

Already a Diver

Q. I learnt to dive with another organisation. Will you accept my qualification?

A. Yes, we welcome previous diver training by recognised organisations, whether recreational, commercial or military. Divers can join us and enjoy diving within the recommendations of their existing qualification and BSAC Safe Diving Practices (whichever is the more conservative).

Q. So I can just join Totnes and go diving?

A. Yes, but the method depends on whether you wish to continue your training or not. There are three options open to you, as set-out below:

OPTION 1

Qualified divers wishing to join TSAC but NOT CONTINUE their training with the BSAC:

- The diver joins TSAC and BSAC/SAA.
- The diver presents evidence of their alternative diving qualification.
- TSAC consults the 'similarity table' and identifies the alternative diver qualification with the appropriate BSAC diver grade.
- The diver is then integrated into the Branch and treated as a diver of that similar grade.
- There is no documentation to be issued, i.e., Qualification Record Book, training material etc. to the new member. Divers will be expected to attend a brief 'Induction to the BSAC' lesson based on parts of BSAC Ocean Diver training programme – OT1 and OT4, which will describe how the Branch structure works, outline the aims, beliefs and function of BSAC as the national governing body, what BSAC membership offers and provide an overview of the BSAC '88 Decompression Tables. The Branch Diving Officer, or Training Officer, may also encourage further theory study and skills practice to 'close any gaps' which might become apparent on review of qualifications and practical experience, such as a controlled buoyant lift.

OPTION 2

Qualified divers wishing to join TSAC and FURTHERING their training with the BSAC.

Should a diver, qualified by another diver training organisation, wish to further their diver training with the BSAC, the qualifications they already hold are recognised as a starting point for further training by the issue of a Statement of Alternative Training (SALT) page, issued as part of the training pack they purchase.

To obtain furthering diver training with the BSAC:

- Join TSAC and BSAC.
- On request, TSAC will order a 'Crossover Training Pack' for the next BSAC diver grade. The 'Crossover Training Pack' will include the Student Notes and a BSAC Qualification Record Book - with an extra SALT page to record the previous training.
- On completion of the course, the diver will be a BSAC qualified diver at that new grade.

With this process, the NEW member may train for the next higher BSAC qualification. The process has to assume that the person has only just obtained the certificate they hold. It cannot offer any credit for variables such as additional diving experience gained since the qualification was achieved, or training undertaken on incomplete courses. This process applies only to diving qualifications and not to diving instructor qualifications.

OPTION 3

Qualified BSAC divers undertaking FURTHER TRAINING with other organisations: If a diver, having crossed over to the BSAC via a previous SALT, wishes to continue their training with other organisations, this is acceptable. Should their training advance their skill level, they may reintegrate back into BSAC training via a further SALT. Once again, they may require additional training and a "crossover" training pack needs to be obtained. Again the Branch Diving Officer will only award similarity to the higher BSAC grade when all required additional training is completed.

Nothing in this process removes or alters the Branch Diving Officer's responsibility for the safety and well-being of Branch members. If the Diving Officer feels that the skills of a new member, originally trained by another organisation, are lacking, the DO is at liberty to require the member to undertake appropriate refresher training and/or limit their open water diving activities until a satisfactory level of skills performance

Q. I trained on holiday; will you take me diving?

A. It depends, the answer is probably 'yes -but...'. Due to the differences in UK conditions when compared to holiday destinations you are probably not prepared for what you will encounter. We would suggest that you come along to the club to discuss the sort of diving you have done and how we operate and then take it from there. However, we do not hire equipment so you will need your own dive kit to be able to dive with us.

Q. I'm a PADI Open Water/Advanced Open Water Diver. How deep can I dive?

A. Under BSAC rules a PADI Advanced Open Water diver can dive to 30m if they are paired with a BSAC Dive Leader or equivalent. If they are buddied with a Sports Diver, Ocean Diver or another PADI AOW the maximum depth they can go to is 20 m. If they also have the PADI 'Deep Diving' qualification they can go to 40m (or the maximum depth achieved during training if this was less than 40m) if they are paired with a BSAC Dive Leader or equivalent. Two PADI AOWs may not dive together unless accompanied by a BSAC Dive Leader or equivalent.

PADI Open Water divers are limited to 18m.

Q. I'm a PADI Open Water/Advanced Open Water Diver. Will you accept these qualifications?

A. PADI OWs and AOWs do not have to crossover to BSAC if they simply want to dive to their existing qualification and do not want to continue their training with BSAC. However, we do require that they attend a couple of orientation lectures and undertake some basic rescue training, as set-out below:

1. A brief 'Introduction to BSAC' lesson based on OT1 which describes the branch structure and how BSAC functions as a governing body
2. OT4, which covers BSAC tables and using Nitrox.
3. Controlled buoyant lift and alternative source ascents in the pool and sea from 6 m. (Basic Life Support is taught during the next qualification level, which is Sports Diver).

If divers wish to progress their training with BSAC, then they will need to "crossover" to BSAC, which, in addition to the orientation and rescue sessions described above, will then enable them to progress to Sports Diver level when the branch next runs this course (we usually run it once a year). In order to commence the crossover process, they will need a crossover pack, which the branch can order from BSAC. The cost of the crossover pack is ££38 + postage. This contains 'The Diving



Manual', qualification filofax, Sports Diver Student notes with A5 ring binder. The branch provides pool sessions and lectures for Sports Diver training free of charge to members, but trainees will need to pay for any boat dives involved.

Q. I'm just visiting the area – can I come diving with you?

A. Visiting members of the BSAC and SAA, or other recognized organizations are welcome to dive with the branch on an occasional basis if it is possible under the prevailing circumstances. However, you will need your logbook and qualification book/card so that we can be satisfied about your status and experience.