

GUE divers diving in BSAC clubs

Below is intended as a guide to welcoming and incorporating GUE divers into a BSAC club.



1. GUE Recreational Qualifications

Qualified GUE divers can dive within their training limits in a BSAC branch with other GUE trained divers or with other agency trained divers who hold a minimum diving grade of BSAC Ocean Diver/equivalent and within [BSAC Safe Diving](#) and depth limits of the least qualified diver.

Qualified GUE Rec 1, 2 and 3 divers are able to obtain a statement of alternative training for their current diver grade and extend their training with BSAC, as detailed below:

- GUE Rec 1 : May study for Sports Diver
- GUE Rec 2 : May study for Sports Diver
- GUE Rec 3 : May study for Dive Leader. Also counts as equivalent to BSAC Twinset SDC May enter Accelerated Decompression Procedures Diver course.

2. GUE Fundamentals

Divers who have passed GUE Fundamentals (both recreational tech passes) gain credit for the BSAC Buoyancy & Trim SDC - black award.

3. Technical Qualifications

GUE Tech trained divers can dive within their training limits in a BSAC branch with other GUE trained divers or with other agency trained divers who hold a minimum diving grade of BSAC Ocean Diver/equivalent and within [BSAC Safe Diving](#) and depth limits of the least qualified diver.

4. Going Diving – GUE Qualified Divers FAQs

BSAC welcomes other agency trained divers to join BSAC and dive within their recognised qualification limits and within [BSAC Safe Diving](#) recommendations. Members trained with other diving agencies should be given a copy of / sent the link to Safe Diving for reference.

Some FAQs when pairing GUE trained divers and BSAC trained divers are detailed below, however divers should refer to Safe Diving for full guidance on BSAC diving.

As a GUE diver I've been trained to Primary Donate in an out of gas (OOG) situation. Can I use this technique on a branch dive and if so what are my responsibilities?

Yes. although the guidance in the [BSAC Alternative Supply \(AS\) policy](#) should be followed.

Does my GUE qualification count as proof that I have been taught how to Primary Donate?

Yes, it is the equivalent of the BSAC Primary Donate Workshop.

Can I take the regulator from my buddy's mouth (Primary Take)?

No. Removing the regulator from a donor's mouth is not a recognised life supporting technique within BSAC or GUE diving. Removing a buddy's primary regulator in an out-of-gas stressed situation not only affects the out-of-gas diver but will also increase stress levels in the potential rescuer and this could significantly impair a successful resolution to the problem.

BSAC and GUE agree that the best way to donate gas is with a pre-practiced drill. Both organisations have their methods, and they are best discussed during the dive planning phase of the dive and a common plan agreed upon.

In the BSAC incident reports we have evidence that fear, panic or extreme stress can cause divers to revert to instinctive learned initial training. Primary Take is not part of any training programme in BSAC or GUE, so it must not be used as a planned alternative source technique at any level within BSAC diving.

Briefing your buddy to "take the regulator from my mouth" as an alternative source technique is not acceptable.

GUE recommend switching to 50 % at 21 m, whereas BSAC only recommends a maximum PO₂ of 1.4. Can I switch to 50 % at 21 m on a BSAC branch dive?

When open circuit mixed gases and nitrox are being used the partial pressure of oxygen (PO₂) should not exceed 1.4 bar for each mix used for either travel (descent and ascent) or bottom phases.

This is compatible with GUE standard gas switch depths, with the exception of 50 %. Divers should ensure that their decompression plan takes this into account and the partial pressure of oxygen (PO₂) does not exceed 1.4 bar below 10 m.

How should I plan my decompression schedule when diving with a BSAC trained diver?

When diving with any new buddy, it is good practice to discuss your decompression schedule in advance, including potential gas failures and depth / time overruns. These should be written down or pre-programmed in advance. You should also plan where / how you will conduct your decompression. For example, will you decompress on the shotline or under a DSMB? If the latter, will you use one DSMB per diver or one DSMB for the team? Will you have a plan for accessing spare gas in an emergency?

Can I dive in a threesome / trio on a BSAC authorised dive?

Yes you can. Whilst diving in pairs is preferred in BSAC diving as statistically diving in a threesome / trio is more dangerous than diving in a buddy pair, the risks can be reduced by training, experience, and diving with known divers. If you, your buddies, and the Dive Manager are happy with the situation you can dive in a threesome / trio on BSAC authorised dives. Trio diving requires serious consideration by the Dive Manager to ensure that divers with the appropriate level of skill and reliability are grouped together.

GUE divers are normally taught how to operate in either a two or three person team. GUE recommend that diving in threes is only conducted when all three team mates have suitable training and experience. Should a suitable threesome not be available, then diving in pairs is the recommended strategy.

Please refer to [Safe Diving](#) for details.

If I hold a GUE rebreather qualification can I dive on a rebreather with BSAC?

Yes, BSAC recognises GUE CCR qualifications.