



General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures

Version 8.0



GUE General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures

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1. Purpose of GUE

Global Underwater Explorers (GUE) was founded by conservationists, explorers, and educators to improve the quality of aquatic education and to actively engage in the exploration and conservation of the underwater world.

1.1 GUE Objectives

1.1.1 Promote Quality Education

GUE is committed to producing divers who are knowledgeable, skilled, competent, and safe in the water, and to a generalized mission of educating the public in all things aquatic.

1.1.2 Promote Global Conservation Initiatives

GUE is committed to promoting global conservation initiatives.

1.1.3 Promote Global Exploration Initiatives

GUE is committed to promoting global underwater exploration initiatives.

1.2 Training Philosophy

1.2.1 Education

GUE course outcomes are designed to cultivate high levels of diver competence under the assumption that only a sound educational platform will ensure divers' comfort, confidence, and capability. This is achieved through:

- a. *Exacting performance standards:* GUE course outcomes are secured by exacting performance standards that incorporate both challenging academic and practical components.
- b. *Rigorous classes:* GUE classes demand a great deal from participants, both physically and intellectually.
- c. *Elite instruction:* GUE instructors are the result of a demanding and thorough development process that ensures consistently high levels of skill, knowledge, and commitment to GUE's mission.
- d. *Experience:* GUE requires that trainees build experience between classes.

1.2.2 Equipment

GUE is committed to a standardized equipment configuration, a holistic approach that views each piece of equipment as an integral part of a system.

1.2.3 Experience

GUE maintains that experience is critical to diver proficiency. To ensure this outcome, GUE training includes critical skills training, experience dives, and post-class practice.

- a. *Critical skills training*: critical skills are skills that are required to efficiently manage loss of visibility, loss of lights, out-of-gas scenarios, manifold failures, and rescue scenarios involving panicked divers, convulsing divers, and unconscious divers. Critical skills training uses simulation in controlled and safe environments to secure course outcomes. Competence is established by skill review, practice, and repetition.
- b. *Experience dives*: experience dives are components of GUE courses that seek to foster real diving experience while providing a controlled context for skill sedimentation and refinement.
- c. *Interim course requirement*: GUE requires that formal diver training be punctuated by breaks during which trainees are asked to undertake a set number of dives to gain experience with a newly acquired skill set before transitioning to higher level of training.

1.3 Training Structure

1.3.1 Elements of Diver Training

- a. *Screening*: GUE training requires that trainees be carefully screened by GUE instructors prior to participating in GUE courses to ensure that they are able to meet the demands of training. Required documentation includes an account of their personal diving experience, their medical history, and a record of previous training.
- b. *Advance preparation*: GUE training requires that trainees be familiar with an assigned set of materials prior to the onset of class.
- c. *Academics*: GUE training includes a strong academic component that seeks to cultivate cognitive mastery of elements relevant to the safe conduct of the level of diving being pursued; some of this material is assigned prior to class.
- d. *In-Water training (confined and open water)*: GUE in-water training in confined and suitable open water environments is designed to help trainees cultivate essential diving skills and to test trainee capacity in a controlled environment (one that allows instructors to maintain reasonable control over trainees); such skills include problem solving and emergency management.
 - i. Confined water is defined as an area:
 - 1. That does not exceed 30 ft/9 m in depth.
 - 2. Where visibility (i.e., the minimum distance in which divers can see one another and communicate effectively) is sufficient to allow instructors to maintain a continuous view of trainees under their supervision.
 - 3. That is not an overhead area.
 - 4. That is illuminated to a level comparable to daylight.

5. Where surface conditions are relatively calm (no greater than 3 ft/1 m surge).
6. Where currents are negligible (less than 1 knot).
- ii. A “suitable” open water environment is defined as an area that allows instructors reasonable control over trainees under their supervision; depths are contingent on specific course requirements.
- e. Testing, evaluation, and certification: Testing and evaluation is a vital component of the GUE training process.
 - i. *Academics*: Trainees must be able to answer all final exam questions prior to certification.
 - ii. *In-water*: Trainee in-water skills are graded on a scale of one to five (see below) and documented on a Course Completion Form (CCF) by the instructor of record at the completion of the class. CCFs must be submitted to GUE Headquarters (HQ) for follow-up action and filing. Debrief sessions are used during the class to provide trainees with a running assessment of their performance.

GUE Certification is ultimately an instructor’s decision. However, instructors are obligated, on request, to provide trainees with an assessment of their performance; this includes providing trainees with a copy of the CCF where their strengths and weaknesses are clearly outlined.

GUE's Grading Scale: Grades range sequentially from 1 (failing) to 5 (excellent) and represent the following:

- a. *Grade 1*: Signifies an unsafe trainee in both ability and/or demeanor; the trainee should be removed from the course immediately.
- b. *Grade 2*: Signifies a trainee that falls below the minimum standard relevant to a required skill/task. If, at the discretion of the instructor, continued practice of a skill/task places either the student or the class at risk, the instructor may decide not to continue practicing a skill/task and fail the trainee.
- c. *Grade 3*: Signifies that the trainee has met the minimum standard in respect to the skill/task.
- d. *Grade 4*: Signifies that the trainee has exceeded the minimum standard with respect to the skill/task.
- e. *Grade 5*: Signifies that the trainee has greatly exceeded the minimum standard with respect to the skill/task.

1.3.2 Diver Assessment

At the completion of GUE training, instructors must decide whether the trainee:

- a. Has met the minimum standard required to be certified to pursue the type of diving for which they sought training
- b. Is *just* short of the minimum standard required to be certified to pursue the type of diving for which they sought training

- c. Requires significant work to meet the minimum standards for the class.

These assessments take the form of:

- a. Certification
- b. Provisional Certification
- c. Failure

Provisional certifications do not represent any form of GUE accreditation and must be upgraded within six months or the trainee must repeat training. Any Active status GUE instructor in the appropriate curriculum can conduct an upgrade evaluation. Additional time and course fees associated with provisional upgrades are entirely at the discretion of the instructor.

1.3.3 Training Categories

1.3.3.1 Recreational

Recreational diver training is designed for persons who want to learn to dive in non-overhead environments and with minimum decompression obligations.

1.3.3.2 Foundational

Foundational diver training is designed for trained divers to remediate or refine their basic skill set as a means to dive safely and comfortably or to enable those seeking more demanding forms of diving; it also provides the trained diver with opportunities to build competency in the use of more specialized equipment – e.g., doubles, drysuits, etc.

1.3.3.3 Technical

Technical diver training is designed for divers seeking to safely and competently pursue dives to greater depths with specialty gases and bottom times that expose them to decompression and other risks that require advanced management strategies.

1.3.3.4 Cave

Cave diver training is designed for divers seeking to safely and competently penetrate underwater cave environments that will expose them to risks that require the development of a new set of advanced skills.

1.3.4 General Training Standards

GUE's general training standards govern all GUE courses and their participants. Additional course-specific standards are listed under the requirements of the specific class. General Diving Standards (section 1.4), also apply to all GUE courses and their participants.

- a. An Active status GUE instructor certified to teach the level of training being conducted must be present and in control of all course activities.
- b. All Active and Sustaining status GUE instructors are bound by the most current version of the GUE General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures document.

- c. Diving prerequisites established by the relevant course standards must be met before trainees can be registered for that class. Dives cannot be credited across curricula or across levels of a given curriculum. Unless otherwise specified in the course's Specific Training Standards, students may not combine two courses at the same time.
- d. Students must be certified for a level of training before progressing to the next level of training unless otherwise specified in the course's Specific Training Standards.
- e. GUE instructors must not conduct training dives and drills in areas that are environmentally or culturally sensitive or that could be damaged by the training (e.g., DPV training, drills involving simulated zero visibility).
- f. Water conditions must at all times be such that the instructor:
 - i. Can maintain visual contact with all divers under their supervision
 - ii. Is in reasonable control of all divers under their supervision.
- g. Critical skills must first be conducted in a confined-water setting. Instructors can then vary the depth and/or location where skills are executed.
 - i. Mask removal is restricted to confined water; only trainees themselves are allowed to remove their masks at the prompting of their instructor.
 - ii. "Air gunning" or simulating manifold failure is restricted to Technical, Cave, Rebreather, and DPV Cave courses.
- h. Issuing Certifications under Other Agencies: A trainee may receive both a GUE certification card and the equivalent certification of another agency only if the trainee has met GUE standards and been awarded full GUE certification.
- i. Decompression Parameters: Decompression diving conducted during GUE classes must use GUE's DecoPlanner as the reference standard, using the Bühlmann algorithm with a gradient factor of 20/85.
- j. Course Size: Unless otherwise specified in the course's Specific Training Standards, no GUE class can be run with only one trainee.
- k. Divers breathing helium mixtures and utilizing a drysuit must have a drysuit inflation system independent of their back gas cylinders, such as an argon/air cylinder. Divers may not use back gas to inflate their drysuit.

1.4 General Diving Standards

The following standards apply to all GUE diving activities. Additional course-specific standards are listed within section 1.3.4 General Training Standards, as well as within the requirements of a specific class.

- a. *Oxygen Partial Pressure (pO_2) Limits*: Individuals must not plan dives with a pO_2 that exceeds 1.4 ATA/bar during the "working" phase of the dive; during the "resting" phase, the planned pO_2 may be elevated to 1.6 ATA/bar.
- b. *Equivalent Narcotic Depth (END) Limits*: END during dives must not exceed 100 ft/30 m.
- c. *Breathing Gas Requirements*: All open-circuit dives must be terminated when any member of the team reaches "minimum gas"; this requires that each diver carry a supply that allows two divers sharing gas to reach the surface or another breathable gas supply.

Rebreather dives must be terminated when any member of the team reaches “bailout gas”; this requires that each diver carry an open-circuit supply that allows the diver with the highest consumption to safely reach the surface.

- d. *Team Diving:* GUE’s diving philosophy is based on a team approach. Divers must plan all diving activities as a team and must remain aware of team member location and safety at all times.
- e. *Proper Cylinder Marking:*
 - i. Dive cylinders must be free of unnecessary stickers and markings.
 - ii. Dive cylinders must bear a current Visual Inspection sticker and Hydro Test marking, as detailed by current country-specific regulations; placement must not distract from Maximum Operating Depth (MOD) markings.
 - iii. All stage/decompression cylinders (except oxygen) must be marked with the appropriate MOD (in meters or feet) in approximately 3-inch/7.5-centimeter numbers.
 - iv. Oxygen cylinders must be marked with the word “OXYGEN” (or local equivalent) and MOD.
 - v. MOD markings must be oriented in a way that they are readable by both divers and their team members.
 - vi. Filled cylinders must be analyzed and labeled in accordance with GUE’s Standard Operating Procedure for Gas Analysis.
 - vii. Dedicated cylinders used for the inflation of drysuits are exempt from analysis.
- f. *Local laws and regulations:* GUE divers must comply with all local laws and regulations.

1.5 Equipment Standardization

GUE training programs and GUE diving activities require a standard equipment configuration with modifications made for specific types of diving (e.g., cave vs. recreational). [Appendix A](#) contains an outline of the elements comprising GUE’s required base equipment configuration. Variations or additional equipment requirements are listed in the standards regulating each course.

1.6 Quality Control

GUE’s quality control program seeks to ensure that GUE courses, instructors, and members abide by GUE standards before, during, and after training. The acting members within Quality Control are the:

- a. Board of Advisors (BOA)
- b. Director of Quality Control
- c. Director of Risk Management
- d. Designated Trustee Standards and Procedures
- e. Quality Control Board

1.6.1 Instructor Evaluations

As part of the certification process, instructor performance is evaluated by each trainee at the conclusion of each GUE class by completing and submitting to GUE Headquarters (HQ) a Quality Control Form.

1.6.2 Instructor Peer Review

GUE encourages instructor cooperation and active peer feedback on dives, and requires instructors to report to GUE HQ any practices not in keeping with the GUE General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures.

1.6.3 Instructor Renewals

GUE instructors are required to renew annually. Prerequisites for renewal attest to preparedness to competently and safely teach a GUE class to standard.

1.6.4 Instructor Requalification

GUE instructors are required to requalify with a GUE Instructor Evaluator every four years in every curriculum (Recreational, Foundational, Technical, and Cave) they are certified to teach. These formal requalifications attest to continued mastery of required knowledge and skills to competently and safely teach a GUE class to standard. Instructors who fail to requalify within four years are rendered immediately inactive and are required to return their instructor cards to GUE HQ.

Instructors may choose to reset the four-year clock at any point within this four-year window.

Requalification may also be required at any time the safety or effectiveness of an instructor's training is in question. In such an event, GUE's Director of Training or GUE's Board of Advisors may immediately suspend an instructor's teaching privileges.

1.6.5 Diver Requalification

All GUE certification cards expire three years after the date of issue. To maintain GUE certification, GUE divers must certify that they have conducted twenty-five dives at the level of their certification within a three-year period. Upon review, divers can be issued a new certification card for a nominal fee.

The allowable time for requalification in this manner is five years. If a diver fails to requalify in five years, then formal approval from a GUE instructor at the appropriate level is required.

1.7 Waivers

- a. GUE's BOA has the power to waive course-specific requirements.
- b. GUE Instructor Evaluators have the power to waive the 25-dive prerequisite between GUE courses.

- c. GUE Instructor Evaluators have the power to waive training obligations and award GUE certification based on previous training and experience.
- d. GUE HQ has the power to waive minimum age requirements for GUE classes.
- e. GUE HQ has the power to waive course-specific requirements for the number of training locations.

1.8 Complaints

GUE's Quality Control Directors and Board are responsible for handling complaints promptly and thoroughly. Following an investigation of a complaint, the Quality Control Directors and Board will decide whether or not disciplinary or remedial action is warranted.

1.8.1 Complaint Submission

Complaints can be lodged against any GUE member or GUE diver, each of whom is bound by the GUE General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures document.

Formal complaints must be sent to GUE's Director of Quality Control at GUE HQ and must include:

- a. A written statement outlining the nature of the complaint
- b. Name and contact information
- c. The date, time, and location of the incident
- d. A complete account of the event, including names and contact information (if possible) of any witnesses

Complaints can be lodged either by mail or electronically. Mail should be sent to:

*Director of Quality Control
Global Underwater Explorers
18487 High Springs Main Street
High Springs, FL, 32643
USA*

Email should be sent to qc@gue.com.

No action, other than review, can be taken as a result of an anonymous or a verbal complaint.

1.8.2 Complaint Procedure

- a. Following a review of the complaint, if warranted, GUE's Quality Control Board will send a summary of the complaint to the charged member by regular and/or electronic mail.
- b. Charged member(s) must respond in writing to the complaint (by mail or electronically) within thirty days from the date the summary is sent.
- c. Charged members who fail to respond to a written complaint in the allotted time are automatically suspended and all membership privileges revoked.

- d. Charged members who respond to a written complaint are able to maintain their membership privileges until a final determination is reached by GUE's Quality Control Board.
- e. GUE's Quality Control Board will reach its determination within thirty days of receiving a complete response from the charged member. The Quality Control Board can determine to dismiss the complaint, resolve the matter by negotiation, or sanction a disciplinary or remedial action.

1.8.3 Disciplinary and Remedial Actions

GUE's Quality Control Board is empowered to render the following decisions:

- a. Private censure
- b. Public censure
- c. Prescribed educational rehabilitation
- d. Defined probationary period
- e. Defined suspension
- f. Revocation of membership and/or teaching privileges

1.8.4 Rights of Appeal

Determinations made by GUE's Quality Control Board may be appealed to GUE's Board of Directors no later than thirty days from the time the determination is made. Such an appeal must be lodged in writing to:

*GUE Board of Directors
Global Underwater Explorers
18487 High Springs Main Street
High Springs, FL 32643
USA*

1.8.5 Executive Suspension of Membership

GUE membership, GUE teaching privileges, and GUE diving credentials are a privilege and not a right. Membership in GUE may be rescinded and GUE credentials may be revoked at any time by GUE at its discretion.

1.9 Conduct Policies and Procedures

- a. GUE instructors (regardless of country of residence or course location) must collect printed and signed GUE liability release forms prior to the onset of each GUE class and maintain these for a period of no less than seven years following the completion of training.
- b. GUE representatives must promote the best interests of GUE.
- c. GUE instructors must abide by GUE safety protocols at all times.

