

Ontario Underwater Council “Guest Diver Program” (GDP)



Ontario Underwater Council
www.underwatercouncil.com

Overview:

Ontario Underwater Council maintains a Liability Insurance Policy for the exclusive benefit of its Member Clubs. This policy can be found on the OUC’s website at www.underwatercouncil.com under the Club Membership section.

The Policy requires that all Divers participating in a Club-Sanctioned Dive be OUC Club Members and meet OUC Club Requirements. For those Clubs that would like to invite Non-OUC-Club-Member divers to dive with them, OUC has developed its “Guest Diver Program” (GDP). The GDP allows Clubs to invite Guest Divers to join them on their sanctioned dives with full coverage under the policy. This promotes safe and enjoyable diving for all and also helps OUC Member Clubs attract new membership.

OUC’s GDP:

1. **Prior to the planned Club-sanctioned dives**, OUC Clubs that invite Guest Divers to join them (“Hosting Clubs”) must have their Guest Divers fill out OUC’s “Guest Diver Club Membership Application Form” at the end of this document and must collect the applicable fees.
2. **Within 5 business days** of completion of Step 1, Hosting Clubs must forward the original copies of the completed and signed “Guest Diver Club Membership Application Form” along with membership fees collected to the OUC office. OUC will issue a Club Membership card to your Club’s Guest Divers within 4-6 weeks.
3. **Prior to the planned Club-sanctioned dives**, Hosting Clubs’ Dive Masters must satisfy themselves that their Guest Diver/s have the requisite abilities (physical, mental, equipment, etc.), training, and experience to safely make the dive/s as planned. Hosting Clubs’ Dive Masters may do so in various ways, including but not limited to, any/all of the following:
 - a. Inspecting their Guest Divers’ Log Books,
 - b. Inspecting their Guest Divers’ Certification Levels
 - c. Diving with their Guest Diver/s
4. **During the planned Club-sanctioned dives**, OUC Club Guest Divers must adhere to all the requirements outlined in “OUC Club Insurance Requirements and Risk Management” document. This document may be found on OUC’s website under “Club Membership”, “Liability Insurance Policy for Clubs” section.

Disclaimer:

Certain personal risks are inherent in most sports and the sport of scuba diving is no exception. By choosing to scuba dive you also choose to accept these risks. No amount of training, experience, equipment, policies, etc. can completely eliminate all personal risks, and the OUC, its Board Members, Regional Coordinators, and Members are not responsible for any losses, injury, or death sustained as a result of members or non-members accepting these risks.

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FAQ & A:

- Q:** My Club is an OUC Member Club and I pay an annual Club Membership fee of \$90 per year. Out of this amount, my Club's Membership Director remits \$40 to OUC to cover for my OUC Membership fee and Insurance premium. Does this mean that the Guest Divers we invite to come on our Sanctioned Dives get to be full-fledged Members of my Club for only \$40?

A: No. The Guest Divers you invite to dive with your Club are only “Guest Divers” as far as your Club's Membership Director is concerned. However, assuming they really enjoy diving with your Club and want to join, all they would have to pay your Membership Director to become full-fledged members of your Club is an additional \$50.00. Notwithstanding how your Club views your Guest Divers however, it is important to note that from a Liability Insurance perspective, OUC views your Club's Guest Divers as carded members of your Club.
- Q:** What if I've paid to be a Guest Diver of one OUC Member Club and am now invited to go diving with another, different, OUC Member Club; do I have to pay again?

A: No, at least not as far as OUC is concerned. Your OUC Club Membership is good for the entire calendar year in which you purchased it, and from an Insurance perspective, you can dive with any OUC Member Club on their Club-sanctioned dives, subject to the same terms and conditions. You should note however that no two OUC clubs operate exactly the same way, and many OUC Member Clubs may charge Guest Divers an additional fee (e.g. to help offset a Club subsidy) even if their Guest Divers are Members in good standing of another OUC Member Club. It is important to note however that this additional fee has nothing to do with the OUC.
- Q:** How can my Club's Guest Divers be covered under the Liability Insurance Policy if the OUC hasn't yet received their applications or their fees?

