



# SSI STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

## FOR SNORKELING, FREEDIVING AND SCUBA DIVING PROGRAMS

You are about to embark on an exciting and rewarding adventure. Diving is an exciting and enjoyable lifetime sport that will challenge both your mind and body. There are inherent risks involved in diving including serious injury or death, as you would expect from any demanding outdoor activity, but these risks are minimized through proper instruction.

The purpose of this Statement of Understanding is to provide you and your Instructor with a way to focus on the important responsibilities you each have for your successful training as a diver. When you have completed this training you will be ready to enjoy gaining more open water diving experience.

Learning to dive is similar to growing up. As you grew you shared the responsibility for your well-being and your quality of life with your parents. As time passed you took more and more of the responsibility until you became wholly responsible for yourself as an adult. During your training as a diver you will share the responsibility with your Instructor. As the program progresses your Instructor will gradually shift the responsibility for your own safety and enjoyment to you.

As a part of the SSI program printed materials, there will be times and places for both you and your Instructor to sign off that you are comfortable with what has been accomplished and you are ready to continue the training.

To enter the very different underwater world requires special equipment. Therefore, diving is an equipment intensive sport.

With this in mind, you will want to use correct, complete, high quality equipment. Much of your instruction will concern equipment and the related skills.

Based on extensive diving experience and training, your Instructor has developed a high degree of caring about and for student divers. This will be clearly brought out during the program and during the completing of both this statement and your medical history form. Please be as complete and honest as possible. If you are unsure concerning any aspects of the program, please ask.

The following responsibilities are carefully designed to help assure that you will have a safe and enjoyable experience learning to dive.

### INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITIES — AS YOUR INSTRUCTOR, I AGREE TO PROVIDE:

- An SSI program of instruction in diving activities.
- SSI program educational materials.
- The use of the SSI audiovisual teaching system.
- Complete information on all program costs.
- Proof of my current Instructor certification.
- Current liability insurance for diving instruction (where applicable).
- Information on health and safety considerations, such as when not to dive and important skills needed to dive safely.
- Several open water training dives or assistance in arranging for open water training by referral.
- Certification upon satisfactory completion of the program.

### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES — AS A STUDENT, I AGREE TO:

- Be in good physical and mental health for diving and to complete a medical history form. You may be required to have a medical examination.
- Prove that I know how to swim and am comfortable in the water. You do not necessarily need to be a good swimmer.
- Attend all classes or make up missed classes.
- Complete all class assignments.
- Pay program fees, rental fees, or other costs as listed by the Instructor.
- Take care of personal dive equipment and equipment assigned to me.
- Always stay with my assigned partner, Instructor or group during water work.
- Give special and careful consideration to the needs and safety of my diving buddy.
- Perform skills as requested, but not attempt any skill I do not feel ready to safely perform. Your Instructor will provide additional time or instruction, if needed.
- Complete the required number of open water dives within the allotted time frame in accordance with SSI Standards.
- Inform my Instructor if I am excessively cold or tired; under undue stress; injured; low on air; not feeling well; become separated from my dive partner and/or group; or have been sick during the preceding week. The two of you will then decide what is in your best interests. You should not dive if you are having a difficulty with yourself (physical or mental), your equipment or the environment.

### MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES — TOGETHER AS INSTRUCTOR AND STUDENT, WE AGREE TO:

- Buy, rent or provide diving equipment as mutually agreed. This varies depending on the situation, but it needs to be clearly understood before continuing with the program.
- Not use any intoxicating liquor or dangerous drugs before diving.
- Communicate as completely and as clearly as possible.
- Be considerate of the rights, feelings and needs of each other and the others involved in the program.
- Each be ultimately responsible for our own personal actions.
- Work together and share the responsibility for the diving program, as preparation for later diving adventures.
- Having read and discussed this Statement of Understanding, we agree to conduct ourselves as described above.

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| <hr/><br>Student's Name (PRINTED)    | <hr/><br>Age           | <hr/><br>Student's Signature    | <hr/><br>Parent or Guardian signs here IF STUDENT IS A MINOR |
| <hr/><br>Instructor's Name (PRINTED) | <hr/><br>Instructor N° | <hr/><br>Instructor's Signature | <hr/><br>Date (DD/MM/YY)                                     |