- d. GUE members and its representatives must demonstrate fiscal responsibility in general and in particular when transacting business with GUE, GUE instructors, or GUE members.
- e. GUE instructors must process student Course Completion Forms in a timely fashion and cooperate with GUE HQ when certification card issues arise.
- f. All internal communication (e.g., via the instructors@gue.com mailing list, the GUE Instructors Facebook page, or any other media accessible to GUE HQ and GUE instructors only), is confidential. Any instructor who knowingly allows these discussions to become public knowledge may be subject to disciplinary action.
- g. GUE instructors must behave professionally when interacting with others including industry, non-industry, and GUE-related individuals.
- h. GUE members, GUE divers, and GUE representatives are bound by the standards and procedures outlined in this document.
- i. GUE membership and renewal applications do not constitute perpetual offers of membership. GUE HQ reserves the right to refuse membership or renewal to any party without assigning any reason.
- j. GUE members must not utilize proprietary GUE materials without written permission from GUE HQ.
- k. GUE instructor certification cards issued by GUE HQ are the property of GUE and must be surrendered upon request to the Board of Directors or their representatives.

1.10 Records

GUE HQ will maintain the following records (if applicable) for GUE course participants for a minimum of three years after the completion of a class. As GUE student profiles are executed electronically, it is the responsibility of all GUE instructors (regardless of their country of residence or course location) to collect printed and properly executed (i.e., complete and signed) documentation for all course participants before the onset of class and maintain these for a minimum of seven years.

- a. Student Registration
- b. Student Liability Release and Assumption of Risk
- c. Student Agreement
- d. Student Medical Questionnaire
- e. Accident Report
- f. Instructor Registration
- g. Instructor Liability Release and Assumption of Risk
- h. Instructor Agreement
- i. Course Completion Form
- j. Certification Renewal Form
- k. Certification Card Replacement Form
- l. Instructor Evaluation Form
- m. Instructor Standards Agreement Form

- n. Instructor Renewal Documents
- o. Membership Registration

2. GUE Course Training Standards and Procedures

2.1 Recreational Diver Curriculum

2.1.1 Discover Diving

2.1.1.1 Program outcomes

GUE's Discover Diving program is designed as an introduction for individuals with no previous scuba diving experience. This program does not result in certification but can serve as an introduction to the Recreational Supervised Diver course or as a standalone experience. Completion of this program does not qualify the participants to engage in recreational diving.

2.1.1.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Discover Diving program must:

- a. Submit a completed Discover Diving Registration Form to their instructor.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Be included in an insurance program that specifically covers diving emergencies
- d. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- e. Be a minimum of 14 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to the instructor when the participant is a minor.

2.1.1.3 Program Content

The Discover Diving program is normally conducted over one day. It requires a minimum of one in-water session and at least four hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills, and in-water work. Optional open water dives can be conducted at the instructor's discretion.

Activities in confined and open water may be conducted separately or combined, with skills initially introduced in shallow water before participants are taken into deeper water.

2.1.1.4 Discover Diving Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 4:1 during land drills or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 2:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Can be run with one trainee.
- c. All in-water activities must be directly supervised by the GUE instructor who is solely responsible for determining a participant's capacity to participate in open water diving.
- d. During open water dives, the instructor must not engage in any activity other than the direct supervision of the participants.
- e. All in-water activities must be conducted in daylight conditions.
- f. All in-water skills must be introduced and practiced in confined water shallow enough for the participant to stand in, before progressing to deeper water. When water shallow enough to stand in is not available, the skills may be introduced and practiced from a

- device such as a descent line, bar, ladder, or platform. In such a scenario, the in-water ratio is reduced to 1:1 and the skills introduction must not be conducted deeper than 6 ft/2 m.
- g. Maximum depth of 30 ft/9 m.
 - h. No overhead diving.
 - i. All dives must be within minimum decompression limits (MDLs); i.e., no required stops.

2.1.1.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study package provided by GUE via the Discover Diving instructor.

2.1.1.6 Academic Topics

- a. Overview of scuba diving and GUE organization
- b. Basic diving physics with emphasis on dive safety
 - i. Breathing underwater
 - ii. Equalization underwater
 - iii. Buoyancy and trim; ascending, descending, and moving underwater
 - iv. Underwater communication
 - v. Identification of local environmental hazards, e.g., marine life
- c. Overview and use of scuba diving equipment
- d. Importance of additional dive training
- e. Value of training with GUE

2.1.1.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Equipment fit and function
- b. Gas analysis
- c. Basic 5 scuba skills #1, #2, and #4
- d. Long hose donation to trainee performed by instructor where the trainee is the receiver
- e. SPG check

2.1.1.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

Students must be able to demonstrate capacity in the following skills with each skill practiced in confined water before it is attempted in an open water setting.

2.1.1.8.1 Surface Skills

- a. Regulator breathing practice
- b. Basic 5 scuba skills #1, #2, and #4
- c. Long hose donation to trainee performed by instructor
- d. Buoyancy compensator (BC) operation practice

2.1.1.8.2 Underwater Skills

- a. Safe descent
- b. Buoyancy and trim practice
- c. Propulsion practice

- d. Basic 5 scuba skills #1, #2, and #4
- e. Long hose donation to trainee performed by instructor
- f. SPG check
- g. Safe ascent

2.1.1.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE single tank configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), excluding:

- a. Wrist-mounted compass
- b. At least one cutting device
- c. Wetnotes
- d. At least one surface marker buoy (SMB) with spool per diver

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.1.2 Recreational Supervised Diver

2.1.2.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Recreational Supervised Diver course is designed to provide students with sufficient knowledge, skill, and experience to dive in open water environments under the direct supervision of a GUE Recreational Dive Leader, a GUE Recreational Instructor Assistant, or a GUE instructor. Certified Recreational Supervised Divers may be able to count this training toward completion of Recreational Diver Level 1 if they wish to dive without leadership supervision.

Upon fulfilling all minimum training requirements, the Recreational Supervised Diver will be qualified to:

- a. Dive to a maximum depth of 40 ft/12 m
- b. Dive in a team with at least one of the following:
 - i. A GUE Recreational Dive Leader, who may dive with one Recreational Supervised Diver
 - ii. A GUE Recreational Instructor Assistant, who may dive with two Recreational Supervised Divers
 - iii. A GUE instructor, who may dive with three Recreational Supervised Divers
- c. Dive within minimum decompression limits (MDLs), i.e., no required stops
- d. Dive with appropriate surface support (e.g. access to EMS, infrastructure allowing for support in case of emergency)
- e. Dive in conditions equal to or better than those in which they were trained
- f. Use nitrox 32 under direct supervision of a GUE Recreational Dive Leader, GUE Recreational Instructor Assistant, or GUE instructor

2.1.2.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Recreational Supervised Diver course must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Be included in an insurance program that specifically covers diving emergencies.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 14 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.

2.1.2.3 Course Content

The Recreational Supervised Diver course is normally conducted over three days. It requires a minimum of eight confined water sessions, two open water dives, and at least twenty-four hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills, and in-water work.

2.1.2.4 Recreational Supervised Diver Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 3:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Can be run with one trainee
- c. During open water dives, the instructor must not engage in any activities other than direct supervision of the participants.
- d. All in-water activities must be conducted in daylight conditions
- e. Maximum depth of 40 ft/12 m
- f. No overhead diving
- g. All dives must be within minimum decompression limits (MDLs), i.e., no required stops.

2.1.2.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study package received via online download after GUE course application.

2.1.2.6 Academic Topics

- a. GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, training requirements)
- b. Basic diving physics supporting knowledge and ability to safely manage:
 - i. Breathing underwater
 - ii. Equalization and avoidance of barotraumas, including DCI
 - iii. Buoyancy, trim and balance; ascending, descending, and underwater propulsion
 - iv. Physical and mental stress while diving
- c. Introduction to decompression sickness
- d. Scuba diving equipment overview and operation
- e. Basic planning, including breathing gas management, dive preparation and pre-dive sequence.
- f. Basic understanding of nitrox diving and importance of gas analysis

- g. Team diving and underwater communication
- h. Environmental considerations while diving
- i. Conservation-minded diving techniques

2.1.2.7 Land Drills and Topics

The following land drills must be used to familiarize students with important skills before they are practiced underwater.

- a. Equipment fit, assembly and disassembly, functionality checks
- b. Propulsion and maneuvering techniques
- c. Gas analysis
- d. GUE EDGE and pre-dive checks
- e. Basic 5 scuba skills
- f. SPG check
- g. S-drill
- h. Connecting and disconnecting LP inflation hose of BC (and drysuit, if used)
- i. Oral inflation of BC

2.1.2.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

Students must demonstrate competence in the following skills to be certified as GUE Recreational Supervised Diver:

- a. Must be able to swim at least 300 yds/275 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- b. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 50 ft/15 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- c. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving techniques, including pre-dive preparations, in-water activity, and post-dive assessments.
- d. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and a concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner needs.
- e. Efficiently demonstrate how to donate gas to an out-of-gas diver followed by an ascent to the surface.
- f. Comfortably demonstrate at least two propulsion techniques that would be appropriate in delicate and/or silty environments.
- g. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- h. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 30 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 5 ft/1.5 m of a target depth.
- i. Demonstrate proficiency in underwater communication.
- j. Demonstrate basic equipment proficiency and an understanding of the GUE equipment configuration.
- k. Demonstrate aptitude in the following open water skills: mask clearing, mask removal and replacement, regulator removal and exchange, long hose deployment.
- l. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.

- m. Demonstrate comprehension of the components necessary for a successful backward kick.

2.1.2.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), excluding:

- a. Wrist-mounted compass
- b. At least one cutting device (unless required by local regulations)
- c. At least one surface marker buoy (SMB) with spool per diver

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.1.3 Recreational Diver Level 1

2.1.3.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Recreational Diver Level 1 course is designed to provide non-divers with sufficient knowledge, skill, and experience to dive within the limits of similarly qualified scuba divers. Qualified GUE Recreational Diver Level 1 divers are able to dive under conditions equal to or better than those in which they were trained with appropriate surface support and with individuals holding the same or a higher level of certification while using nitrox 32 or air within minimum decompression limits.

2.1.3.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Recreational Diver Level 1 course must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Be included in an insurance program that specifically covers diving emergencies.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 14 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.

2.1.3.3 Course Content

The Recreational Diver Level 1 course is normally conducted over five days. It requires a minimum of ten confined water sessions, six open water dives, and at least forty hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills, and in-water work.

At the instructor's discretion, Recreational Supervised Divers may have a portion of their training counted toward Recreational Diver Level 1 qualification if they wish to dive without leadership supervision.

2.1.3.4 Recreational Diver Level 1 Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1 during land drills or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 3:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Can be run with one trainee
- c. All in-water activities must be conducted in daylight conditions
- d. All in-water drills must be introduced in confined water
- e. Maximum depth of 70 ft/21 m
- f. No overhead diving
- g. All dives must be within minimum decompression limits (MDLs), i.e., no required stops

2.1.3.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study package received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.1.3.6 Academic Topics

- a. GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, training requirements)
- b. Diving physics supporting knowledge and ability to safely manage:
 - i. Breathing underwater
 - ii. Equalization and avoidance of barotraumas including DCI
 - iii. Buoyancy, trim and balance; ascending, descending and underwater propulsion
- c. Physical and mental stress while diving
- d. Scuba diving equipment overview and operation
- e. Breathing gas dynamics
- f. Decompression theory, including decompression sickness (DCS, AGE)
- g. Planning, including gas management, dive preparation, and pre-dive evaluation
- h. Nitrox diving and importance of gas analysis
- i. Team diving and underwater communication
- j. Environmental considerations while diving
- k. Conservation-minded diving technique

2.1.3.7 Land Drills and Topics

The following land drills must be used to familiarize students with important skills before they are practiced underwater.

- a. Equipment fit, assembly and disassembly
- b. Propulsion and maneuvering techniques
- c. Gas analysis
- d. GUE EDGE and pre-dive checks
- e. Basic 5 scuba skills
- f. SPG check
- g. S-drill
- h. Valve operation

- i. Connect and disconnect LP inflation hose from BC (and drysuit, if used)
- j. Oral inflation of BC
- k. SMB deployment utilizing a spool
- l. Basic compass navigation
- m. Basic 5 rescue skills

2.1.3.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

Students must demonstrate competence in the following skills to be certified as a GUE Recreational Diver Level 1 diver:

- a. Must be able to swim at least 300 yds/275 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- b. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 50 ft/15 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- c. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving techniques, including pre-dive preparations, in-water activity, and post-dive assessments.
- d. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and a concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner needs.
- e. Efficiently and comfortably demonstrate how to donate gas to an out-of-gas diver followed by an ascent to the surface utilizing minimum decompression ascent profile.
- f. Comfortably demonstrate at least two propulsion techniques that would be appropriate in delicate and/or silty environments.
- g. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- h. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 30 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 5 ft/1.5 m of a target depth.
- i. Demonstrate proficiency in underwater communication.
- j. Demonstrate basic equipment proficiency and an understanding of the GUE equipment configuration.
- k. Demonstrate aptitude in the following open water skills: mask clearing, mask removal and replacement, regulator removal and exchange, long hose deployment.
- l. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.
- m. Demonstrate comprehension of the components necessary for a successful backward kick.
- n. Demonstrate proficiency in basic underwater compass navigation.
- o. Demonstrate proficiency in the Basic 5 rescue skills.
- p. Demonstrate reasonable proficiency in the ability to deploy a surface marker buoy while utilizing a spool.

2.1.3.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#).

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.1.4 Recreational Diver Level 2

2.1.4.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Recreational Diver Level 2 course is a no-decompression course structured to prepare divers for deeper recreational diving while using sound equipment, efficient diving skills, and advanced breathing mixtures. Course outcomes include, but are not limited to: skill cultivation and refinement, familiarity with the theory and practice of decompression, safe use of nitrox and triox for extended bottom times, correct ascent procedures, diver rescue (on land, at the surface, and underwater), emergency management, and the use of helium to minimize narcosis, CO₂, gas density, and post-dive "nitrogen stress".

2.1.4.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Recreational Diver Level 2 course must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, a Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 16 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Have passed the GUE Recreational Level 1 Diver course or the GUE Fundamentals course.
- h. Have completed at least 25 non-training dives beyond GUE Recreational Diver Level 1 or GUE Fundamentals certification.

2.1.4.3 Course Content

The Recreational Diver Level 2 course is normally conducted over five days. It requires a minimum of eleven dives (including a dive in reduced ambient light conditions) and at least forty hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills, and in-water work.

The GUE Recreational Diver Level 2 certification can also be obtained by successfully completing the GUE Rescue Primer, the GUE Navigation Primer, and the GUE Triox Primer.

2.1.4.4 Recreational Diver Level 2 Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 3:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Maximum depth of 100 ft/30 m.
- c. No overhead diving.
- d. All dives must be within minimum decompression limits (MDLs), i.e., no required stops.

- e. Students must have completed BLS training from a recognized training agency within the twenty-four months prior to certification.

2.1.4.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.1.4.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Applied diving physics
- c. Applied diving physiology
- d. Situational awareness
- e. Breathing gas overview
- f. Dive planning, gas management, and logistics
- g. Introduction to triox
- h. Decompression overview and minimum decompression procedures
- i. Diving safety and accident prevention
- j. Rescue diving techniques, emergency management, and diving-related BLS skills

2.1.4.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. GUE EDGE and pre-dive drill sequence, including gas analysis
- b. Rescue skills, including managing a rescue scenario, swimming and non-swimming assists, egression techniques, controlling a distressed diver, underwater search patterns, managing and surfacing an unconscious diver
- c. Navigation skills using a compass, guideline, and natural navigation
- d. Light and touch communication protocols

2.1.4.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Must be able to swim at least 300 yds/275 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- b. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 50 ft/15 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- c. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving practices, including pre-dive preparation, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- d. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and a concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner requirements.
- e. Efficiently and comfortably demonstrate how to donate gas to an out-of-gas diver in multiple gas-sharing scenarios.
- f. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- g. Demonstrate proficiency in surface marker buoy deployment.
- h. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 30 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 5 ft/1.5 m of a target depth.

- i. Demonstrate three propulsion techniques, including comprehension of the components necessary for a successful backward kick.
- j. Demonstrate proficiency during gas-sharing scenarios, including a direct ascent while managing minimum decompression obligations and the use of a surface marker buoy and spool.
- k. Demonstrate effective proficiency with proper ascents and descents, including the implementation of variable ascent rates.
- l. Demonstrate effective navigation using a compass and while managing a spool as a guideline underwater.
- m. Demonstrate proficiency in fundamental diver rescue techniques, including assessing a rescue scene, supporting and recovering distressed, tired, and unconscious divers at the surface, recovering an unconscious diver to the surface, and a range of simulated diving incidents.
- n. Demonstrate basic equipment proficiency and an understanding of the GUE equipment configuration.

