



## DURBAN UNDERSEA CLUB

CLUBHOUSE: BROWNS RD OFF POINT RD, VETCH'S PIER, P O BOX 38162, POINT, 4069 | TEL: 031-3681199 | FAX: 0866374301 | EMAIL [duc@mweb.co.za](mailto:duc@mweb.co.za) | WEB: [www.duc.co.za](http://www.duc.co.za)

### DURBAN UNDERSEA CLUB - CODE OF CONDUCT FOR FREEDIVERS

The Durban Undersea Club freediving code of conduct is a series of rules that must be adhered to.

They outline proper freediving practices, responsibilities & Club Rules for members of the club and/or individuals that are diving through the club or from any boats bearing a DUC registration.

### VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The committee of DURBAN UNDERSEA CLUB shall have the power to ban, censure, suspend, expel or impose any other discipline, sanction, supervision, or probation on any DUC or non-member in violation of this code of conduct listed below.

#### 1. CONDUCT:

- a. Members shall at all times conduct themselves in a manner that will uphold the character and interests of DUC.
- b. All members should agree to abide by this Code of conduct before participating in any recreational dive.
- c. Safe dive buddy practice must be adhered to at all times. Good practice follows diving method of one up, one down.

#### 2. ENVIRONMENT:

- a. Freedivers shall not remove, unduly disturb or harass any marine organism, plants or habitat, including shells or substrate, marine mammals, seabirds and fish.
- b. No spearfishing may be done from any boats bearing a DUC registration.
- c. Freedivers holding an aquarium fish collecting licence may not do so on a recreational dive.
- d. Diving boats should not go straight through groups of seabirds.
- e. Dive conscientiously, This means that special awareness should be practiced, fins should be watched and nothing should be gripped in order to hold position.  
This is vital for conserving coral reefs; even a slight bump can cause damage that can take years to restore.

#### 3. INSTRUCTOR AND DIVE GUIDE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- a. Do not disobey Dive Guide & Instructors, when an instructor or dive guide provides you with guidance, it is because these individuals have the responsibility to supervise all divers who are assigned to them - not because they're trying to stop you from having fun.
- b. It is the diving instructor or guides responsibility to make sure they understand the level of experience of each diver they are supervising. As well as to identify if they could cause injury to themselves or others, or damage the marine environment because they do not have the right skills for a specific dive.
- c. Dive guides & instructors may at any time request to see proof of a divers qualification before any dive.
- d. Dive guides will carry out pre-dive safety briefing and allocate a buddy system.

#### 4. LITTER

- a. Don't litter. Neither topside nor underwater. This is one of the most important rules. Any rubbish you have should be taken with you and disposed of in the right manner.
- b. Leave the environment as it was found, if not better.

#### 5. FISHING EQUIPMENT AND ANGLERS

- a. Don't interfere with fishing equipment or harass anglers, even if you disagree with common fishing practices. Interfering is usually illegal and harassment can get you hurt and cause ire against the diving community. The exception to this rule occurs if you find marine life trapped in disused fishing gear such as a ghost net or tangled filament. Then, it's best to cut the animal free if you can do so safely.
- b. If you find illegal fishing activity, report it to the appropriate authorities.