducted from a boat, the boat’s recall procedures will be reviewed.

Night Dive Planning: The course instructor and/or assistant instructor will assure student understanding of dive planning pertinent to conducting night dive operations in the area local to the training being conducted including:

- Techniques and procedures, and
- Night diving hazards and problem solving.

Navigation: Under direct supervision, the course instructor and/or assistant instructor will review, and assure that each student has proficiency with basic course and reciprocal course compass navigation prior to that student’s first night dive. Student will navigate using a compass, a course out and back for a total of at least 45 m/150 ft.
Equipment Specialist

The purpose of this course is to educate the Open Water diver in general care and maintenance of all open water equipment and accessories. The student will be familiar with equipment during a hands-on workshop.

Student/Instructor Ratios and Supervision

All Specialty Diver course students are to be under the direct supervision of an NASE Worldwide Instructor or certified assistant at all times (refer to General Course Standards and Procedures for more information on direct and indirect supervision).

- Assistant Instructors who have current professional liability insurance where required may independently teach this program.

- There is no maximum student/instructor ratio for academic knowledge development and assessment. Nevertheless, smaller ratios generally result in greater learning.

Academic Development and Assessment

To be certified as NASE Worldwide Equipment Specialist, students must meet the academic performance objectives outlined here. Students must be able to:

- Identity the types, cleaning processes and special features of the following diving equipment:
  - Mask
  - Fins
  - Snorkels

- Describe the difference between balanced and unbalanced regulators and explain:
  - Upstream Valves
  - Fail Safe
  - How a piston regulator functions
  - How a diaphragm regulator functions
  - Limitations on regulators and how to choose proper regulator
  - General cleaning and service requirements

- Identity the explain the function of the following instruments:
  - Submersible pressure gauge: Understand how a bourdon tube functions and its limitations.

- Describe the basic function of a BC and:
  - Power inflator mechanics and possible failures
  - General cleaning and service requirements
Identity the most common cylinders used in diving and the following:
- Understand the difference between K-valves, J-valves and DIN valves
- Annual maintenance (Visual Inspection Overview)
- Hydrostatic Testing
- Hazards with compressed gas cylinders

List all the recommended components for a personal repair kit for the recreational diver

What type of general maintenance user can perform

Discuss importance of factory trained technician
Leadership Course Guidelines

General Prerequisites
To enroll in a NASE Worldwide Leadership course, students must:

■ Meet all of the prerequisites outlined in the NASE Worldwide General Course Standards and Procedures
■ Be at least 18 years old by the start of the course
■ Experience: Outlined for each course
■ Must be current in CPR, First Aid and Oxygen Provider
■ Medical Approval: A diver’s physical submitted on the NASE Worldwide Medical Form conducted within the preceding twelve months
Divemaster Course

The Divemaster course trains the individual in the leadership fundamentals required to handle the responsibility of other divers. This rating is also the first level of professional membership within NASE Worldwide and serves as prerequisites for all other leadership courses.

NASE Divemasters function is multifaceted. Divemasters functions include: Dive Supervisor, Underwater Guide and assistant for dive training. The knowledge, skills and attitude developed during Divemaster training serve as the foundation for higher levels of accomplishment.

The Divemaster certification is a non-teaching dive leadership rating.

Qualifications of Graduates

■ Supervise, plan, and organize (including briefings) non-training dives for certified divers who are certified at or above the NASE Worldwide Open Water Diver level, or if certified through other agencies its equivalent, on non-technical recreational scuba dives.

■ Demonstrate skills to the Open Water Diver course students during confined water training; independently accompany students during the Open Water Dives for Advanced Open Water of specialty training for which they are certified, under the indirect supervision of a NASE Worldwide Instructor.

■ Independently guide Open Water Diver course students under the indirect supervision of a NASE Worldwide Instructor during surface swims to and from water entry and dive site. Divemasters may also supervise Open Water Diver students at the surface or underwater and directly escort them to or from the surface and the training area while the instructor is occupied with other students.

■ Independently guide Open Water Diver course students under water, under the indirect supervision of a NASE Worldwide Instructor, during the non-skill assessment portions of open-water training — providing the students have already demonstrated competency in mask clearing, regulator recovery and clearing, and alternate air source use. (See course standards for ratios.)

■ Provide “First Responder” level medical assistance for accident or diving accident victims.

