



# North Queensland Underwater Explorers Club

PO Box 298 Belgian Gardens QLD 4810

## Application for Membership

- Diving Membership:** A person over the age of 18 who is a certified SCUBA diver with a Club-recognised SCUBA diving certification and/or is a breath-hold diver, who has paid the required fees and obtained the required insurance. Diving Members shall have the right to vote at all general meetings, and are eligible for election to Club Management Committee positions.
- Non-Diving (Social) Membership:** A person over the age of 18 who is not a SCUBA or breath-hold diver, and who has paid the required fees. This membership class does not require insurance; however, participation in high-risk water-based activities with the Club such as SCUBA and breath-hold diving is not permitted. Non-Diving Members shall have no voting rights, and are not eligible for election to Club Management Committee positions.

*Tick one membership class, and refer to Guidance to Applicants for further details.*

Full Name: ..... Date of Birth ..... Phone: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....

I acknowledge that I have read the Constitution and Rules of the Club and agree that if I am accepted for membership of the Club, then I shall be bound by, observe, and perform the same.

I further agree that if I am accepted for membership of the Club, I shall indemnify the Club, the Management Committee, all Officers, all Members, and all volunteers and servants of the Club against any claim, demand, suit, or action of cost by me arising directly or indirectly out of or in respect to any Club activity in which I might hereafter participate, of any injury or damage to person or property I might sustain in connection with diving, boating or any associated activity or in connection with the Club or arising directly or indirectly from any defect in any equipment whomsoever the same may be owned or used in connection with diving, boating or any associated Club activity or Club outing and whether the injury, damage or defect be due to negligence on the part of the Club, the Committee, any Member, or any volunteer or servant or agent of any of them or not, from whatever cause or source the injury or damage may arise.

The applicant hereby declares the he / she is medically fit and does not suffer from any medical conditions which would debar him / her from diving or safely participating in Club-sanctioned activities, and also agrees to accept responsibility for omissions regarding their failure to disclose any existing or past health or medical conditions.

.....  
Signature Date

.....  
Proposer's Signature (Club Member) Seconder's Signature (Club Member) Date

**Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge:**

*Non-Diving Membership applicants to complete Questions 8 and 9 only.*

**Q1:** What diving and dive-related qualifications do you have (including boating, first aid, radio, etc)?

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**Q2:** When was your last diving medical examination? ..... **Q3:** What was the result? .....

**Q4:** When was your last dive? ..... **Q5:** How many open water dives have you completed? .....

**Q6:** How many years have you been diving? Please detail any extended breaks:

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**Q7:** Have you ever suffered a dive injury (such as; ear or sinus damage, DCS, lung barotrauma, loss of consciousness)?

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**Q8:** Have you ever suffered any other injury or medical condition which could affect your safety whilst participating in physically strenuous activities like diving, boating, and camping (including injuries or conditions which could affect your ability to operate on unstable platforms, or which may reduce your range of movement or capacity to lift, carry, or manoeuvre heavy objects)? If yes, please elaborate:

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**Q9 - For both new and renewing members:** Has your general physical condition (in your own view) or your medical status (in your doctor’s view) changed in any way during the last 12 months, which could affect your safety whilst participating in activities like diving, boating, and camping? If yes, please elaborate:

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**Committee use only**

Diving Certification Agency / Level / Number: ..... Date of issue: .....

Appl. fee received: Y      N      Approved by Committee: Y      N      Date form processed: .....

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## Guidance to Applicants:

- Breath-hold diving is defined as all forms of open-water swimming with the aid of a mask and snorkel, to include free-diving, snorkelling, and skin-diving.
- Diving Membership is offered to diving applicants wishing to engage in high-risk water-based activities with the Club such as SCUBA and breath-hold diving. Entry to this membership class is limited to certified SCUBA divers and/or competent breath-hold divers who have obtained the required public liability and participant-to-participant insurance protection.
- Non-Diving (Social) Membership is offered to non-diving applicants who wish to participate in low-risk social activities with the Club. This membership class does not include insurance protection; therefore, participation by Social Members in some Club activities may not be permitted by the Club Management Committee, if it determines that inclusion of Social Members poses an unacceptable risk to the Club.
- Rules of the Club includes all by-laws, policy documents, and Club operating procedures. The Club Management Committee will always ensure these documents are freely available to applicants, usually by posting them to the Club website.
- Club membership and insurance protection is offered to applicants above the age of 18 only. Members with children may participate in Club activities with their children accompanying them, provided their children remain under their sole control and supervision for the entire duration of the activity. By signing this Membership Form, the applicant agrees to be bound by this arrangement, and accepts that neither the Club, nor its Management Committee, nor its Members, nor its volunteers will be liable for any loss or injury arising from their children's participation in Club activities (noting that this indemnification will not affect any statutory rights).
- Question 8 is designed to record non-diving related injuries or medical conditions of a less significant nature, but which could affect the applicant's balance, strength, or flexibility during a period of strenuous activity. This information helps the Club Management Committee plan, tailor, and (if necessary) modify activities to ensure safe participation by all members of an activity group, (bearing in mind that dive trips are tailored to Diving Members, and social trips are tailored to Non-Diving Members).
- Question 9 is designed to give the Club Management Committee oversight of the physical health and diving fitness of its members each year, to enable the Committee to make sound decisions regarding the safety of individuals and the level of risk posed to the Club.
- Advice to all applicants: The Club Management Committee will always strive to plan and conduct safe Club activities. However, the good intentions of the Committee do not negate the need for all members to take responsibility for their own health and safety whilst participating in Club trips.

## Guidance to Committee:

Even in ideal conditions, open water SCUBA diving and breath-hold diving carry an inherent level of risk. Safe participation requires a sound level of physical condition. Should an incident occur during a Club trip, judgements and decisions made by the Committee regarding an applicant's suitability for membership will likely be analysed by an investigative authority through the lens of '*what a reasonable person could have been expected to know under those circumstances*'. Therefore, the following criteria is provided to help the Committee make good judgements on an applicant's suitability for membership.

Any one (1) of the following conditions or complaints automatically results in the applicant being referred to a diving physician to undergo a diving medical examination, before their application can be assessed by the club:

- Heart condition (abnormality or disease) of any kind; or
- Chronic lung conditions such as asthma or bronchitis; or
- Any medical condition that can result in loss of consciousness.

Any one (1) of the following conditions or complaints (which are well-known and widely accepted DCS risk factors) may give rise to the implementation of additional risk control measures. These could include; enhanced supervision or physical assistance, pairing up with a dive instructor or certified assistant, carriage of buoyancy aids or visual aids, or adherence to pre-determined limits (agreed to by the Committee) for dive depth, complexity, and prevailing environmental conditions:

- Over 45 years of age; or
- Above 30 in Body Mass Index (BMI); or
- By their own admission; of poor physical condition.