



Snorkel Dive Manager Course

This section outlines the Snorkel Dive Manager course and provides guidance and definitions specific to the Snorkel Dive Manager qualification. Much of this information is common to many of the modules and is consolidated here, rather than repeated in each module.

Course aims

- To teach experienced Advanced Snorkel Divers the relevant theory knowledge required to safely organise, manage and supervise group snorkelling activities and manage incidents.
- To teach experienced Advanced Snorkel Divers the relevant practical skills required to safely organise, manage and supervise group snorkelling activities and manage incidents.
- To encourage Advanced Snorkel Divers to develop their snorkel diving experience in a range of sites and conditions.

Course overview

- Four planning activity Workshops
- Three classroom modules
- A theory assessment

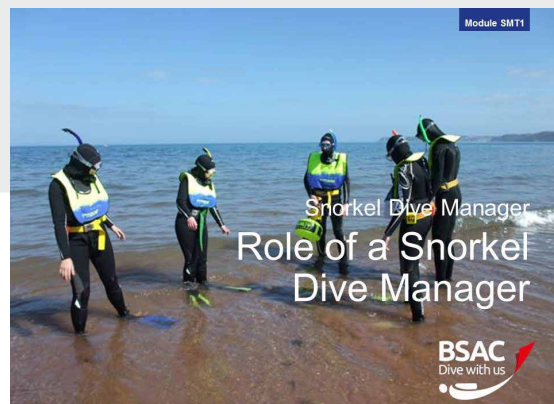
- Four open-water modules - 3 include Planning Workshops
- Student experience sessions
 - Student is Snorkel Dive Manager (SDM) on two occasions at least one of which must be to an unknown site.
- Make five open water qualifying dives. These dives should:
 - Be of at least 20 minutes duration each
 - Provide experience of Leading five different snorkelling activities

All practical training in open water, includes the achievement of specific performance standards at appropriate points throughout the course, as detailed in the notes for individual modules.

Classroom modules

Each classroom module is expected to take an average of 50 to 60 minutes to deliver. The instructor materials include PowerPoint presentations, but these require enrichment with additional visual aids, as highlighted in the relevant module notes.

Note: it is acceptable to replace some, or all, of the PowerPoint slides with alternative visual aids, as long as all points are covered and all must-know points are supported by an appropriate visual aid, for example the real thing in the form of diving equipment.



Planning Activity Workshop modules

The Activity workshops focus on detailed planning aspects in preparation for the efficient running of the Practical planning exercises required throughout the Snorkel Dive Manager Programme.

The Activity Workshops are not optional but students who have considerable knowledge and/or experience in these areas may be able to complete them in a shorter time-frame than students with less experience.

Open Water modules

The emphasis of the open-water modules is give the student experience of planning and executing snorkel diving activities in Open Water. There will need to be dry planning sessions in advance of the Open Water sessions to organise the activities and then the student will take on management and leadership roles during the Open Water days.

This module is structured around the planning, management and participation in open water snorkel activities for a group.

- **Planning Workshop**

The Dive Planning Workshop element should involve a minimum of a SDM student and an Instructor to plan all aspects of a days snorkelling activity including Risk Assessment.

- **Open Water Dive Management**

A minimum of two pairs of snorkel divers (one of which can include the student) are needed for this lesson. For the student to gain full experience from the lesson only one student should be acting as Assistant Dive Manager for each session. Where there is more than one student wishing to complete the lesson at least two snorkel dives must take place, each student must fully participate in all of the dry activities and the instructor should take the opportunity to teach the handover process between the two students.

Instructors should ensure that any new knowledge or skills required for the local conditions are taught as part of the training exercises. Further guidance will be given in the notes accompanying each of the open water modules.

Module Sequence

Classroom modules are structured to provide prerequisite knowledge appropriate to different elements of the sheltered and open-water modules. To ensure that the appropriate knowledge is covered before each corresponding practical element, classroom and open water modules should be run in an integrated sequence.

ID	Title	Type
SMT1	Role of the Snorkel Dive Manager	Classroom
SDMW1-4	Planning Activity Workshops	Workshop
SMP1	Assistant SDM - planning	Workshop
SMP1	Assistant SDM - open water	Open Water
SMT2	Leadership	Classroom
SMP3	Snorkel Dive Manager - Known Location	Workshop
SMT3	Risks and Emergencies	Classroom
SMP2	Snorkel Rescue Management Scenarios	Open Water
SMP3	Snorkel Dive Manager - Known Location	Open Water
SMP4	Snorkel Dive Manager - Unknown Location	Workshop
SMP4	Snorkel Dive Manager - Unknown Location	Open Water

The above represents the minimum logical integrated sequence that can be applied for the Snorkel Dive Manager qualification as each module provides essential knowledge and/or skills for subsequent modules. However, students may be able to complete modules SMT3 & SMP2 as a standalone Snorkel Practical Rescue Management Course providing they meet the prerequisites for that course.

Performance assessments and standards

Snorkel Dive Manager training includes a number of assessments covering planning, management, and leadership skills and underpinning theory knowledge.

