



Affiliate Clubs agreement

Version 2 draft

5.6.12

www.britishfreediving.org

Disclaimer

This document offers safety advice for freediving in swimming pools based on widely accepted knowledge, practices and procedures and procedures approved by AIDA – the International Association for the Development of Apnea. Freediving can be a dangerous activity and those who freedive do so at their own risk. The British Freediving Association cannot be held responsible for any injury or death that may result from freediving. Freedivers are strongly encouraged to seek appropriate instruction before undertaking any form of breath-holding activity. This document cannot and must not be used by freedivers for the purpose of self-instruction.

1. Introduction

The purpose of this agreement is to ensure that all BFA affiliate clubs follow the advice as set out in safety advice for freediving in swimming pools document. That document explains how these risks can be mitigated by following recommended safety and rescue protocols which are approved and endorsed by the BFA.

All aquatic activities can be dangerous if performed in unregulated environments. Freedive training sessions have been running throughout the UK since 1998 without serious incident. Nevertheless, without strict regulation, incidents may occur as with any other sporting activity. This agreement will hopefully go some way to ensuring that British freedive clubs have up-to-date knowledge of the risks and safety procedures and stick to the advice outlined and approved by the BFA.

It is inevitable that some individuals will practice breath-holding activities whether they have access to a safe environment or not. It is hoped that serious accidents can be avoided by educating freedivers as to the risks of breath-holding activities and their associated prevention. If incidents do occur, then they have the utmost safety measures in place to deal with it.

1.1 British Freediving Association (BFA)

The BFA is the national governing body for the sport of freediving within the UK. The organisation was formed in 1999 for the purpose of promoting safe freediving in the UK, both recreationally and competitively. It also aims to promote safer practices and understanding of breath-hold activities in general.

The International Association for the Development of Apnea (AIDA) is the international governing body for the sport of freediving. The BFA is officially recognised as the UK representative of AIDA. For this reason, the BFA is occasionally referred to as AIDA (UK) when mentioned in the context of its role as the UK representative of AIDA.

Clubs agreement:

Please initial each statement:

As an affiliate club organizer we agree to adhere to standards as set out in the safety advice for freediving in swimming pools document. _____

All club attendees will agree to practice any breath-hold activity using the buddy system. _____

When freedivers who do not hold a qualification (but who have completed a minimum of the BFA pool safety introduction course) are training in a pool or open water, an AIDA instructor or recognised equivalent should be directly supervising all freedive sessions. __

Instruction must not be administered to any unqualified freediver, by anyone other than a fully qualified, insured & renewed Freediving Instructor from a recognized training agency. The Instructor should hold a professional liability insurance policy. Experienced freedivers who do not hold an Instructor qualification, should not be teaching unqualified freedivers, or attempt to teach further course syllabuses to qualified divers. ____

If a freediving club does not have a session Instructor, then a freediver responsible for the session should be designated. In this event the group may train, provided all freedivers present have completed an absolute minimum qualification of *BFA Pool Safety Induction* with a qualified Instructor, and an AIDA Freediver certification is recommended. In open water all freedivers should have a minimum of 1 star Aida or equivalent. (Recommended 2 star) _____

Attendees at freedive sessions should be aged 18 years or over, or be over 16 with signed parental permission (the session instructor should ensure that the parents are aware of the risks involved). _____

All attendees at a session have should have completed a diving fitness self-certification form or hold a certificate of fitness to dive issued by a physician within the last year and a copy of these should be held by the session instructor or designated session supervisor. _____

All attendees should have read and signed a liability release form and a copy of which should be held by the organiser. This should be updated annually. _____

All freedivers in a session should be well versed in rescue procedures and the session instructor will be responsible for inducting newcomers to the session and ensuring they know all these procedures before they join the session. _____

The BFA recommends that the organizer or elected club representative should have completed a course in CPR. All freedivers are encouraged to attend these courses, no in water activities should take place without the presence of some one trained in CPR. _____

In open water environments a first aid kit and oxygen kit should be used along with any flotation devices and specific rescue equipment for that dive site. ____

In open water environments surface support should be present and an emergency plan should have been carried out and a copy given to the surface support for that specific site. _____

Open water teaching should only be carried out by qualified, renewed and insured instructors from a recognised training agency and minimum ratios should be respected. The BFA recommend in conditions with bad visibility or cold water that ratios be more conservative. _____

Courses advertised by clubs for un-certified divers must be AIDA training courses (or equivalent) and must be run to minimum BFA standards of best Freediving Practice. _____

Non-Certification/Coaching courses run through clubs are strictly for qualified freedivers who are seeking further coaching opportunities. Beginner freedivers should enroll on a full certification course. _____

Any competitions run by affiliate clubs should seek BFA event status through the competitions officer according to regulation . _____

All attendees are encouraged to become BFA members to carry third party liability insurance for in water activities. _____

In signing this document you agree to conduct all club activities in accordance to the BFA best practice guidelines.

Name of club: _____

Venue: _____

Organiser name and training agency: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____