Who May Teach

Any active status NASE Worldwide Instructor — OWSI or higher
General Prerequisites

To enroll in the NASE Worldwide Divemaster Course, candidates must:

■ Meet all of the prerequisites outlined in the NASE Worldwide General Course Standards and Procedures.
■ Be at least 18 years of age
■ Be certified as Rescue Diver
■ Be a certified as a Master Diver or equivalent
■ Current certification for CPR/First Aid/Oxygen Administration
■ Current dive physical signed by physician within 12 months
■ Have 50 logged dives or a minimum of 1,000 minutes Actual Bottom Time (ABT)

Student/Instructor rations and Supervision

All Divemaster course requirements are to be under the direct supervision of an NASE Worldwide Instructor of certified assistant at all times. Candidates enrolled in the Divemaster Course do not count against ratios if assisting with instructor BUT can not be counted towards ratio requirements.

Required Materials

To take the NASE Worldwide Divemaster course, candidates are to have the following:

■ NASE Worldwide Divemaster Workbook
■ NASE Worldwide Instructor Guide

Required Equipment

Please refer to the General Training Standards in the NASE Worldwide Instructor Guide for equipment requirements.

Academic Development and Assessment

Topics to include:

■ The Divemaster
  □ Leadership Fundamentals
  □ Roll and function
Dive Preparation and Planning
- Diver Assessment
- Dive Site Familiarization
- Site Selection
  - Currents and tides
  - Visibility

Management and Control
- Communication
- Equipment
- Dive Briefings and Debriefings
- Area Orientations
- Communications
- Pre-dive Systems Checks
- Diver Accounting

Supervising Certified Diver and Students in Training
- Professionalism
- Diving with Students
- Use of lines
- Positioning
- Coordination

Dive Accident Management
- Dive First Responder
- Procedures for missing diver(s)
- The Accident Scene
- Evacuation
- Rolls and Responsibilities

NASE Worldwide
- Why NASE
- General Standards and Procedures
- Quality Assurance

Confined Water Assessment
- Watermanship Assessment (if exposure protection is required, candidates are to be weighted for neutral buoyancy)
  - Swim 400 m/440 yds in 10 minutes or less with no aids
  - Swim 800 m/880 yds in 18 minutes or less with mask, snorkel and fins
  - Survival demo: Tread, float or drownproof in water too deep to stand for at least 20 minutes
  - Swim 25 m/80 ft under water on a single breath, without fins
Successfully perform a mask/snorkel/fins ditch and recovery
Successfully perform a mask/snorkel/fins and scuba unit ditch and recovery
Successfully perform a mask/snorkel/fins and scuba unit bailout
Perform a mask/snorkel/fins ditch and recovery
While breathing from an alternate air source second stage, swim 60 m/200 ft without a mask

Perform the following entry-level skills while meeting the standard of demonstration quality
- Mask removal, replacement and clearing
- Regulator recovery and clearing (both sweep and reach methods)
- Establish neutral buoyancy under water using both power and oral inflation
- Swim with fins while maintaining control over both depth and direction
- While swimming with fins, stop, hover and change depth while maintaining neutral buoyancy
- Alternate air source use, both stationary and ascending
- Weight system removal and replacement at the surface
- Weight system removal and replacement under water
- Scuba unit removal and replacement at the surface
- Scuba unit removal and replacement under water
- Deep water entries and exits
- Free diving skills, including surface dives and displacement snorkel clearing

Open Water Assessment
- Rescue Evaluation (similar to those common to local area)
- Perform all Open Water Diver course skills while maintaining buoyancy /trim while maintaining depth to within +/- 60 cm/2 ft.

Open Water Dive Requirements
- Total of 200 minutes minimum total dive time and:
- Two Open Water Dives supervising students including:
  - Planning and pre-dive preparations
  - Dive briefing/ De-briefing
  - Group control — top-side and underwater

Two Open Water Dives with the following problem solving exercises:
- Lost diver drill
- Out of air emergencies
- Equalization issues
- Buoyancy (loss of control on ascent/descent)
■ Emergency DECO

One Open Water Dive with scenario for control of an accident scene:
■ Egress
■ First Aid
■ Evacuation
■ Paperwork and record keeping

Two Open Water guided dives for certified divers including:
■ Briefings/de-briefings (evaluated)

Certification Requirements

In addition to all the above requirements students will need to participate in a practice application of skills by assisting with one class or simulated class as follows:
■ Give one dive briefing /de-briefing (discretion of instructor)
■ Score an 80% or better on NASE Worldwide Divemaster Final Exam

Administrative Requirements

All administrative requirements outlined in the General Standards and Procedures apply to the Divemaster course, additionally:
■ Applicant must complete the NASE Worldwide Leadership application, Membership Agreement and the Licensing Agreement forms.
■ Submit appropriate membership fees to NASE Worldwide headquarters for member processing and certification card issuance.