



## DURBAN UNDERSEA CLUB

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### DURBAN UNDERSEA CLUB - CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SCUBA DIVERS

The Durban Undersea Club Scuba diving code of conduct is a series of rules that must be adhered to. They outline proper scuba diving 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

Different types of diving, such as cave diving, wreck diving, and other forms of technical diving, come with their own separate codes of conduct, which are additions to this basic code that all divers, regardless of certification level, are required to follow.

### 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 scuba diving practice must be adhered to at all times.
2. ENVIRONMENT:
  - a. Scuba divers 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 with SCUBA apparatus or on a recreational Scuba Dive.
  - c. Scuba divers holding an aquarium fish collecting license may not do so on a recreational Scuba dive.
  - d. Diving boats should not go straight through groups of seabirds.
  - e. Dive conscientiously, This means that your buoyancy should remain neutral, special awareness should be practiced, fins should be watched and nothing should be gripped in order to prevent drift. Drifting should be prevented by good diving. This is vital for conserving coral reefs; even a slight bump can cause damage that can take years to restore.
  - f. When diving on a MPA, all scuba divers must have an in-date permit and carry it with them on the boat
3. SCUBA GEAR:
  - a. It is a diver's responsibility to keep their gear in good working order
  - b. It is a diver's responsibility to make sure that no part of their gear can accidentally touch any of the underwater habitats. Hence, any dangling equipment should be secured and divers need to be mindful of the additional space they occupy because of the gear they carry.
4. INSTRUCTOR AND DIVEMASTER RESPONSIBILITIES:
  - a. Do not disobey Dive Master & instructors, when an instructor or divemaster 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 guide's responsibility to make sure they understand how good the divers they are supervising are as well as to ensure that divers and 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 Masters & instructors may at any time request to see proof of a divers qualification before any dive.
  - d. Dive Masters will carry out pre-dive safety briefing and allocate a buddy system.
5. WRECKS:
  - a. Do not disturb anything.
  - b. Do not penetrate a wreck unless you are specifically qualified to do so
  - c. If you discover a wreck report the position/details to the relevant authorities.

6. 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.

7. 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 scuba 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 authorities