2.1.4.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), plus:

- a. Drysuit inflation system independent from back gas cylinders (if using a drysuit)

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.1.5 Recreational Diver Level 3

2.1.5.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Recreational Diver Level 3 course is a limited decompression course structured to prepare divers for deeper recreational diving while using sound equipment, efficient diving skills, and advanced breathing mixtures. Course outcomes include, but are not limited to: skill cultivation and refinement, knowledge of relevant physics and physiology, familiarity with the theory and practice of decompression, correct ascent procedures, the use of a double tank configuration, the use of nitrox for decompression, the use of helium-enriched breathing mixes (30/30 and 21/35) to minimize narcosis, CO₂, gas density, and post-dive "nitrogen stress," and the use of a single decompression cylinder for stage decompression techniques.

2.1.5.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Recreational Diver Level 3 course must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, a Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.

- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 18 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Have passed GUE Recreational Diver Level 2 or GUE Fundamentals.
- h. Have completed the GUE Doubles Primer or be proficient in doubles with at least 25 experience dives.
- i. Have a minimum of 75 non-training dives and have at least 25 logged dives beyond GUE Fundamentals or GUE Recreational Diver Level 2.

2.1.5.3 Course Content

The Recreational Diver Level 3 course is normally conducted over five days. It requires a minimum of eight dives (two of which are trimix experience dives) and at least forty hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills and in-water work.

2.1.5.4 Recreational Diver Level 3 Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 3:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Maximum depth of 130 ft/39 m.
- c. No overhead diving.
- d. Dives must not be planned to incur more than 15 minutes of unadjusted decompression time, as established by GUE's DecoPlanner.

2.1.5.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.1.5.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Applied diving physics
- c. Applied diving physiology
- d. Introduction to normoxic trimix
- e. Narcosis
- f. Gas density
- g. Carbon dioxide
- h. Oxygen limitations
- i. Dive planning, gas management, and logistics
- j. Decompression dynamics and theory
- k. Decompression practices while using nitrox
- l. Decompression planning using decompression tables and DecoPlanner
- m. Decompression illness
- n. GUE equipment configuration

2.1.5.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Dive team order and protocols
- b. GUE EDGE and pre-dive drill sequence, including gas analysis
- c. Valve management including failure procedures
- d. Descent, ascent, and decompression protocols
- e. Gas-switch procedure
- f. Unconscious/toxing diver rescue

2.1.5.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Must be able to swim at least 300 yds/275 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- b. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 50 ft/15 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- c. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving practices, including pre-dive preparation, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- d. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and a concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner requirements.
- e. Demonstrate proficiency in surface marker buoy deployment.
- f. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 30 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 5 ft/1.5 m of a target depth.
- g. Efficiently and comfortably demonstrate how to donate gas to an out-of-gas diver in multiple gas-sharing scenarios.
- h. Demonstrate three propulsion techniques, including comprehension of the components necessary for a successful backward kick.
- i. Demonstrate proficiency during gas sharing scenarios, including a gas sharing horizontal swim and a direct ascent while managing decompression obligations.
- j. Demonstrate proficiency in the use of touch contact communication during out-of-gas situations.
- k. Demonstrate proficiency in the use of the primary light including passive and active communication.
- l. Demonstrate proficiency with a single decompression cylinder.
- m. Demonstrate proficiency with valve management by conducting a GUE valve drill.
- n. Demonstrate proficiency with proper ascents and descents, utilizing variable ascent rates and safe gas switching procedures.
- o. Demonstrate proficiency in surfacing an unconscious diver from depth.
- p. Demonstrate basic equipment proficiency and an understanding of the GUE equipment configuration.

2.1.5.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), plus:

- a. GUE double tank configuration
- b. Primary and backup lights

- c. One decompression stage with stage regulator
- d. Backup mask
- e. Drysuit inflation system independent from back gas cylinders (if using a drysuit)

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.2 Foundational Diver Curriculum

2.2.1 GUE Fundamentals Part 1

2.2.1.1 Course Outcomes

The GUE Fundamentals Part 1 course is designed to cultivate the foundational skills required by sound diving practice. Included among its course outcomes are: to provide the recreational diver, who does not desire diver training beyond the recreational level, with an opportunity to advance their basic diving skills and to provide non-GUE trained divers with a gateway into GUE training.

The GUE Fundamentals Part 1 course is a non-certification course; only successful course completion is required for the student to be permitted to progress to GUE Fundamentals Part 2.

2.2.1.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for the GUE Fundamentals Part 1 program must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration form, a Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 16 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Be certified, at minimum, as an autonomous entry-level scuba diver (or equivalent) from a recognized training agency.

2.2.1.3 Course Content

The GUE Fundamentals Part 1 course is normally conducted over two days. It requires a minimum of two dives and at least fourteen hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills, and in-water work.

2.2.1.4 GUE Fundamentals Part 1 Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 8:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 4:1 during any in-water training.

- b. Can be run with one trainee
- c. Maximum depth 60 ft/18 m
- d. No overhead diving
- e. All dives must be within minimum decompression limits (MDLs), i.e., no required stops.

2.2.1.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.2.1.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Building a solid skill base: buoyancy, trim, balance, and propulsion
- c. Fundamental diving skills
- d. Streamlining and equipment configuration
- e. Situational awareness
- f. The GUE system

2.2.1.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Equipment fit, assembly and disassembly
- b. Propulsion and maneuvering techniques
- c. Gas analysis
- d. GUE EDGE and pre-dive checks
- e. Basic 5 scuba skills
- f. Dive team protocols

2.2.1.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Demonstrate safe diving practices, including pre-dive preparation, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- b. Demonstrate reasonable buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 30 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 5 ft/1.5 m of a target depth.
- c. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- d. Demonstrate ability to use underwater communication.
- e. Demonstrate the following open water skills: mask clearing, mask removal and replacement, regulator removal and exchange, long hose deployment.
- f. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.
- g. Demonstrate basic equipment awareness and an understanding of the GUE equipment configuration.
- h. Demonstrate three propulsion techniques, including comprehension of the components necessary for a successful backward kick.

2.2.1.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#).

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with their GUE instructor to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.2.2 GUE Fundamentals Part 2

2.2.2.1 Course Outcomes

The GUE Fundamentals Part 2 course is designed to continue to cultivate the essential skills required for sound diving practice. Included among its course outcomes are: to provide the recreational diver, who does not desire diver training beyond the recreational level, with an opportunity to advance their basic diving skills; to train divers in the theory and practice of nitrox; to provide those divers who aspire to more advanced diver training with the tools that will contribute to a greater likelihood of success; and to provide divers with a gateway into advanced GUE training.

2.2.2.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a GUE Fundamentals Part 2 course must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 16 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Have successfully completed GUE Fundamentals Part 1 or have passed GUE Recreational Diver Level 1.

2.2.2.3 Course Content

The GUE Fundamentals Part 2 course is normally conducted over 3 days. It requires a minimum of 4 dives and at least twenty hours of instruction encompassing classroom lectures, land drills and in-water work.

2.2.2.4 GUE Fundamentals Part 2 Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 8:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 4:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Two dives must be at a depth of at least 25 ft/8 m
- c. Maximum depth 60 ft/18 m
- d. No overhead diving
- e. All dives must be within minimum decompression limits (MDLs), i.e., no required stops.
- f. Can be combined with GUE Triox Primer.

2.2.2.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.2.2.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Situational awareness
- c. Dive planning and gas management
- d. Breathing gas overview
- e. Nitrox diving
- f. Decompression overview and minimum decompression procedures
- g. Diving safety and accident prevention
- h. The GUE system

2.2.2.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Dive team protocols
- b. S-drill and valve drill
- c. Surface marker buoy (SMB) deployment
- d. Diver rescue techniques (for Technical rating only)

2.2.2.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

2.2.2.8 (A) Required Dive Skills and Drills for a GUE Fundamentals - Recreational Rating

- a. Must be able to swim at least 300 yds/275 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- b. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 50 ft/15 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- c. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving practices, including pre-dive preparation, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- d. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and a concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner requirements.
- e. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 30 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 5 ft/1.5 m of a target depth.
- f. Demonstrate proficiency in surface marker buoy deployment while using a spool.
- g. Efficiently and comfortably demonstrate how to donate gas to an out-of-gas diver in multiple gas-sharing scenarios.
- h. Efficiently and comfortably demonstrate how to donate gas to an out-of-gas diver followed by an ascent to the surface utilizing minimum decompression.
- i. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- j. Demonstrate proficiency in underwater communication.
- k. Demonstrate a comfortable demeanor while swimming without a mask in touch contact.
- l. Demonstrate aptitude in the following open water skills: mask clearing, mask removal and replacement, regulator removal and exchange, long hose deployment.

- m. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.
- n. Demonstrate proficiency in executing a valve drill.
- o. Demonstrate basic equipment proficiency and an understanding of the GUE equipment configuration.
- p. Demonstrate three propulsion techniques, including comprehension of the components necessary for a successful backward kick.

2.2.2.8 (B) Required Dive Skills and Drills for a GUE Fundamentals - Technical Rating

This rating is required for those trainees seeking entry into GUE's Cave and Technical courses.

- a. Must be able to swim at least 300 yds/275 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- b. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 50 ft/15 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- c. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving practices, including pre-dive preparation, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- d. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and a concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner requirements.
- e. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 20 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 3 ft/1 m of a target depth.
- f. Demonstrate proficiency in the ability to deploy a surface marker buoy while using a spool.
- g. Efficiently and comfortably demonstrate how to donate gas to an out-of-gas diver in multiple gas-sharing scenarios.
- h. Efficiently and comfortably demonstrate how to donate gas to an out-of-gas diver followed by an ascent to the surface utilizing minimum decompression.
- i. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- j. Demonstrate proficiency in underwater communication.
- k. Demonstrate a comfortable demeanor while swimming without a mask in touch contact.
- l. Demonstrate aptitude in the following open water skills: mask clearing, mask removal and replacement, regulator removal and exchange, long hose deployment.
- m. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.
- n. Demonstrate an efficient valve drill with double tanks.
- o. Demonstrate basic equipment proficiency and an understanding of the GUE equipment configuration.
- p. Demonstrate proficiency in four propulsion techniques that would be appropriate in delicate and/or silty environments, including competence in the backward kick and helicopter turns.
- q. Demonstrate proficiency with a primary light by using it during all skills except SMB deployment.
- r. Demonstrate diver rescue techniques, including effective management of an unconscious diver underwater.

2.2.2.9 Equipment Requirements

2.2.2.9 (A) Equipment Requirements for a GUE Fundamentals - Recreational Rating

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#).

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with their GUE instructor to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.2.2.9 (B) Equipment Requirements for a GUE Fundamentals - Technical Rating

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), plus:

- a. GUE double tank configuration
- b. Primary and backup lights
- c. Backup mask

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.2.3 GUE Fundamentals

2.2.3.1 Course Outcomes

The GUE Fundamentals course is designed to cultivate the essential skills required for sound diving practice. Included among its course outcomes are: to provide the recreational diver, who does not desire diver training beyond the recreational level, with an opportunity to advance their basic diving skills; to train divers in the theory and practice of nitrox; to provide divers with aspirations for more advanced diver training with the tools that will contribute to a greater likelihood of success; and to provide non-GUE trained divers with a gateway into GUE training.

2.2.3.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a GUE Fundamentals course must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 16 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Be certified, at minimum, as an autonomous entry-level scuba diver (or equivalent) from a recognized training agency.

2.2.3.3 Course Content

The GUE Fundamentals course is normally conducted over four days. It requires a minimum of six dives and at least thirty hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills and in-water work.

2.2.3.4 GUE Fundamentals Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 8:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 4:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Two dives must be at a depth of at least 25 ft/8 m
- c. Maximum depth of 60 ft/18 m
- d. No overhead diving
- e. All dives must be within minimum decompression limits (MDLs), i.e., no required stops.
- f. Can be combined with GUE Triox Primer.

2.2.3.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.2.3.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Building a solid skill base: buoyancy, trim, balance, and propulsion
- c. Fundamental diving skills
- d. Streamlining and equipment configuration
- e. Situational awareness
- f. Dive planning and gas management
- g. Breathing gas overview
- h. Nitrox diving
- i. Decompression overview and minimum decompression procedures
- j. Diving safety and accident prevention
- k. The GUE system

2.2.3.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Equipment fit, assembly and disassembly
- b. Propulsion and maneuvering techniques
- c. Gas analysis
- d. GUE EDGE and pre-dive checks
- e. Basic 5 scuba skills
- f. Dive team protocols
- g. S-drill and valve drill
- h. Surface marker buoy (SMB) deployment
- i. Diver rescue techniques (for Technical rating only)

2.2.3.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

2.2.3.8 (A) Required Dive Skills and Drills for a GUE Fundamentals - Recreational Rating

- a. Must be able to swim at least 300 yds/275 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- b. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 50 ft/15 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- c. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving practices, including pre-dive preparation, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- d. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and a concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner requirements.
- e. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 30 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 5 ft/1.5 m of a target depth.
- f. Demonstrate proficiency in surface marker buoy deployment while using a spool.
- g. Efficiently and comfortably demonstrate how to donate gas to an out-of-gas diver in multiple gas-sharing scenarios.
- h. Efficiently and comfortably demonstrate how to donate gas to an out-of-gas diver followed by an ascent to the surface utilizing minimum decompression.
- i. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- j. Demonstrate proficiency in underwater communication.
- k. Demonstrate a comfortable demeanor while swimming without a mask in touch contact.
- l. Demonstrate aptitude in the following open water skills: mask clearing, mask removal and replacement, regulator removal and exchange, long hose deployment.
- m. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.
- n. Demonstrate proficiency in executing a valve drill.
- o. Demonstrate basic equipment proficiency and an understanding of the GUE equipment configuration.
- p. Demonstrate three propulsion techniques, including comprehension of the components necessary for a successful backward kick.

2.2.3.8 (B) Required Dive Skills and Drills for a GUE Fundamentals - Technical Rating

This rating is required for those trainees seeking entry into GUE's Cave and Technical courses.

- a. Must be able to swim at least 300 yds/275 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- b. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 50 ft/15 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- c. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving practices, including pre-dive preparation, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- d. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and a concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner requirements.
- e. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 20 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 3 ft/1 m of a target depth.

- f. Demonstrate proficiency in the ability to deploy a surface marker buoy while using a spool.
- g. Efficiently and comfortably demonstrate how to donate gas to an out-of-gas diver in multiple gas sharing scenarios.
- h. Efficiently and comfortably demonstrate how to donate gas to an out-of-gas diver followed by an ascent to the surface utilizing minimum decompression.
- i. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- j. Demonstrate proficiency in underwater communication.
- k. Demonstrate a comfortable demeanor while swimming without a mask in touch contact.
- l. Demonstrate aptitude in the following open water skills: mask clearing, mask removal and replacement, regulator removal and exchange, long hose deployment.
- m. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.
- n. Demonstrate an efficient valve drill with double tanks.
- o. Demonstrate basic equipment proficiency and an understanding of the GUE equipment configuration.
- p. Demonstrate proficiency in four propulsion techniques that would be appropriate in delicate and/or silty environments, including competence in the backward kick and helicopter turns.
- q. Demonstrate proficiency with a primary light by using it during all skills except SMB deployment.
- r. Demonstrate diver rescue techniques, including effective management of an unconscious diver underwater.

2.2.3.9 Equipment Requirements

2.2.3.9 (A) Equipment Requirements for a GUE Fundamentals - Recreational Rating

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#).

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with their GUE instructor to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.2.3.9 (B) Equipment Requirements for a GUE Fundamentals - Technical Rating

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), plus:

- a. GUE double tank configuration
- b. Primary and backup lights
- c. Backup mask

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.2.4 Rescue Primer

2.2.4.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Rescue Primer is a course designed to teach divers basic rescue techniques relevant to scuba diving emergencies. Course outcomes include, but are not limited to: assisting a distressed diver on the surface; assisting a distressed diver underwater, including unconscious diver recovery; missing diver protocols; surface management of a diving emergency; and diving BLS skills for DCI.

This course is recommended to be taken after the Navigation Primer, as it requires competence in navigational skills.

2.2.4.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Rescue Primer must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 16 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Have passed the GUE Recreational Diver Level 1 course or the GUE Fundamentals.
- h. Have completed at least 25 non-training dives beyond GUE Recreational Diver Level 1 or GUE Fundamentals certification.

2.2.4.3 Course Content

The Rescue Primer is normally conducted over two days. It requires a minimum of four in-water sessions (including three dives) and at least sixteen hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills, and in-water work.