- Practical assessments
 By the end of the Snorkel Dive Manager course students should be able to perform the key skills reliably and repeatedly. Sufficient repetition is built into the syllabus to enable this to be achieved. This is an important element in developing students' confidence in their ability to dive with another diver,

independent of an instructor.

Different skills are learned at different points during the training, some of which are prerequisites for further skills to be learned later. For this reason, practical assessment should be carried out as a continuous exercise throughout training, rather than being conducted as a test at the end.

Skills performance standards are incorporated at the end of each practical module's notes. The assessment of key skills requires that students are not only able to perform the skill 'satisfactorily', but also demonstrate an appropriate level of 'confidence' in doing so. To meet a skill performance standard students should have progressed sufficiently to be able to complete the skill without assistance or further demonstration from the instructor.

- **Theory assessment**

The theory assessment can be undertaken any time after the completion of the classroom modules, and must be successfully completed before the final open-water module. A pass mark of 80 per cent must be achieved. The time allowed for assessment is not critical. If necessary students can be allowed extra time, within reason.

These assessments can take the form of an oral assessment in place of a written test if English is not a student's first language, or where a student has learning difficulties or difficulty with written English. Oral assessments should be based on the theory question papers provided. They are best done one to one with a Nationally Qualified Instructor. A written record of the student's answers should always be made and treated as if written by the student.

Course Pre-requisites

In order to attend this course, students must meet the following prerequisites:

- Confirm that they are medically fit to dive by following the current BSAC medical requirements.
- Join BSAC through a branch.
- Pay the relevant course fees and be in possession of the course pack.
- Complete the Advanced Snorkel Diver qualification
- Hold the Advanced Snorkel Lifesaver Award.

Age Limits

Due to the level of responsibility required by Snorkel Dive Management then the minimum age for the award of Snorkel Dive Manager is 18.

Students aged 16 or above who meet all the prerequisites can follow all aspects of training and can be signed off as completing all training and be awarded Snorkel Dive Manager. However, until they reach the age of 18 they must be supported in the role by an adult.

Qualifications Awarded

A Snorkel Dive Manager is defined as a Snorkel Diver who is competent to:

- Plan snorkel diving activities for other snorkel divers to known and unknown sites
- Act as Snorkel Dive Manager at known and unknown sites
- Act as Lead Snorkel Diver at known and unknown sites
- Manage snorkel dive incidents

A Snorkel Dive Manager who holds the Snorkel Instructor award is eligible to attend the Advanced Snorkel Instructor Course & Assessment.

Certification

Students will be awarded the BSAC Snorkel Dive Manager qualification on achieving the required standard of proficiency. Course certification will be issued by BSAC HQ after the event.

Students should be informed of the importance of keeping their qualification record book up to date as they pass through each stage of their training. This is especially important if training is conducted over an extended period with different instructors, branches or centres. Instructors should provide sign-off for each course element as soon as practical after its completion.

Course authorisation

Each student needs a personal copy of the Snorkel Dive Manager training pack at the time of the course and these can be purchased from the BSAC Shop [bsac.com](https://www.bsac.com) by an approved branch or centre officer.

Instructor requirements

Snorkel Dive Manager training is to be carried out by, or supervised by, a suitably qualified BSAC instructor as set out here.

The instructor should be an Advanced Snorkel Instructor or higher. All instructors should have rehearsed and mastered the practical skills, with other instructors before teaching / supervising other students.

BSAC SCUBA Qualified Instructor, or assistant instructor supervised as specified in the DTP guidance notes, can teach the lesson. All instructors should have rehearsed and mastered the practical skills, with other instructors before teaching / supervising students.

Student: Instructor ratio

For practical sessions appropriate surface support is required and there should be a maximum of two students to one instructor. Theory and Workshop ratios are detailed in the respective module.

Venue facilities

Certain terms are used throughout the Snorkel Dive Manager training materials to define water conditions.

Open water – This covers large bodies of water such as lakes, flooded quarries, rivers and the sea to a maximum of 20m deep, encompassing a variety of topography and underwater life, and which may have some water movement due to waves or current (maximum 0.5 knot). Visibility should generally be in excess of 4m but may, on appropriate occasions, be less.

Experience

When qualifying as a Snorkel Dive Manager, students should have as wide as possible range of experience of Leading snorkel dives in a variety of locations and in a variety of diving conditions/types. Experience should be founded on local conditions typically experienced in the region where snorkel diving takes place and should span leading dives where the skills taught at both Snorkel Diver and Advanced Snorkel Diver training are put into practice.

Examples of experience of leading dives should be drawn from:

- shore dive
- RIB/small boat dive
- Hardboat dive
- freshwater dive
- seawater dive
- night dive
- drift/moving water dive
- search and recovery dive
- low visibility dive
- cold water dive - < 10°C
- dive leading inexperienced divers

Instructors should look for a range of experience gained in leading dives over at least 20 dives covering a range of at least five of the above experiences.