A: In the context of membership fees and insurance premiums, OUC Member Clubs are considered as “Agents of OUC”. This means that as soon as your Guest Diver completes the OUC Club Membership Application Form and submits the form and associated fees to you, the “Hosting Club”, your Guest Diver is covered. The Hosting Club must however take care to remit the Membership Form and Fees to the OUC Office within 5 business days.
- Q:** I received my Scuba Certification through a local Scuba Retailer and I've been invited by an OUC Member Club to join them on one of their dives. I'm really looking forward to diving with them, but I'm not an OUC Member, I don't know anything about the OUC, and I'm not really sure I want to join you. Why do I have to become a member of the OUC just to be able to go out diving with an OUC Member Club?

A: In Ontario, unlike in other places in Canada and around the world, the sport of Scuba Diving is self-regulated. OUC believes that self-regulation is a privilege to be earned, not a right. OUC and its many Scuba Community Members (Scuba Retailers, Clubs, Manufacturers, Certifying Agencies, and Divers) work very hard to earn that privilege every day, not just for OUC members, but for all members of the Ontario Scuba Community. Part of the work we do is to help put in place policies and processes that encourage safe Scuba Diving, such as affordable Liability Insurance Policy coverage for Clubs, Scuba Diving Safety Awareness Programs, Safe Diving Standards and Practices, and 72-hour Scuba Incident Reports and Recommendations, to name but a few. By joining the OUC and by diving with an OUC Member Club, you commit to diving in a proven safe and enjoyable way. This directly benefits you, the Club, and the Ontario Scuba Community.
- Q:** What is a “Club-Sanctioned Dive”?

A: A “Club-Sanctioned Dive” is a Dive that is organized by an OUC Member Club, for OUC Club Members, and that is sanctioned by the Executive of that Club as meeting all the requirements as stipulated in the OUC's Liability Policy and OUC's “Club Requirements” document.
- Q:** I just signed on as a Guest Diver. How long will it take for me to get my OUC Club membership card?

Answer: You should receive your OUC Club membership card in the mail within 4-6 weeks. If you do not receive it by then, then contact the Membership Director of the Club that hosted you to follow up on your behalf.
- Q:** I'm already an OUC Individual Member. Can I dive with an OUC Member Club as their Guest Diver?

A: Only if you first fill out the attached OUC Guest Diver Club Membership Application form and pay the additional \$20.00 Liability Insurance Premium.

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Club Membership Application Form

Please print clearly, complete in full, and forward to the OUC Office:

OUC Member Hosting Club Information:

Name of Hosting Club: Etobicoke Underwater Club

Approved by: _____ Position: _____ OUC ID: _____

Date of application: Year: 2017 Month: _____ Day: _____

Guest Diver Information

First Name: _____ Initial: _____ Last Name _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Country _____ Telephone () _____

Email Address _____

OUC Club Membership (please check ONLY ONE of the following 3 choices):

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------|--------------------------|---------|-------|
| 1) I am an existing OUC Individual Member in good standing and want to upgrade to Club Member | OUC # _____ | Exp. Date. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$20.00 | _____ |
| 2) Blue Club Membership | \$20 membership + \$20 insurance premium | | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$40.00 | _____ |
| 3) Gold Club Membership | \$37 membership + \$20 insurance premium | | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$57.00 | _____ |

All OUC Club Memberships expire at the end of the year, on December 31st Total _____

Method of payment (please check one): Cheque (enclosed) Visa MasterCard

Card # _____ Expiration Date December 31, 2017

Signature _____

Forward completed form and payment within 5 business days to:

ONTARIO UNDERWATER COUNCIL
Suite 109, #1 Concorde Gate
Toronto, ON, M3C 3N6

This Section for OUC Office Use Only:
OUC ID #: _____
Entered: _____