2.2.4.4 Rescue Primer Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 3:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Maximum depth of 60 ft/18 m.
- c. No overhead diving.
- d. All dives must be within minimum decompression limits (MDLs), i.e., no required stops.
- e. Students must have completed BLS training from a recognized training agency within the twenty-four months prior to certification.

2.2.4.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.2.4.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Diving safety, accident dynamics and prevention
- c. Scuba diving rescue techniques
- d. Emergency management
- e. DCI and other diving related injuries
- f. Scuba diving related BLS skills

2.2.4.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Equipment fit, assembly and disassembly, GUE EDGE, and pre-dive checks
- b. Swimming and non-swimming surface assists
- c. Basic 5 rescue skills
- d. Egression techniques
- e. Controlling a distressed diver on surface and underwater
- f. Underwater search patterns
- g. Unconscious diver rescue

2.2.4.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Must be able to swim at least 300 yds/275 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- b. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 50 ft/15 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- c. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving practices, including pre-dive preparation, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- d. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and a concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner requirements.
- e. Efficiently and comfortably demonstrate how to donate gas to an out-of-gas diver in multiple gas-sharing scenarios.
- f. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- g. Demonstrate proficiency in surface marker buoy deployment.
- h. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 30 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 5 ft/1.5 m of a target depth.
- i. Demonstrate three propulsion techniques. Students, including comprehension of the components necessary for a successful backward kick.
- j. Demonstrate effective proficiency with proper ascents and descents, including the implementation of variable ascent rates
- k. Demonstrate effective navigation using a compass and managing a spool as a guideline underwater.

- l. Demonstrate proficiency in fundamental diver rescue techniques, including assessing a rescue scene, supporting and recovering distressed, tired, and unconscious divers at the surface, recovering an unconscious diver to the surface, and a range of simulated diving incidents.
- m. Demonstrate basic equipment proficiency and an understanding of the GUE equipment configuration.

2.2.4.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#).

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.2.5 Navigation Primer

2.2.5.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Navigation Primer is a course designed to teach divers basic underwater navigation techniques. Course outcomes include, but are not limited to: compass use and navigation (simple and complex), natural navigation, and managing a spool as a guideline underwater.

This course is recommended to be taken before the Rescue Primer, as the latter requires competence in navigational skills.

2.2.5.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Navigation Primer must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 16 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Have passed the GUE Recreational Diver Level 1 course or the GUE Fundamentals course.
- h. Have completed at least 25 non-training dives beyond GUE Recreational Diver Level 1 or GUE Fundamentals certification.

2.2.5.3 Course Content

The Navigation Primer is normally conducted over two days. It requires a minimum of 3 dives (including a dive in reduced ambient light conditions) and at least 12 hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills, and in-water work.

2.2.5.4 Navigation Primer Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 3:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Maximum depth of 60 ft/18 m.
- c. No overhead diving.
- d. All dives must be within minimum decompression limits (MDLs), i.e., no required stops

2.2.5.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.2.5.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Underwater navigation and situational awareness
- c. Natural navigation
- d. Compass, including types, components, and basics of use
- e. Guideline use in navigational and search patterns

2.2.5.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Equipment fit, assembly and disassembly, GUE EDGE, and pre-dive checks
- b. Compass navigation, including simple and complex and multiple-bearings navigation
- c. Guideline use and search patterns

2.2.5.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Must be able to swim at least 300 yds/275 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- b. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 50 ft/15 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- c. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving practices, including pre-dive preparation, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- d. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and a concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner requirements.
- e. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- f. Demonstrate proficiency in surface marker buoy deployment.
- g. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 30 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 5 ft/1.5 m of a target depth.
- h. Demonstrate three propulsion techniques, including comprehension of the components necessary for a successful backward kick.
- i. Demonstrate effective proficiency with proper ascents and descents, including the implementation of variable ascent rates.
- j. Demonstrate effective navigation using a compass, including simple and complex navigation and multiple-bearings navigation).
- k. Demonstrate effective use of a spool as a guideline underwater.

- l. Demonstrate effective navigation using natural references.
- m. Demonstrate basic equipment proficiency and an understanding of the GUE equipment configuration.

2.2.5.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#).

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.2.6 Triox Primer

2.2.6.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Triox Primer is a course designed to teach divers the use of triox 30/30 as a GUE standard gas in recreational diving. Course outcomes include, but are not limited to: skill cultivation and refinement, familiarity with the theory and practice of decompression, correct ascent procedures, and the use of Helium to minimize narcosis, CO₂, gas density, and post-dive "nitrogen stress".

2.2.6.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Triox Primer must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 16 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Have passed the GUE Recreational Diver Level 1 course or have completed all GUE Fundamentals course components at the "recreational" level.
- h. Have completed at least 25 non-training dives beyond GUE Recreational Diver Level 1 certification.

2.2.6.3 Course Content

The Triox Primer is normally conducted over two days. It requires a minimum of four dives (including two experience dives using triox 30/30) and at least twelve hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills, and in-water work.

If combined with a GUE Fundamentals course, and if the trainees are already certified to dive to 100 ft/30 m from a recognized training agency, the Triox Primer can be conducted over one additional day. It then requires a minimum of two additional dives and at least ten additional hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills, and in-water work.

2.2.6.4 Triox Primer Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 3:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Maximum depth of 100 ft/30 m.
- c. No overhead diving.
- d. All dives must be within minimum decompression limits (MDLs), i.e., no required stops.
- e. Can be combined with GUE Fundamentals or GUE Fundamentals Part 2.

2.2.6.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.2.6.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Breathing gas overview
- c. Dive planning, gas management, and logistics
- d. Introduction to triox
- e. Decompression overview and minimum decompression procedures

2.2.6.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Equipment fit, assembly and disassembly, GUE EDGE, and pre-dive checks
- b. Gas analysis
- c. Ascent drill

2.2.6.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Must be able to swim at least 300 yds/275 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- b. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 50 ft/15 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- c. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving practices, including pre-dive preparation, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- d. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and a concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner requirements.
- e. Efficiently and comfortably demonstrate how to donate gas to an out-of-gas diver in multiple gas-sharing scenarios.
- f. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- g. Demonstrate proficiency in surface marker buoy deployment.
- h. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 30 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 5 ft/1.5 m of a target depth.
- i. Demonstrate three propulsion techniques, including comprehension of the components necessary for a successful backward kick.

- j. Demonstrate proficiency during gas-sharing scenarios, including a direct ascent while managing minimum decompression obligations and the use of a surface marker buoy and spool.
- k. Demonstrate effective proficiency with proper ascents and descents, including the implementation of variable ascent rates.
- l. Demonstrate basic equipment proficiency and an understanding of the GUE equipment configuration.

2.2.6.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), plus:

- a. Drysuit inflation system independent from back gas cylinders (if using a drysuit)

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.2.7 Doubles Primer

2.2.7.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Doubles Primer is a non-certification course designed to teach divers how to safely and comfortably dive a double tank configuration using proper equipment and techniques. Course outcomes include, but are not limited to: buoyancy and trim practice and refinement, familiarity with the theory and use of double tank configuration, GUE equipment configuration, and valve management.

2.2.7.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Doubles Primer must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 16 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Be certified, at minimum, as an autonomous entry-level scuba diver (or equivalent) from a recognized training agency.

2.2.7.3 Course Content

The Doubles Primer is normally conducted over one day. It requires a minimum of two dives and at least eight hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills, and in-water work.

2.2.7.4 Doubles Primer Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 3:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Can be run with one trainee
- c. Maximum depth of 60 ft/18 m
- d. No overhead diving
- e. All dives must be within minimum decompression limits (MDLs), i.e., no required stops.

2.2.7.5 Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.2.7.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Double tank introduction, tanks/cylinders and bands, manifolds
- c. Regulators, depth gauges, pressure gauges, and hose routing
- d. Buoyancy and trim
- e. Pre-dive sequence and GUE EDGE
- f. Situational awareness

2.2.7.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Equipment fit and function, assembly and disassembly
- b. Gas analysis and labeling
- c. GUE EDGE and pre-dive sequence
- d. Basic 5 scuba skills
- e. Valve drill
- f. Dive team protocols

2.2.7.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving techniques, including pre-dive preparations, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- b. Demonstrate proficiency with required course equipment and an understanding of the GUE equipment configuration.
- c. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum 30 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 5 ft/1.5 m of the target depth.
- d. Demonstrate the basic skills required to manipulate each valve on the double-tank system.
- e. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of each valve in relation to the function of the regulators attached to the manifold.
- f. Demonstrate aptitude in the following open water skills: mask clearing, mask removal and replacement, regulator removal and exchange, long hose deployment.
- g. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.

- h. Comfortably demonstrate at least one propulsion technique that would be appropriate in delicate and/or silty environments.
- i. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.

2.2.7.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), plus:

- a. GUE double tank configuration
- b. Backup mask

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.2.8 Drysuit Primer

2.2.8.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Drysuit Primer is a non-certification course designed to prepare divers for drysuit diving using proper equipment and techniques. Course outcomes include, but are not limited to: buoyancy and trim practice and refinement; types, fitting, and use of drysuit, drysuit inflation system, and undergarments; cold water diving specifics; and basic failures related to drysuit diving.

2.2.8.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Drysuit Primer must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 16 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Be certified, at minimum, as an autonomous entry-level scuba diver (or equivalent) from a recognized training agency.

2.2.8.3 Course Content

The Drysuit Primer is normally conducted over one day. It requires a minimum of two dives and at least eight hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills, and in-water work.

2.2.8.4 Drysuit Primer Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1 during land drills or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 3:1 during any in-water training
- b. Can be run with one trainee

- c. Maximum depth of 60 ft/18 m
- d. No overhead diving
- e. All dives must be within minimum decompression limits (MDLs), i.e., no required stops.

2.2.8.5 Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.2.8.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. GUE equipment configuration
- c. Drysuit introduction and selection
- d. Undergarment selection
- e. Drysuit inflation system
- f. Coldwater equipment considerations, dive planning, and logistics
- g. Pre-dive sequence
- h. Situational awareness
- i. Trim and buoyancy
- j. Drysuit maintenance and field repairs

2.2.8.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Equipment fit and function, assembly and disassembly
- b. Gas analysis and labeling
- c. GUE EDGE and pre-dive sequence
- d. Dive team protocols and communication
- e. Underwater drysuit failure management

2.2.8.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving techniques, including pre-dive preparations, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- b. Demonstrate proficiency with required course equipment and an understanding of the GUE equipment configuration.
- c. Demonstrate the ability to connect and disconnect the drysuit inflation hose.
- d. Demonstrate the ability to manage a drysuit inflation valve that is stuck in the open position by disconnecting the inflation hose and dumping gas.
- e. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum 30 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 5 ft/1.5 m of the target depth.
- f. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.
- g. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- h. Demonstrate proficiency in underwater communication.

2.2.8.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), plus:

- a. Drysuit
- b. Drysuit inflation system independent from back gas cylinders (optional)

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.2.9 Diver Propulsion Vehicle Level 1

2.2.6.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Diver Propulsion Vehicle (DPV) Level 1 course is designed to introduce divers to the skills and knowledge required to safely use underwater propulsion vehicles in open water. Other course outcomes include: knowledge of the basic principles of DPV diving, dive planning, teamwork while using a DPV, environmental and conservation awareness, stress management, navigation, standard and emergency procedures, DPV maintenance and troubleshooting, and the potential hazards of diving with a DPV.

2.2.9.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a DPV 1 course must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 16 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Have passed the GUE Recreational Diver Level 1 course or the GUE Fundamentals course.
- h. Have a minimum of 75 non-training dives, 25 of which are beyond GUE certification.

2.2.9.3 Course Content

The Diver Propulsion Vehicle Level 1 course is normally conducted over three days. It requires a minimum of five dives and at least twenty-four hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills and in-water work.

2.2.9.4 Diver Propulsion Vehicle Level 1 Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 3:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Maximum depth of 100 ft/30 m or the limit of the student's certification, whichever is shallower.
- c. No overhead diving.

- d. All dives must be within minimum decompression limits (MDLs), i.e., no required stops.

2.2.9.5 Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.2.9.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Equipment considerations
- c. DPV components
- d. DPV maintenance
- e. Surface marker buoys and spools (for deco platforms)
- f. Dive and operational planning
- g. Team planning and procedures
- h. Gas planning, gas matching, and gas management
- i. Safety considerations while using a DPV
- j. Considerations for managing and stowing a DPV while not in use

2.2.9.7 Land Drills

- a. Proper position while using a DPV
- b. Runaway DPV
- c. Dive team order and protocols
- d. Basic navigation skills
- e. Pre-dive drills

2.2.9.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Must be able to swim at least 300 yds/275 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- b. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 50 ft/15 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- c. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving techniques, including pre-dive preparations, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- d. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner needs.
- e. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- f. Demonstrate proficiency in underwater communication while using a DPV.
- g. Demonstrate basic proficiency in managing the GUE equipment configuration.
- h. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.
- i. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 30 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 5 ft/1.5 m of a target depth.
- j. Demonstrate proficiency adjusting buoyancy while using a DPV.
- k. Demonstrate effective use of compass and navigation.
- l. Demonstrate ability to match speeds with team members.

- m. Demonstrate ability to tow a diver with a non-functional DPV.
- n. Demonstrate control while dealing with a runaway DPV.
- o. Demonstrate proper procedures for gas sharing and regulator switching as appropriate.
- p. Demonstrate proficiency in surface marker buoy deployment.
- q. Demonstrate familiarity with required course equipment.
- r. Demonstrate proficiency in gas sharing scenarios with a gas sharing event.
- s. Demonstrate cylinder valve management appropriate for the configuration being used.
- t. Demonstrate proficiency with effective decompression techniques, including depth and time management.

2.2.9.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), plus:

- a. One approved DPV

An approved DPV is one that is tow-behind style with adjustable speed and clutch mechanism. The DPV must include an attached cord at the back with a bolt snap to be clipped on the front crotch strap D-ring and a leash attached to the front to be used for towing.

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.2.10 Diver Propulsion Vehicle Cave

2.2.10.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Diver Propulsion Vehicle (DPV) Cave course is designed to cultivate mastery-level skill in the use of underwater propulsion vehicles in the cave environment. Other course outcomes include: reinforcing the outcomes of GUE's DPV 1 course, managing the ramifications of using multiple DPVs and stage cylinders, and environment-specific applications.

2.2.10.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a DPV Cave course must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 18 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Have passed the GUE DPV 1 course or have been issued a waiver from GUE HQ.
- h. Have passed the GUE Cave 2 course.

- i. Have a minimum of 50 Cave 2 dives beyond Cave 2 certification.
- j. Own a GUE-sanctioned DPV with sufficient burn time for the cave environment.

2.2.10.3 Course Content

The Diver Propulsion Vehicle Cave course is normally conducted over five days. It requires a minimum of seven dives and at least forty hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills, and in-water work.

2.2.10.4 Diver Propulsion Vehicle Cave Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 3:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 2:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Maximum depth of 100 ft/30 m.

2.2.10.5 Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.2.10.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Equipment considerations
- c. DPV components
- d. DPV maintenance
- e. Leashes (lengths, knots, lanyards)
- f. Stage and decompression cylinders
- g. Exposure suit for the cave environment
- h. Dive planning (operational, team, support, objectives)
- i. Matching different speeds while using a DPV
- j. Emergency procedures (includes: gas sharing, towing diver, and runaway scooter)
- k. Gas planning
- l. Trigger time and multiple scooter use
- m. Towing a DPV
- n. Stage management
- o. Line use (installing, following, and retrieving)
- p. Managing, switching, dropping, and stowing DPVs

2.2.10.7 Land Drills

- a. Proper position while using a DPV
- b. Ready position
- c. Runaway DPV
- d. Switching DPVs
- e. Dropping DPVs
- f. Use of a primary light while operating a DPV
- g. Team order and protocols

- h. Use of spools and reels
- i. Navigation
- j. Pre-dive drills

2.2.10.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Must be able to swim at least 500 yds/450 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, if necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- b. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 60 ft/18 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- c. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving techniques, including pre-dive preparations, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- d. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner needs.
- e. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- f. Demonstrate proficiency in underwater communication while using a DPV.
- g. Demonstrate basic proficiency in managing the GUE equipment configuration.
- h. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.
- i. Demonstrate proficiency in making adjustments to maintain proper buoyancy and trim while using a DPV. Approximate reference is a maximum of 20 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 3 ft/1 m of a target depth.
- j. Demonstrate proficiency in laying and retrieving line with a DPV; this includes use of a primary reel and jumps/gaps.
- k. Demonstrate proficiency in switching from one DPV to another.
- l. Demonstrate proficiency in all aspects of stage and decompression cylinder management while also managing DPVs.
- m. Demonstrate proficiency in calculating accurate available trigger time.
- n. Demonstrate effective use of a compass and proficiency in navigation.
- o. Demonstrate ability to match speeds with team members.
- p. Demonstrate ability to tow a diver.
- q. Demonstrate control while managing a runaway DPV.
- r. Demonstrate proficiency with the sequential management of an out-of-gas scenario.
- s. Demonstrate ability to tow an out-of-gas diver for a distance of 500 ft/150 m.
- t. Demonstrate proficiency in managing breathing system failures, including proper assessment and valve manipulation with regulator switching as appropriate.
- u. Demonstrate proficiency with effective decompression techniques, including depth and time management.
- v. Demonstrate an efficient exit on a backup light.
- w. Demonstrate ability to follow a guideline in a simulated no-visibility scenario while managing stage(s) and DPV(s).
- x. Demonstrate ability to manage equipment through restricted areas with concern for the environment.

2.2.10.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), plus:

- a. Two approved DPVs

An approved DPV is one that is tow-behind style with variable speed adjustment and clutch mechanism. The DPV must include an attached cord at the back with a bolt snap to be clipped on the front crotch strap D-ring and a leash attached to the front to be used for towing a disabled DPV.

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.2.11 Documentation Diver

2.2.11.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Documentation Diver course is designed to introduce divers to sound documentation techniques that are useful in project-based diving. Other course outcomes include: basic training in photography/videography, the use of related equipment, specific team skills needed during documentation diving, specific communication requirements, establishment of clear objectives and work plans, management of team tasks, how to create a report, how to map, survey, and prepare material for media publication.

2.2.11.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Documentation Diver course must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 16 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Have passed the GUE Recreational Diver Level 1 course or the GUE Fundamentals course.
- h. Have a minimum of 75 logged dives beyond autonomous entry-level scuba diver (or equivalent) and 25 logged dives beyond GUE certification.

2.2.11.3 Course Content

The Documentation Diver course is normally conducted over four days. It requires a minimum of six dives and at least thirty-two hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills, and in-water work.

2.2.11.4 Documentation Diver Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 8:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 4:1 during any in-water training.
- b. If conducted in the cave environment, student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1 during land drill or surface exercises, and it cannot exceed 3:1 during any in-water training.
- c. Maximum depth of 100 ft/30 m or the limit of the student's certification, whichever is shallower.
- d. No overhead diving except when taught by an Active GUE Cave 1 instructor.
- e. Students participating in a Documentation Diver course conducted in a cave must be at least GUE Cave 2 certified.
- f. When the course is conducted in a cave, all diving must remain within Cave 1 limits, adhering to gas limits as required by Cave 1 standards.
- g. All dives must be within minimum decompression limits (MDLs), i.e., no required stops.

2.2.11.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.2.11.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Project planning and management
- c. Photo equipment specifics
- d. Video equipment specifics
- e. Camera techniques
- f. Composition
- g. Lighting techniques
- h. Survey and mapping tools
- i. Mapping and survey skills
- j. Dive planning specific for documentation diving
- k. Operational planning
- l. Support materials
- m. Team responsibilities, planning, and diving
- n. Building and organizing a media database
- o. Basics of editing video and photo material
- p. Preparing materials for publishing
- q. Publishing and uploading a complete project report

2.2.11.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Photo camera preparation and maintenance
- b. Video camera preparation and maintenance
- c. Survey and mapping
- d. Composition practice

- e. Dive team order and protocols
- f. Use of spools and reels
- g. Basic navigational skills
- h. Visual referencing skills
- i. Pre-dive drills

2.2.11.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving techniques, including pre-dive preparations, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- b. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner needs.
- c. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- d. Demonstrate proficiency in underwater communication.
- e. Demonstrate basic proficiency in managing the GUE equipment configuration.
- f. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.
- g. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 30 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 5 ft/1.5 m of a target depth.
- h. Must be able to swim at least 300 yds/275 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- i. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 50 ft/15 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- j. Demonstrate proficiency adjusting buoyancy while managing camera equipment.
- k. Demonstrate effective use of compass and navigation.
- l. Demonstrate familiarity with required course equipment.
- m. Demonstrate the ability to capture predetermined imagery underwater.
- n. Demonstrate the ability to draw a map underwater.
- o. Demonstrate the ability to accurately record data underwater.
- p. Demonstrate proficiency in surface marker buoy deployment.
- q. Demonstrate proficiency in reel, spool, and guideline use.

2.2.11.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), plus:

- a. Photographic equipment: any digital photo camera suitable for underwater photography, preferably in a housing and able to sustain a minimum water pressure of 100 ft/30 m. An underwater flash is highly recommended (if not available, underwater video lights may be suitable). Manual adjustment (aperture/shutter) on the camera is preferred.
- b. Video equipment: any digital video camera suitable for underwater videography, preferably in a housing and able to sustain a minimum water pressure of 100 ft/30 m. An underwater video lighting system is highly recommended. Manual adjustment (aperture/shutter) on the video camera and a wide-angle lens with adapter is preferred.

- c. Computer system: any Windows or Mac-based computer (preferably a laptop) with software designed for video and photo editing, an internet connection, and word-processing software installed.

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.2.12 Gas Blender

2.2.12.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Gas Blender course is designed to introduce students to the essential skills required for blending diving gases. Training includes the theory of gas blending as well as practical skills required for blending breathing gas mixtures.

2.2.12.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Gas Blender course must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Be a nonsmoker.
- d. Be a minimum of 18 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.

2.2.12.3 Course Content

The Gas Blender course is normally conducted over one day. It requires at least eight hours of academics and practical skills application.

2.2.12.4 Gas Blender Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1
- b. Can be run with one trainee

2.2.12.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.2.12.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Gas properties
- c. Gas physics
- d. GUE Standard Gases
- e. Oxygen risk
- f. Blending systems
- g. Practical blending
- h. Blending formulas and software

- i. Cascading
- j. Gas boosters
- k. Gas analysis

2.2.12.7 Practical Skills Topics

- a. Analyzing
- b. Field calculations
- c. Partial pressure nitrox and trimix blending
- d. Continuous flow/membrane blending (when available)
- e. Remixing

2.2.12.8 Required Skills and Drills

- a. Demonstrate proficiency with gas blending calculations, including remixes.
- b. Demonstrate safe and accurate gas blending practices.
- c. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- d. Demonstrate accurate gas analysis and marking.

2.2.12.9 Equipment Requirements

- a. Appropriate cylinders to blend gases into
- b. Partial pressure filling equipment for both oxygen and helium
- c. Compressor or banked HP air
- d. Continuous flow or membrane nitrox system (optional)
- e. Nitrox and/or trimix analyzer
- f. GUE gas analysis tape
- g. Computer with GUE Gas Management Program software

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.3 Technical Diver Curriculum

2.3.1 Technical Diver Level 1

2.3.1.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Technical Diver Level 1 course is designed to prepare divers for the rigors of technical diving and to familiarize them with the use of different breathing and decompression mixtures. Additional course outcomes include: cultivating, integrating, and expanding the essential skills required for safe technical diving; problem identification and resolution; the use of a double tanks configuration and the potential failure problems associated with it; the use of nitrox for accelerated and general decompression strategies; the use of helium to minimize narcosis; and the applications of single decompression stage diving with respect to decompression procedures.

2.3.1.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Technical Diver Level 1 course must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 18 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Have earned a GUE Fundamentals - Technical certification.
- h. Must have a minimum of 100 logged dives beyond autonomous entry-level scuba diver (or equivalent).

2.3.1.3 Course Content

The Technical Diver Level 1 course is normally conducted over six days. It requires a minimum of seven dives (including three trimix experience dives) and at least forty-eight hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills and in-water work.

2.3.1.4 Technical Diver Level 1 Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 3:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Maximum depth of 170 ft/51 m.
- c. Dives must not be planned to incur more than 30 minutes of unadjusted decompression time, as established by GUE's DecoPlanner.
- d. No overhead diving except when taught by an Active GUE Cave 2 instructor.
- e. Standards for Tech 1 training in a cave environment:
 - i. Students participating in a Tech 1 course conducted in a cave environment must be at least GUE Cave 2 certified with 25 dives conducted at Cave 2 level.
 - ii. Students passing a Tech 1 course conducted in a cave environment will be awarded a Cave Diver Level 2 - Normoxic Trimix certification instead of a Technical Diver Level 1 certification.

2.3.1.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.3.1.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)

- b. History of technical diving
- c. Situational awareness
- d. Dive planning and gas management
- e. Building a solid dive plan
- f. Gas requirements
- g. Gas strategies
- h. Breathing gas dynamics
- i. Physics review
- j. Oxygen toxicity
- k. Narcosis and CO₂
- l. Gas density
- m. GUE Standard Gases
- n. Decompression
- o. Physics and physiology
- p. Dissolved gas theories
- q. Bubble control models
- r. Decompression illness
- s. Practical decompression
- t. Using decompression gases
- u. Decompression strategies
- v. Contingency management

2.3.1.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Reel and guideline use
- b. Dive team formation, communication and protocols
- c. Manifold operation and failures
- d. Decompression cylinder set up and gas switch procedures
- e. Decompression cylinder failure protocols
- f. Backup light deployment

2.3.1.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving techniques, including pre-dive preparations, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- b. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner needs.
- c. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- d. Demonstrate proficiency in underwater communication.
- e. Demonstrate basic proficiency in managing the GUE equipment configuration.
- f. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.
- g. Must be able to swim at least 400 yds/375 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- h. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 60 ft/18 m on a breath hold while submerged.

- i. Demonstrate proficiency in gas failure procedures, including valve manipulation, gas sharing, and regulator switching as appropriate.
- j. Demonstrate proficiency in surface marker buoy deployment (except if Tech 1 training is conducted in a cave environment).
- k. Demonstrate proficiency in switching to a backup mask.
- l. Demonstrate proficiency in switching to a backup light.
- m. Demonstrate familiarity with required course equipment.
- n. Demonstrate proficiency in managing gas sharing scenarios, including a prolonged gas sharing event.
- o. Comfortably demonstrate at least three propulsion techniques that would be appropriate in delicate and/or silty environments; one of these kicks must be the backward kick.
- p. Demonstrate reasonable proficiency with a single decompression cylinder.
- q. Demonstrate proficiency with effective decompression techniques, including depth and time management.
- r. Demonstrate dive rescue techniques, including effective underwater management of an unconscious diver.
- s. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 20 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 3 ft/1 m of a target depth.
- t. Demonstrate the ability to manage a failed decompression cylinder using available team resources.

2.3.1.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), plus:

- a. GUE double tank configuration
- b. Primary and backup lights
- c. One decompression stage with stage regulator
- d. One primary reel per team
- e. Drysuit inflation system independent from back gas cylinders (if using a drysuit)

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.3.2 Tech 60

2.3.2.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Tech 60 course is designed for divers who want to enhance their capacity beyond Tech 1 level diving by training them in the use of a bottom stage or second decompression cylinder, which grants them more flexibility during multiple dives and/or longer bottom times. Additional outcomes include: gas planning during longer dives, cylinder management, emergency management strategies, and decompression considerations during longer bottom times.

2.3.2.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Tech 60 course must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 18 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Have passed the GUE Tech 1 course.
- h. Must have a minimum of 25 logged Tech 1 level dives beyond Tech 1 certification.

2.3.2.3 Course Content

The Tech 60 course is normally conducted over four days. It requires a minimum of five dives (including three trimix experience dives) and at least thirty hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills, and in-water work.

2.3.2.4 Tech 60 Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 3:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Maximum depth of 200 ft/60 m.
- c. No overhead diving except when taught by an Active GUE Cave 2 instructor.
- d. Students participating in a Tech 60 course conducted in a cave must be at least GUE Cave 2 certified with 25 dives conducted at Cave 2 level.
- e. Dives must not be planned to incur more than 45 minutes of unadjusted decompression time, as established by GUE's DecoPlanner.

2.3.2.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.3.2.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Equipment configuration
- c. Gas management
- d. Decompression strategies
- e. Contingency planning

2.3.2.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Gas switch procedure

- b. Failed/lost decompression gas strategies

2.3.2.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving techniques, including pre-dive preparations, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- b. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner needs.
- c. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- d. Demonstrate proficiency in underwater communication.
- e. Demonstrate basic proficiency in managing the GUE equipment configuration.
- f. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 20 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 3 ft/1 m of a target depth.
- g. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.
- h. Demonstrate proficiency in the management of stage and decompression cylinders.
- i. Demonstrate proper protocol when switching from one gas source to another.
- j. Demonstrate the ability to manage a failed or lost decompression gas.
- k. Demonstrate proficiency with effective decompression techniques, including depth and time management.

2.3.2.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), plus:

- a. GUE double tank configuration
- b. Primary and backup lights
- c. One decompression stage with stage regulator
- d. One bottom stage with stage regulator
- e. One primary reel per team
- f. Drysuit inflation system independent from back gas cylinders (if using a drysuit)

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.3.3 Technical Diver Level 2

2.3.3.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Technical Diver 2 course is designed to enhance deep diving proficiency while using helium breathing gases and oxygen-enriched decompression gases. Other course outcomes include: the use of multiple stages; the use of trimix with greater percentages of helium; use of hypoxic gas mixtures protocols; gas management; oxygen management; extended decompression; accelerated, omitted, and general decompression strategies; dive planning; and management of multiple cylinders.

2.3.3.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Tech 2 course must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 18 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Have passed the GUE Tech 1 course.
- h. Have logged 25 Tech 1 level dives beyond Tech 1 certification.
- i. Have logged 50 dives in a double tank configuration.

2.3.3.3 Course Content

The Technical Diver Level 2 course is normally conducted over six days. It requires a minimum of seven dives (including three trimix experience dives) and at least forty-eight hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills and in-water work.

2.3.3.4 Technical Diver Level 2 Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 3:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Maximum depth of 250 ft/75 m.
- c. Dives must not be planned to incur more than 60 minutes of unadjusted decompression time, as established by GUE's DecoPlanner.
- d. No overhead diving except when taught by an Active GUE Cave 2 instructor.
- e. Standards for Tech 2 training in a cave environment:
 - i. Students participating in a Tech 2 course conducted in a cave environment must be at least GUE Cave 2 certified with 25 dives conducted at the Cave 2 level.
 - ii. Students must also be at least GUE Tech 1 or GUE Cave 1 – Normoxic Trimix certified with 25 dives conducted at that level.
 - iii. Students passing a Tech 2 course conducted in a cave environment will be awarded a Cave Diver Level 2 - Hypoxic Trimix certification instead of a Technical Diver Level 2 certification.

2.3.3.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.3.3.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Advanced mixed gas diving including hypoxic protocols

- c. Risks of decompression diving
- d. Gas management during deep dives
- e. Accelerated, omitted, and general decompression strategies
- f. Deep diving logistics and planning

2.3.3.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Dive team order and protocols
- b. Gas switching procedures and protocols, including hypoxic protocol
- c. Use of a bottom stage and multiple decompression cylinders (tank rotations)

2.3.3.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving techniques, including pre-dive preparations, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- b. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner needs.
- c. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- d. Demonstrate proficiency in underwater communication.
- e. Demonstrate basic proficiency in managing the GUE equipment configuration.
- f. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.
- g. Must be able to swim at least 500 yds/450 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- h. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 60 ft/18 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- i. Demonstrate proficiency in the ability to plan Tech 2 dives while accounting for environmental conditions, available gas, and required decompression.
- j. Demonstrate the clean and effective removal and exchange of multiple stages and decompression cylinders while hovering horizontally (tank rotations).
- k. Comfortably demonstrate at least three propulsion techniques that would be appropriate in delicate and/or silty environments; one of these kicks must be the backward kick.
- l. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 20 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 3 ft/1 m of a target depth.
- m. Demonstrate proficiency in gas failure procedures, including valve manipulation, gas sharing, and regulator switching as appropriate.
- n. Demonstrate proficiency in managing gas sharing scenarios, including a prolonged gas sharing event.
- o. Demonstrate proficiency with effective decompression techniques, including depth and time management, while also managing multiple gas switches and other tasks such as tank rotation skills.
- p. Demonstrate diver rescue techniques, including effective underwater management of an unconscious diver.

2.3.3.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), plus:

- a. GUE double tank configuration
- b. Primary and backup lights
- c. Two decompression stages with stage regulators
- d. One bottom stage with stage regulator
- e. One primary reel per team
- f. Drysuit inflation system independent from back gas cylinders (if using a drysuit)

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.3.4 Technical Diver Level 2 “Plus” Upgrade

GUE’s Tech 2 “Plus” Upgrade is an experience-based certification. It recognizes the skills and experience of Tech 2-certified divers and sanctions them to progress to more complex and advanced dives; it extends their diving range to a maximum of 300 ft/90 m, and to a maximum of 90 minutes of decompression time, as established by GUE’s DecoPlanner.

Students seeking this upgrade must provide GUE HQ with evidence of 25 dives at the Tech 2 level. Depth, bottom time, decompression time, date and location of dives, gases used, and team members should all be included in the information provided.

2.3.5 Rebreather Diver

2.3.5.1 Course Outcomes

GUE’s Rebreather Diver course is designed to educate individuals in basic rebreather technologies and to cultivate diver proficiency in the use of GUE-approved rebreather configurations.

2.3.5.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Rebreather course must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician’s prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 21 years of age.
- g. Have passed the GUE Tech 2 course.
- h. Have conducted a minimum of 25 Tech 2 level dives beyond Tech 2 certification.

2.3.5.3 Course Content

The Rebreather Diver course is normally conducted over five days. It requires a minimum of eight dives and at least forty hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills and at least ten hours of in-water work.

2.3.5.4 Rebreather Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 3:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Maximum depth of 100 ft/30 m.
- c. All dives must be within minimum decompression limits (MDLs), i.e., no required stops
- d. No overhead diving except when taught by an Active GUE Cave 2 instructor.
- e. Students participating in a Rebreather course conducted in a cave environment must be at least GUE Cave 2 certified.
- f. During CCR classes, the oxygen supply valve must never be closed completely during drills.

2.3.5.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.3.5.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Purpose
- c. Common components of rebreathers and how they function
- d. Inherent risks of rebreathers
- e. Rebreather operation, alarms, and warnings
- f. Oxygen risks: hypoxia, hyperoxia
- g. Decompression consideration while using semi-closed and closed-circuit rebreathers
- h. Oxygen loading, potential drop, adjusted deco
- i. Equipment configuration
- j. Problem recognition and management
- k. The importance of instinctive physiological monitoring
- l. Pre-dive planning
- m. Post-dive procedures
- n. Need for continuing education and skill reinforcement

2.3.5.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Flow checks
- b. Rebreather-specific topics:
 - i. Pre-dive preparation and verification
 - ii. Appropriate diving procedures
 - iii. Failure management
 - iv. Maintenance and repair

- c. Manifold failures
- d. Gas addition failures
- e. Gas sharing

2.3.5.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- b. Demonstrate proficiency in underwater communication.
- c. Demonstrate basic proficiency in managing a rebreather configuration.
- d. Demonstrate reasonable proficiency with the use of the rebreather during ascents, descents, and diving.
- e. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 20 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 3 ft/1 m of a target depth.
- f. Must be able to swim at least 500 yds/450 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- g. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 60 ft/18 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- h. Demonstrate ability to manage gas failures, including valve manipulation, gas sharing, and regulator switching as appropriate.
- i. Demonstrate the ability to manage a flooded rebreather while discharging excess water.
- j. Demonstrate the ability to diagnose and correctly respond to simulated rebreather problems.
- k. Demonstrate effective valve management.
- l. If appropriate for the class, demonstrate proficiency in removing and re-attaching stage and/or decompression cylinders while hovering horizontally.
- m. If appropriate for the class, demonstrate the ability to comfortably switch gases while maintaining good trim and neutral buoyancy.
- n. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving procedures, including assembly, vacuum and pressure tests, pre-dive preparations, pre-dive vacuum test, flow check, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment and breakdown.
- o. Efficiently and comfortably demonstrate how to donate gas to an out-of-gas diver while using the rebreather.
- p. Be able to comfortably demonstrate use, manipulation, and failures of the gas addition system.
- q. Demonstrate awareness of a team member's rebreather function and a concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner needs during diving and failures.

2.3.5.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), plus:

- a. Modified tank configuration as appropriate for use with a GUE-approved Rebreather
- b. Modified regulator configuration as appropriate for use with a GUE-approved Rebreather

- c. Bottom and/or decompression stages and stage regulators, where appropriate for training session

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.4 Cave Diver Curriculum

2.4.1 Cave Diver Level 1

2.4.1.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Cave Diver Level 1 course is designed to prepare divers for the rigors of the underwater cave environment and to establish an appreciation of its subtle dangers. Among its other outcomes: introduce divers to the principles of cave diving and the skills and knowledge required for limited penetration into underwater caves; increase environmental awareness; cultivate proficiency in dive planning; cultivate teamwork; promote an understanding of cave environments; teach stress management, navigation, conservation, standard and emergency procedures, cave diving techniques; and instill an appreciation of the hazards of cave diving.

2.4.1.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Cave 1 course must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 18 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Have earned a GUE Fundamentals - Technical certification.
- h. Have a minimum of 100 dives beyond autonomous entry-level scuba diver (or equivalent).

2.4.1.3 Course Content

The Cave Diver Level 1 course is normally conducted over five days. It requires a minimum of twelve dives (including ten cave dives that are conducted in at least three different caves¹) and at least forty hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills and in-water work.

Divers wishing to use triox as a breathing gas are required to review all Triox Primer academics, including the exam, with their instructor, and perform at least two dives using triox 30/30. Successful completion of these objectives results in the addition of triox 30/30 to the allowed post-certification breathing gases and will be noted on the Cave 1 certification card.

2.4.1.4 Cave Diver Level 1 Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 3:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Maximum of 1/3 of 2/3 of the total gas supply can be used for penetration.
- c. Maximum depth of 100 ft/30 m.
- d. Minimum 100 ft³/2800 L of gas is required to begin a Cave 1 dive.
- e. No passages may be used in which divers are forced to travel single file for a prolonged distance (i.e., approximately 10 ft/3 m).
- f. No complex navigation (jumps, traverses, circuits).
- g. Navigation beyond one permanent intersection (also known as a “T”) and an unlimited number of temporary Ts is permitted. Permanent Ts are identified by the lack of a visible jump spool; temporary Ts provide visual access to a diver’s jump spool. All intersections that appear permanent should be marked with non-directional markers.
- h. Trainees may navigate gaps; a gap occurs where the main line ends and begins again a short distance later. Normally this occurs where the line has reached another entrance/exit point.
- i. All dives must be within minimum decompression limits (MDLs), i.e., no required stops
- j. No DPV diving
- k. No exploration
- l. No stage cylinders

2.4.1.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

Divers wishing to use triox as a breathing gas must be familiar with all academic materials included in the Triox Primer.

2.4.1.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)

¹ In this context, caves are considered to be different if they have geographically distinct entrances.

- b. Environmental and cave conservation
- c. Guideline use and cave etiquette
- d. Dive team order and protocols
- e. Touch contact
- f. Basic navigation skills
- g. Dive planning
- h. Decompression theory
- i. Gas management
- j. Accident analysis
- k. Stress
- l. Environment
- m. Communication
- n. Triox Primer academic topics, when relevant

2.4.1.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Guideline use and cave etiquette
- b. Guideline use during emergency scenarios, including touch contact and gas sharing emergencies
- c. Lost diver procedures
- d. Lost guideline procedures
- e. Basic navigation skills

2.4.1.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving techniques, including pre-dive preparations, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- b. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner needs.
- c. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- d. Demonstrate proficiency in underwater communication.
- e. Demonstrate basic proficiency in managing the GUE equipment configuration.
- f. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.
- g. Must be able to swim at least 400 yds/375 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- h. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 60 ft/18 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- i. Demonstrate proficiency in cave navigation, including visual references, guideline use, limited and simulated zero visibility.
- j. Demonstrate proficiency in managing breathing system failures, including proper assessment and valve manipulation with regulator switching as appropriate.
- k. Demonstrate proficiency during gas sharing scenarios.
- l. Comfortably demonstrate at least three propulsion techniques that would be appropriate in delicate and/or silty environments; one of these kicks must be the backward kick.

- m. Demonstrate proficiency in the use of touch contact for limited and simulated zero visibility situations.
- n. Demonstrate the ability to mentally record depth, time, and gas consumption during a dive and apply these parameters to future dive planning.
- o. Demonstrate the efficient deployment of a backup light.
- p. Demonstrate the ability to search for a missing diver while performing a simulated missing diver drill.
- q. Demonstrate the skills needed to locate a lost line while performing a simulated lost line drill.
- r. Demonstrate a calm demeanor while sharing gas in simulated zero visibility for a prolonged distance.
- s. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 20 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 3 ft/1 m of a target depth.
- t. Demonstrate diver rescue techniques, including effective management of an unconscious diver.
- u. Divers wishing to use triox as a breathing gas must successfully conduct at least two dives while using triox 30/30.

2.4.1.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), plus:

- a. GUE double tank configuration
- b. Primary and backup lights
- c. Backup mask
- d. One primary reel per team
- e. One safety spool with 150 ft/45 m of line per person
- f. At least six line markers; three directional and three non-directional

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.4.2 Cave Diver Level 2

2.4.2.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Cave Diver Level 2 course is designed to expand the cave diving skills of experienced Cave 1 trained divers. Among its outcomes are: a focus on environmental awareness, capacity with extended penetration dives, advanced navigation, use of jump spools, enhanced team awareness, advanced problem resolution, stress management, and use of a stage cylinder.

2.4.2.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for a Cave 2 course must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.

- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 18 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Have passed the GUE Cave 1 course.
- h. Have conducted a minimum of 25 Cave 1 dives beyond Cave 1 certification.

2.4.2.3 Course Content

The Cave Diver Level 2 course is normally conducted over five days. It requires a minimum of ten cave dives that are conducted in at least three different caves² and at least forty hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills and in-water work.

Divers wishing to use triox as a breathing gas are required to review all Triox Primer academics, including the exam, with their instructor, and perform at least two dives using triox 30/30. Successful completion of these objectives results in the addition of triox 30/30 to the allowed post-certification breathing gases and will be noted on the Cave 2 certification card.

2.4.2.4 Cave Diver Level 2 Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 6:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 3:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Maximum of 1/3 of the total gas supply can be used for cave penetration.
- c. No training dives are to exceed a depth of 100 ft/30 m.
- d. Minimum of 140 ft³/4000 L of gas is required to begin a Cave 2 dive.
- e. No DPV diving.

2.4.2.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

Divers wishing to use triox as a breathing gas must be familiar with all academic materials included in the Triox Primer.

2.4.2.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Guideline use, including the use of a jump spool
- c. Dive team order and protocols
- d. Touch contact

² In this context, caves are considered to be different if they have geographically distinct entrances.

- e. Advanced navigation
- f. Advanced dive planning
- g. Gas management with thirds and while using a stage cylinder
- h. Accident analysis
- i. Stress management
- j. Environmental considerations
- k. Communication
- l. Cave restrictions
- m. Basic survey techniques
- n. Decompression
- o. Triox Primer academic topics, when relevant

2.4.2.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Guideline use and procedures, including use of a jump spool
- b. Missing diver procedures
- c. Lost guideline procedures
- d. Basic and advanced navigation skills, including gaps/jumps, circuits, and traverses
- e. Visual referencing skills

2.4.2.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving techniques, including pre-dive preparations, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- b. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner needs.
- c. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- d. Demonstrate proficiency in underwater communication.
- e. Demonstrate basic proficiency in managing the GUE base equipment configuration.
- f. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.
- g. Must be able to swim at least 500 yds/450 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- h. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 60 ft/18 m on a breath hold while submerged.
- i. Demonstrate proficiency in managing breathing system failures, including proper assessment and valve manipulation with regulator switching as appropriate.
- j. Demonstrate proficiency during gas sharing scenarios.
- k. Demonstrate proficiency in cave navigation, including visual references, guideline use, limited and simulated zero visibility.
- l. Demonstrate a comfortable demeanor while operating without a mask.
- m. Comfortably demonstrate at least three propulsion techniques that would be appropriate in delicate and/or silty environments; one of these kicks must be the backward kick.
- n. Demonstrate proficiency in the use of touch contact for limited and simulated zero visibility situations.

- o. Demonstrate the efficient deployment of a backup light.
- p. Demonstrate the ability to search for a missing diver while performing a simulated missing diver drill.
- q. Demonstrate the skills needed to locate a lost line while performing a simulated lost line drill.
- r. Demonstrate capacity with advanced navigation by completing at least two jumps and by planning a circuit and/or traverse.
- s. Demonstrate a calm demeanor while sharing gas in simulated zero visibility for a prolonged distance.
- t. Demonstrate the ability to use a stage cylinder during extended penetration cave dives.
- u. Demonstrate good buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 20 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 3 ft/1 m of a target depth.
- v. Demonstrate diver rescue techniques, including effective management of an unconscious diver.
- w. Divers wishing to use triox as a breathing gas must successfully conduct at least two dives while using triox 30/30.

2.4.2.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), plus:

- a. GUE double tank configuration
- b. Primary and backup lights
- c. One backup mask
- d. One bottom stage with stage regulator
- e. One decompression stage with stage regulator
- f. One primary reel per team
- g. One safety spool with 150 ft/45 m of line per person
- h. At least two jump spools per person
- i. At least twelve line markers; six directional and six non-directional

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.4.3 Underwater Cave Survey

2.4.3.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Underwater Cave Survey course is designed to introduce experienced cave divers to the important skill of surveying underwater caves. Among the course's intended outcomes are: introducing divers to the basic principles of underwater cave survey, the implementation of a defined team approach to underwater survey data collection, preparing an experienced cave diver to productively assist in a coordinated cave project, and introducing divers to cartography methods.

2.4.3.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for an Underwater Cave Survey course must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, Medical History Form, and Liability Release to GUE HQ.
- b. Be physically and mentally fit.
- c. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies, such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g. DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 18 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Be GUE Cave Diver 2 certified.
- h. Have a minimum of 25 Cave 2 dives beyond Cave Diver 2 certification.

2.4.3.3 Course Content

The Underwater Cave Survey course is normally conducted over five days. It requires a minimum of ten diving hours and at least forty hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills and in-water work.

2.4.3.4 Underwater Cave Survey Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 4:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 2:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Maximum depth of 100 ft/30 m.
- c. Maximum of 1/3 of the total gas supply can be used for cave penetration.
- d. Minimum of 140 ft³/4000 L of gas is required to begin a Cave 2 level dive.
- e. All survey tasks must be completed before reaching penetration gas limits.
- f. No DPV diving, unless both instructor and trainees are GUE DPV Cave certified.

2.4.3.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.4.3.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction
- b. Course overview
- c. Reasons to survey
- d. Survey priorities
- e. Equipment
- f. Data collection
- g. The "stick map"
- h. Data archiving
- i. Data manipulation and plotting
- j. Expanding the frame
- k. Sketching underwater details

- l. Cartography
- m. Overview of workflow
- n. GUE and underwater cave survey

2.4.3.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Handling survey equipment
- b. Basic line survey
- c. Division of team responsibilities
- d. Measurements and estimates
- e. Communication
- f. Recording data
- g. Extremity data collection
- h. Survey line installation
- i. Sidewall and interior sketching
- j. Post survey archiving
- k. Data manipulation and plotting
- l. Cartography and map production

2.4.3.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Demonstrate proficiency in safe diving techniques; this includes pre-dive preparations, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- b. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications, and dive partner needs.
- c. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- d. Demonstrate proficiency in all aspects of Cave 2 level diving under survey conditions. These include, but are not limited to, guideline installation and retrieval, underwater communication, decompression, stability and trim, complex navigation, propulsion, stage and decompression cylinder management, stress management while task loaded, and gas management.
- e. Demonstrate basic proficiency in managing the GUE equipment configuration.
- f. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.
- g. Must be able to swim at least 500 yds/450 m in under 14 minutes without stopping. This test should be conducted in a swimsuit and, where necessary, appropriate thermal protection.
- h. Must be able to swim a distance of at least 60 ft/18 m on a breath hold.
- i. Demonstrate proficiency in effectively performing all tasks associated with a team survey.
- j. Demonstrate proficiency in the use of survey equipment.
- k. Effectively take measurements and estimates.
- l. Demonstrate consistent, clear, and concise underwater data recording.
- m. Demonstrate clear and effective underwater communication.

2.4.3.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#), plus:

- a. GUE double tank configuration
- b. One spool with 150 ft/45 m of line per diver
- c. One backup mask
- d. One primary reel per team, with a minimum of 300 ft/90 m of line
- e. One exploration reel per team capable of holding a minimum of 800 ft/240 m of knotted line
- f. One primary light
- g. Two backup lights
- h. At least twelve line markers; six directional and six non-directional
- i. Survey package: Each student must have a survey compass, prepared underwater survey notes, spare pencils, and a prepared 3 ft/1 m measuring string
- j. One “open reel” design fiberglass tape per team, measuring between 100 and 150 ft/30 and 50 m
- k. One hand-held underwater sonar per team

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

2.5 Instructor Curriculum

2.5.1 Instructor Training Course

2.5.1.1 Course Outcomes

GUE’s Instructor Training Course (ITC) is designed to develop qualified GUE instructors within relevant GUE curricula.

2.5.1.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for an ITC must:

- a. Have fulfilled the General Instructor Candidate Prerequisites as outlined in section 3.5.2.
- b. Have fulfilled the Instructor Candidate curriculum-specific prerequisites for the curriculum in which they are seeking an instructor rating.

2.5.1.3 Course Content

The Instructor Training Course is normally conducted over six days. It requires at least fifty hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills and in-water work.

2.5.1.4 Instructor Training Course Specific Training Standards

- a. Maximum candidate-to-staff ratio of 4:1
- b. Can be run with one trainee

2.5.1.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.5.1.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)
- b. Classroom, land drill, and in-water teaching techniques
- c. Underwater student control and positioning
- d. Debriefing strategies
- e. Video analysis
- f. Course structure and content
- g. GUE General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures

2.5.1.7 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#).

Equipment needs may vary with the ITC being conducted. Please verify requirements with the leading Instructor Trainer (IT) and/or Instructor Evaluator (IE).

2.5.2 Instructor Trainer Development Course

2.5.2.1 Course Outcomes

GUE's Instructor Trainer Development Course (ITDC) is designed to provide qualified, Active status GUE instructors with the skills necessary to cultivate and evaluate prospective GUE instructor candidates in conformity with GUE standards.

2.5.2.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for an Instructor Trainer Development Course must have fulfilled the Instructor Trainer Prerequisites as outlined in section 3.6.2.

2.5.2.3 Course Content

The Instructor Trainer Development Course involves two days of leadership training during which candidates will engage in a management-level understanding of the GUE General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures document, review and discuss instructor candidate development strategies and organizational expectations, and work to cultivate a precise understanding of what constitutes a minimum standard for certification.

2.5.2.4 Instructor Trainer Development Course Specific Training Standards

- a. Maximum candidate-to-staff ratio of 4:1
- b. Can be run with one trainee

3. Instructor, Recreational Instructor Assistant, and Recreational Dive Leader Standards and Procedures

3.1 Active Status Instructor

To teach GUE-sanctioned training courses, one must be a GUE Active status instructor.

3.1.1 Maintaining Active Status

Active status instructors are instructors in good standing who are sanctioned to represent GUE and conduct GUE classes commensurate with their rating. To maintain this status, instructors must:

- a. Maintain a current mailing address with GUE HQ.
- b. Annually complete and submit an Instructor Renewal Form.
- c. Be familiar with the most current GUE instructor material relevant to their rating and the most current version of the GUE General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures document.
- d. Meet the standards required to teach all courses for which they are rated.
- e. Pay all outstanding debts owed GUE.
- f. Be a nonsmoker.
- g. Log at least twenty-five non-training dives per year. Half of these dives must be at the highest level of instructional (not diver) certification, e.g., a GUE Tech 2 diver authorized to teach Cave 1 must conduct a minimum of twelve Cave 1 dives towards renewal. The remaining documented dives should be oriented toward enhancing personal skill development.
- h. Annually document that they have:
 - i. Taught at least one formal GUE course as the instructor of record, or
 - ii. Served as staff on one GUE ITC, or
 - iii. Assisted, audited, or participated in three complete GUE diving courses.
- j. Possess, and annually provide proof of, a current BLS skills and procedures certification.
- k. Carry instructional liability insurance and annually provide proof of the policy. Instructors in the following categories must carry US-based liability insurance, as recommended and approved by GUE HQ.
 1. ALL instructors of any nationality teaching in U.S. territories.
 2. ALL U.S. citizens teaching U.S. citizens in ANY location.
- i. Liability insurance carried by all instructors must, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:
 1. Certificates of insurance must cover GUE in case of a claim.
 2. Minimum coverage: \$1 million.
- ii. Waivers: Instructors who are covered by city, state, federal, or private institutional liability insurance must request, in writing, an exemption from the insurance requirement. U.S. military personnel who teach diving as part

of their military duties and teach ONLY U.S. military are exempt from the insurance requirement but must apply, in writing, for the exemption and provide letters of exemption from their commanding officers.

- l. Have, and annually provide proof of personal diving insurance, equivalent to the DAN Europe Pro Silver Plan, to cover diving medical emergencies including, but not limited to: third party liability, emergency hyperbaric treatment, hospitalization, and repatriation. It is the responsibility of the instructor to ensure that any insurance policy has equivalent levels of coverage.
- m. Maintain a good state of mental and physical fitness and annually submit fitness and medical forms.

3.2 Sustaining Status Instructor

Sustaining status instructors are instructors who are no longer sanctioned to conduct GUE classes, but who retain their GUE instructor status, membership status, are able to participate in GUE instructor internal communication, and receive all GUE instructor information.

3.2.1 Maintaining Sustaining Status

To maintain Sustaining status, GUE instructors are required to:

- a. Maintain a current mailing address with GUE HQ.
- b. Annually complete and submit an Instructor Renewal Form.
- c. Pay all outstanding debts owed GUE.

3.3 Inactive Status Instructor

Inactive status instructors are instructors who are not sanctioned to represent GUE in any official capacity, no longer pay instructor membership dues, nor participate in the benefits of GUE membership in any way. Inactive instructors must return their instructor certification cards to GUE HQ.

3.4 Instructor Status Changes

Sustaining or Inactive status instructors may change their status to Active by meeting the following requirements:

3.4.1 Instructors in Sustaining Status for Less Than One Year

If in Sustaining status for less than one year, instructors seeking to reestablish their Active status must:

- a. Apply for reinstatement to GUE's BOA, who will determine what instructional requirements must be met prior to reinstatement.
- b. Maintain a current mailing address with GUE HQ.

- c. Be familiar with the most current GUE instructor material relevant to their rating and the most current version of the GUE General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures document.
- d. Meet the standards required to teach all courses for which they are rated.
- e. Pay all outstanding debts owed GUE.
- f. Be a nonsmoker.
- g. Log at least twenty-five dives within the twelve months prior to their application; 12 dives must be at the highest level of instructional (not diver) certification, e.g., a GUE Tech 2 diver credentialed to teach Cave 1 must conduct a minimum of 12 Cave 1 dives towards reinstatement.
- h. Provide evidence of a current BLS skills and procedures certification.
- i. Provide evidence of unconscious diver rescue skills and procedures training.
- j. Carry instructional insurance and provide proof of the policy.
 - i. Instructors in the following categories must carry US-based liability insurance, as recommended and approved by GUE HQ.
 - 1. ALL instructors of any nationality teaching in U.S. territories.
 - 2. ALL U.S. citizens teaching U.S. citizens in ANY location.
 - ii. Liability insurance carried by all instructors must, at minimum, meet the following criteria:
 - 1. Certificates of insurance must cover GUE in case of a claim.
 - 2. Minimum coverage: \$1 million.
 - iii. Waivers: Instructors who are covered by city, state, federal, or private institutional liability insurance must request, in writing, an exemption for the insurance requirement. U.S. military personnel who teach diving as part of their military duties and teach ONLY U.S. military are exempt from the insurance requirement but must apply, in writing, for the exemption and provide letters of exemption from their commanding officers.
- k. Provide evidence that they have current personal diving insurance, equivalent to the DAN Europe Pro Silver Plan, to cover diving medical emergencies including, but not limited to: third party liability, emergency hyperbaric treatment, hospitalization, and repatriation. It is the responsibility of the instructor to ensure that any insurance policy has equivalent levels of coverage.
- l. Maintain a good state of mental and physical fitness and submit medical and fitness forms.

3.4.2 Instructors in Sustaining Status for 1-3 Years

If in Sustaining status for more than one year, but less than three years, instructors seeking to reestablish Active status must:

- a. Apply for reinstatement to GUE's BOA, who will determine what instructional requirements must be met prior to reinstatement.
- b. Attend a Requalification Workshop.
- c. Maintain a current mailing address with GUE HQ.

- d. Be familiar with the most current GUE instructor material relevant to their rating and the most current version of the GUE General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures document.
- e. Meet the standards required to teach all courses for which they are rated.
- f. Pay all outstanding debts owed GUE.
- g. Be a nonsmoker.
- h. Log at least twenty-five dives within the twelve months prior to their application; 12 dives must be at the highest level of instructional (not diver) certification, e.g., a GUE Tech 2 diver credentialed to teach Cave 1 must conduct a minimum of 12 Cave 1 dives towards reinstatement.
- i. Provide evidence of a current BLS skills and procedures certification.
- j. Provide evidence of unconscious diver rescue skills and procedures training.
- k. Carry instructional insurance and provide proof of the policy.
 - i. Instructors in the following categories must carry US-based liability insurance, as recommended and approved by GUE HQ.
 - 1. ALL instructors of any nationality teaching in U.S. territories.
 - 2. ALL U.S. citizens teaching U.S. citizens in ANY location.
 - ii. Liability insurance carried by all instructors must, at minimum, meet the following criteria:
 - 1. Certificates of insurance must cover GUE in case of a claim.
 - 2. Minimum coverage: \$1 million.
 - iii. Waivers: Instructors who are covered by city, state, federal, or private institutional liability insurance must request, in writing, an exemption for the insurance requirement. U.S. military personnel who teach diving as part of their military duties and teach ONLY U.S. military are exempt from the insurance requirement but must apply, in writing, for the exemption and provide letters of exemption from their commanding officers.
- l. Provide evidence that they have current personal diving insurance, equivalent to the DAN Europe Pro Silver Plan, to cover diving medical emergencies including, but not limited to: third party liability, emergency hyperbaric treatment, hospitalization, and repatriation. It is the responsibility of the instructor to ensure that any insurance policy has equivalent levels of coverage.
- m. Maintain a good state of mental and physical fitness and submit medical and fitness forms.

3.4.3 Instructors in Sustaining Status for More Than 3 Years or in Inactive Status

If in Sustaining status for more than three years or if in Inactive status, instructors seeking to reestablish Active status must:

- a. Apply for reinstatement to GUE's BOA, who will determine what instructional requirements must be met prior to reinstatement.
- b. Intern a minimum of one class for each course in which they wish to be reinstated.

- c. Secure one Instructor Evaluator (IE) endorsement for each course in which they wish to be reinstated.
- d. Maintain a current mailing address with GUE HQ.
- e. Be familiar with the most current GUE instructor material relevant to their rating and the most current version of the GUE General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures document.
- f. Meet the standards required to teach all courses for which they are rated.
- g. Pay all outstanding debts owed GUE.
- h. Be a nonsmoker.
- i. Log at least twenty-five dives within the twelve months prior to their application; 12 dives must be at the highest level of instructional (not diver) certification, e.g., a GUE Tech 2 diver credentialed to teach Cave 1 must conduct a minimum of 12 Cave 1 dives towards reinstatement.
- j. Provide evidence of a current BLS skills and procedures certification.
- k. Provide evidence of unconscious diver rescue skills and procedures training.
- l. Carry instructional insurance and provide proof of the policy.
 - i. Instructors in the following categories must carry US-based liability insurance, as recommended and approved by GUE HQ.
 - 1. ALL instructors of any nationality teaching in U.S. territories.
 - 2. ALL U.S. citizens teaching U.S. citizens in ANY location.
 - ii. Liability insurance carried by all instructors must, at minimum, meet the following criteria:
 - 1. Certificates of insurance must cover GUE in case of a claim.
 - 2. Minimum coverage: \$1 million.
 - iii. Waivers: Instructors who are covered by city, state, federal, or private institutional liability insurance must request, in writing, an exemption for the insurance requirement. U.S. military personnel who teach diving as part of their military duties and teach ONLY U.S. military are exempt from the insurance requirement but must apply, in writing, for the exemption and provide letters of exemption from their commanding officers.
- m. Provide evidence that they have current personal diving insurance, equivalent to the DAN Europe Pro Silver Plan, to cover diving medical emergencies including, but not limited to, third party liability, emergency hyperbaric treatment, hospitalization and repatriation. It is the responsibility of the instructor to ensure that any insurance policy has equivalent levels of cover.
- n. Maintain a good state of mental and physical fitness and submit medical and fitness forms.

3.5 Instructor Candidate Development and Credentialing

3.5.1 Description

GUE's training curricula are designed to cultivate a common platform comprised of a complementary set of concepts and skills that divers can exercise in any environment to augment their safety, comfort, and skill. Nonetheless, GUE recognizes the existence of differing educational needs as well as environment-specific practices and thus requires its instructor candidates to undertake rigorous training in general and environment-specific areas before they are sanctioned to teach GUE courses. GUE's instructor candidate development mixes formal training with internship requirements that enable candidates to fuse theory and practice en route to providing elite education and training to trainees.

3.5.2 General Instructor Candidate Prerequisites

All GUE instructor candidates (entry-level or upgrading), irrespective of curriculum, must:

- a. Be a minimum of 21 years of age.
- b. Be able to swim at least 600 yds/550 m in less than 14 minutes without stopping.
- c. Be able to swim a distance of at least 70 ft/21 m while submerged on a breath hold.
- d. Possess a current BLS skills and procedures certification.
- e. Possess unconscious diver rescue skills and procedures training certification.
- f. Be a nonsmoker.
- g. Be physically and mentally fit.
- h. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g., DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- i. Be medically screened as suitable for diving in accordance with procedures laid down by a competent medical authority. If such procedures are not specified, instructor candidates must provide evidence of a diver medical examination not older than one year unless the medical doctor who has carried out the examination specifies longer validity.
- j. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- k. Fulfill the curriculum-specific instructor candidate prerequisites for the entry-level class of the curriculum in which they are seeking endorsement. These are listed in the respective curricula (Recreational, Foundational, Technical, and Cave).
- l. Register as a GUE instructor candidate: this requires paying a fee, completing a registration form, a medical history, a fitness form, and liability release and submitting these to GUE HQ.
- m. Meet the equipment requirements of the course they are seeking endorsement to teach.
- n. Possess and demonstrate knowledge of the training materials required for the class they are seeking endorsement to teach.
- o. Demonstrate in-depth understanding of the academic topics that are part of the course they are seeking endorsement to teach.

- p. Demonstrate a high level of proficiency in the skills and drills that define the course outcomes for the class they are seeking endorsement to teach.
- q. Comply with GUE's General Training Standards and the course-specific training standards governing the course they are seeking endorsement to teach.

3.5.3 Instructor Candidate Process

After fulfilling the general instructor candidate prerequisites and the curriculum-specific instructor candidate prerequisites for the entry-level class of the curriculum in which they are seeking credentialing, instructor candidates must in sequence:

- a. Observe—as a registered candidate—one entire entry-level class in the curriculum in which they are seeking credentialing.
Prior to undertaking an Instructor Training Course (ITC), a series of internships, or a combination of the two, registered instructor candidates must observe one complete GUE-sanctioned diving course run by an Active GUE instructor who has taught at least five classes in the given curriculum.
- b. Undertake: (i) an Instructor Training Course (ITC), (ii) a series of internships, or (iii) a combination of the two that will prepare them for earning the required endorsements that will allow them to teach the entry-level class of the curriculum in which they are seeking credentialing.
 - i. *ITC*: GUE ITCs are formal classes conducted over a minimum of six days and train candidates in the theory and practice of a given GUE curriculum and how to teach these effectively.
 - ii. *Internships*: Internships combine several elements—distance learning, mock classes, sanctioned GUE classes³, private instruction—to prepare the candidate in the theory and practice of a given GUE curriculum and how to teach these effectively.
 - iii. *Combination*: Candidates may opt to combine an ITC (when available) with internships to reduce the total number of internships that will prepare them in the theory and practice of a given GUE curriculum and how to teach these effectively.
- c. Earn one or two endorsements from appropriately credentialed GUE personnel. Specific parameters guiding these endorsements are found under each curriculum.
 - i. For a GUE instructor candidate to qualify as an Active status GUE instructor they must be endorsed by sanctioned GUE representatives, credentialed to give endorsements for the rating sought. The path followed as well as the nature of the endorsement varies, depending upon the rating sought. GUE requires that instructors new to a given curriculum (i.e., recreational, foundational, cave, or tech) must earn **two** endorsements; the two

³ In order to be able to accept an intern in their class, instructors must have taught at least five classes in the given curriculum.

endorsements must come from different GUE representatives as defined below.

- ii. Where two endorsements are required, the first endorsement may be awarded by an Instructor Trainer (IT) or an Instructor Evaluator (IE). This endorsement may occur in a sequential or modular manner by collecting a given set of component signatures (i.e., partial endorsements) with different ITs or IEs, which attest to readiness with the discrete component parts. This may involve a number of evaluative procedures of teaching capacity—e.g., ITC, distance learning, video, sanctioned GUE classes, mock classes (classes in which the students are divers already credentialed in that category), private testing (one on one), etc.
 - iii. The final endorsement must be secured from an Instructor Evaluator (IE). Unless indicated within course specific standards, this final endorsement may only be awarded during a validating examination (Instructor Evaluation) conducted during the course of one actual⁴, complete⁵ and uninterrupted⁶ class. The instructor candidate is required to be responsible for all facets of this class, from logistical planning to document processing. The final endorsement must be secured within two years of the first endorsement's completion. Co-teaching is prohibited during a validating examination.
- d. Be Ratified: Following their final endorsement, and before they may be placed in Active status, instructor candidates must:
- i. Communicate with GUE HQ and ensure that all instructor development documents have been properly executed and submitted to HQ.
 - ii. Ensure that instructor-specific documentation is in order, e.g., insurance, BLS certification, fitness form, etc.
 - iii. Submit a signed instructor agreement and standards agreement, along with the appropriate instructor fee.

3.5.4 Curriculum-Specific Prerequisites, Standards, and Progression Requirements

3.5.4.1 Recreational Curriculum

3.5.4.1.1 Recreational Diver Level 1 Instructor Candidate Curriculum-Specific Prerequisites

All GUE Rec 1 instructor candidates must:

- a. Fulfill GUE General Instructor Candidate Prerequisites as outlined in section 3.5.2.

⁴ In this context, “actual” means that the students have not yet been certified at the level of the course taught.

⁵ In this context, “complete” means that every component of the course must be taught.

⁶ In this context, “uninterrupted” means that all course days must be consecutive days.

- b. Be certified as a GUE Rec 2 or GUE Fundamentals diver.
- c. Have conducted at least 200 dives; of these, 50 must have been in a GUE configuration and 50 must have been at a depth of at least 80 ft/24 m.
- d. Complete the internship requirement by observing—as a registered candidate—one entire GUE Fundamentals or GUE Rec 1 class (3.5.3, #1).
- e. Undertake GUE instructor training (3.5.3, #2).
- f. Earn two endorsements from appropriately credentialed GUE personnel (3.5.3#3). Both endorsements may be earned during either an actual or mock class.
- g. Submit final paperwork to GUE HQ (3.5.3, #4).

3.5.4.1.2 Recreational Diver Level 1 to Recreational Diver Level 2 Instructor Progression

- a. The instructor must earn one endorsement from a GUE IE by demonstrating an understanding of the Recreational Diver 2 program content and structure.
- b. This endorsement can be earned at the end of a recreational ITC if the ITC is taught by a GUE Recreational 2 IE and if the ITC encompasses both the Recreational Diver Level 1 and Level 2 programs. In this particular case, the instructor candidate becomes an Active Recreational 1 and 2 instructor after obtaining the second endorsement for Recreational 1 instructor status.

3.5.4.1.3 Recreational Diver Level 1 or 2 to Recreational Diver Level 3 Instructor Progression

- a. Must be certified as a GUE Tech 1 diver.
- b. Must have conducted at least 25 dives at the Tech 1 level since Tech 1 certification.
- c. Must have taught at least five recreational classes (either Rec 1 or Rec 2).
- d. Must earn one endorsement from a GUE IE by demonstrating an understanding of the GUE Recreational Diver Level 3 program content and structure by teaching either a mock or a real GUE Rec 3 class.
- e. Must demonstrate competence using a drysuit.

3.5.4.1.4 GUE Fundamentals, Cave or Technical Instructor to Recreational Diver Level 1, 2, or 3 Instructor Progression

- a. Must earn one endorsement from a GUE IE by demonstrating an understanding of the relevant GUE Recreational Diver course's content and structure.
- b. Must have taught at least three recreational or foundational classes (for Rec 3 instructor progression only).
- c. Must have conducted at least 25 dives at Tech 1 level since Tech 1 certification (for Rec 3 instructor progression only).

3.5.4.2 Foundational Curriculum

3.5.4.2.1 GUE Fundamentals Instructor Candidate Curriculum-Specific Prerequisites

All GUE Fundamentals instructor candidates must:

- a. Fulfill GUE General Instructor Candidate Prerequisites as outlined in section 3.5.2.

- b. Have a GUE Fundamentals - Technical certification before registering as an instructor candidate.
- c. Pass the GUE Tech 1 course prior to securing their second endorsement.
- d. Complete the internship requirement by observing – as a registered candidate – one entire GUE Fundamentals class (3.5.3, #1).
- e. Undertake GUE instructor training (3.5.3, #2).
- f. Have conducted at least 200 dives; of these, 50 must have been in a GUE single tank configuration and 20 dives must have been in a GUE double tank configuration.
- g. Demonstrate competence using a drysuit during the evaluation process.
- h. Earn two endorsements from appropriately credentialed GUE personnel (3.5.3, #3).
- i. Submit final paperwork to GUE HQ (3.5.3, #4).

3.5.4.2.2 Recreational Diver Level 1, 2, or 3 to GUE Fundamentals Instructor Progression

- a. Must be certified as a GUE Tech 1 diver
- b. Must have taught at least three recreational classes.
- c. Must demonstrate competence using a drysuit during the evaluation process.
- d. Must earn one endorsement from a GUE IE by demonstrating an understanding of the GUE Fundamentals program content and structure. This evaluation must be conducted during the course of one actual, complete, and uninterrupted GUE Fundamentals class. The instructor candidate is required to be responsible for all facets of the class, from logistical planning to document execution. Co-teaching is prohibited during a validating examination.
- e. Must submit final paperwork to GUE HQ (3.5.3, #4).

3.5.4.2.3 Rescue, Navigation, or Triox Primer Instructor Candidate Curriculum-Specific Prerequisites

All GUE Rescue, Navigation, or Triox Primer instructor candidates must:

- a. Be an Active status GUE instructor.
- b. Must earn one endorsement from a GUE IE by demonstrating an understanding of the relevant GUE Rescue, Navigation, or Triox Primer's program content and structure.
- c. Submit final paperwork to GUE HQ (3.5.3, #4).

Active status GUE Recreational 2 instructors are exempt from the above prerequisites.

3.5.4.2.4 Doubles Primer Instructor Candidate Curriculum-Specific Prerequisites

All GUE Doubles Primer instructor candidates must:

- a. Be an Active status GUE instructor.
- b. Earn one endorsement from a GUE IE (for recreational instructors only).
- c. Have conducted at least 200 non-training dives; must have conducted 100 dives in a GUE double tank configuration.
- d. Own at least one double tank configuration.
- e. Submit final paperwork to GUE HQ (3.5.3, #4).

3.5.4.2.5 Drysuit Primer Instructor Candidate Curriculum-Specific Prerequisites

All GUE Drysuit Primer instructor candidates must:

- a. Be an Active status GUE instructor.
- b. Earn one endorsement from a GUE IE (for recreational instructors only).
- c. Have conducted at least 200 non-training dives; must have conducted 100 dives in a drysuit.
- d. Own a drysuit.
- e. Submit final paperwork to GUE HQ (3.5.3, #4).

3.5.4.2.6 Documentation Diver Instructor Candidate Curriculum-Specific Prerequisites

All GUE Documentation Diver instructor candidates must:

- a. Be an Active status GUE instructor.
- b. Have conducted at least 300 non-training dives.
- c. Earn one endorsement from a GUE IE by demonstrating an understanding of the GUE Documentation Diver program content and structure.
- d. Submit final paperwork to GUE HQ (3.5.3, #4).

3.5.4.2.7 Diver Propulsion Vehicle Level 1 Instructor Candidate Curriculum-Specific Prerequisites

All GUE DPV 1 instructor candidates must:

- a. Be an Active status GUE Rec 2, GUE Fundamentals, Cave, or Tech instructor.
- b. Have taught at least three classes.
- c. Have conducted at least 300 non-training dives.
- d. Have experience using DPVs during at least 50 dives.
- e. Own a DPV.
- f. Earn one endorsement from a GUE IE by demonstrating an understanding of the GUE DPV 1 program content and structure during a workshop that includes academic and in-water evaluation.
- g. Submit final paperwork to GUE HQ (3.5.3, #4).

3.5.4.2.8 Diver Propulsion Vehicle Level 1 Instructor to Diver Propulsion Vehicle Cave Instructor Progression

- a. Must be an Active status GUE Cave 2 instructor and an Active status DPV 1 instructor.
- b. Must have taught at least ten GUE Cave 2 classes and at least five DPV 1 classes.
- c. Must have conducted and documented at least 500 cave dives beyond Cave 2 certification.
- d. Must have conducted and documented at least 100 cave dives using multiple stages and DPVs.
- e. Must have participated in a sanctioned GUE Cave Exploration Project.
- f. Must intern three GUE DPV Cave classes.
- g. Must earn one endorsement from a GUE IE by demonstrating an understanding of the GUE DPV Cave program content and structure.

- h. Must submit final paperwork to GUE HQ (3.5.3, #4).

3.5.4.2.9 Gas Blender Instructor Candidate Curriculum-Specific Prerequisites

All GUE Gas Blender instructor candidates must:

- a. Be an Active status GUE instructor
- b. Be a certified gas blender instructor from a recognized training agency, or earn one endorsement from a GUE IE by demonstrating an understanding of the GUE Gas Blender program content and structure.
- c. Submit final paperwork to GUE HQ (3.5.3, #4).

3.5.4.3 Technical Curriculum

3.5.4.3.1 Technical Diver Level 1 Instructor Candidate Curriculum-Specific Prerequisites

All GUE Tech 1 instructor candidates must:

- a. Have conducted at least 300 dives, 50 of which must be at Tech 2 level.
- b. Be certified as a GUE Tech 2 and GUE Cave 1 diver.
- c. Be an Active status GUE Fundamentals instructor.
- d. Have taught a minimum of ten GUE classes, including five GUE Fundamentals classes.
- e. Complete the internship requirement by observing—as a registered candidate—one entire GUE Tech 1 class (3.5.3, #1).
- f. Undertake GUE instructor training (3.5.3, #2).
- g. Earn two endorsements from appropriately credentialed GUE personnel (3.5.3, #3).
- h. Submit final paperwork to GUE HQ (3.5.3, #4).

3.5.4.3.2 Tech 60 Instructor Candidate Curriculum-Specific Prerequisites

To teach the GUE Tech 60 course, one must be an Active status GUE Technical Diver Level 2 instructor.

3.5.4.3.3 Technical Diver Level 1 to Technical Diver Level 2 Instructor Progression

- a. Must have conducted at least 400 non-training dives.
- b. Must be certified as a GUE Tech 2 diver with at least 150 Tech 2 level dives beyond Tech 2 certification.
- c. Must have taught ten GUE Tech 1 classes
- d. Must intern one GUE Tech 2 class
- e. Must earn one endorsement from a GUE IE by demonstrating an understanding of the GUE Tech 2 program content and structure. This evaluation must be conducted during the course of one actual, complete, and uninterrupted Tech 2 class. The instructor candidate is required to be responsible for all facets of the class, from logistical planning to document execution. Co-teaching is prohibited during a validating examination.
- f. Submit final paperwork to GUE HQ (3.5.3, #4).

3.5.4.3.4 Rebreather Instructor Candidate Curriculum-Specific Prerequisites

All GUE Rebreather instructor candidates must:

- a. Have conducted a minimum of 300 non-training rebreather dives, 200 of which while using the GUE-endorsed rebreather for which they are seeking an instructor rating.
- b. Be an Active status GUE Tech 1 or GUE Cave 1 instructor.
- c. Have taught ten classes at either the GUE Tech 1 or GUE Cave 1 level.
- d. Be certified as a GUE Rebreather diver for the type of unit they are seeking an instructor rating for.
- e. Own a GUE-endorsed rebreather of the type for which they are seeking instructor rating.
- f. Intern on rebreather class of the type for which they are seeking instructor rating.
- g. Earn one endorsement from a GUE IE by demonstrating an understanding of the GUE Rebreather program content and structure by teaching either a mock or real GUE Rebreather class.
- h. Submit final paperwork to GUE HQ (3.5.3, #4).

3.5.4.4 Cave Curriculum

3.5.4.4.1 Cave Diver Level 1 Instructor Candidate Curriculum-Specific Prerequisites

All GUE Cave 1 instructor candidates must:

- a. Have conducted at least 300 dives, 50 of which must be at Cave 2 level.
- b. Be certified as a GUE Tech 1 and GUE Cave 2 diver.
- c. Be an Active status GUE Fundamentals instructor.
- d. Have taught a minimum of ten GUE classes, including five GUE Fundamentals classes.
- e. Complete the internship requirement by observing—as a registered candidate—one entire GUE Cave 1 class (3.5.3, #1).
- f. Undertake GUE instructor training (3.5.3, #2).
- g. Earn two endorsements from appropriately credentialed GUE personnel (3.5.3, #3).
- h. Submit final paperwork to GUE HQ (3.5.3, #4).

3.5.4.4.2 Cave Diver Level 1 to Cave Diver Level 2 Instructor Progression

- a. Must have conducted at least 400 non-training dives.
- b. Must be certified as a GUE Cave 2 diver with at least 150 Cave 2 level dives beyond Cave 2 certification.
- c. Must have taught a minimum of ten GUE Cave 1 classes
- d. Must have experience in high-flow systems and systems that require decompression.
- e. Must intern one GUE Cave 2 class.
- f. Must earn one endorsement from a GUE IE by demonstrating an understanding of the GUE Cave 2 program content and structure. This evaluation must be conducted during the course of one actual, complete, and uninterrupted GUE Cave 2 class. The instructor candidate is required to be responsible for all facets of the class, from logistical planning to document execution. Co-teaching is prohibited during a validating examination.
- g. Must submit final paperwork to GUE HQ (3.5.3, #4).

3.5.4.4.3 Underwater Cave Survey Instructor Candidate Curriculum-Specific Prerequisites

- a. Must be an Active status GUE Cave 2 instructor
- b. Must have taught at least ten GUE Cave 2 classes
- c. Must have conducted at least 300 documented cave dives beyond Cave 2 certification.
- d. Must have participated in one sanctioned GUE Cave Exploration Project
- e. Must have acted as the lead surveyor and cartographer for at least one exploration project that resulted in the production of an accurate cave map
- f. Must intern three GUE Underwater Cave Survey classes
- g. Must earn one endorsement from a GUE IE by demonstrating and understanding of the GUE Underwater Cave Survey program content and structure.
- h. Must submit final paperwork to GUE HQ (3.5.3, #4).

3.6 Instructor Trainer (IT)

3.6.1 Rating

A GUE Instructor Trainer (IT) is qualified to:

- a. Act as staff for a GUE-approved ITC in the curricula for which they are credentialed.
- b. Conduct internships during which instructor candidates are able to earn signatures for component parts testifying to their readiness teach the component in question.
- c. Award the first of two endorsements that allow an instructor candidate to be ratified as a GUE instructor.

3.6.2 Prerequisites

All GUE Instructor Trainer (IT) candidates must:

- a. Be an Active status GUE instructor
- b. Have taught at least ten entry-level courses in the curriculum in which they are seeking IT status
- c. Submit an Instructor Trainer Application Form to GUE's Board of Advisors (BOA) outlining their reasons for pursuing this rating and their suitability for it.
- d. Complete a GUE Instructor Trainer Development Course (ITDC)
- e. Demonstrate a commitment to mentoring and developing instructor candidates.
- f. Possess leadership level administrative skills
- g. Possess leadership level educational skills
- h. Demonstrate impartiality, equanimity, and sound judgment.
- i. Always conduct themselves in a manner consistent with GUE General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures, and that promotes the best interests of GUE.
- j. Not actively teach for other dive training organizations.
- k. Have the support of GUE's BOA.

3.6.3 Maintaining the IT Rating

The GUE IT rating is reviewed annually and requires renewal by the BOA every two years. Candidates may maintain their IT rating by:

- a. Annually submitting the IT/IE Renewal Form as part of their instructor renewal.
- b. Reapplying for IT status every two years.
- c. Demonstrating leadership level administrative skills.
- d. Demonstrating leadership level educational skills.
- e. Demonstrating a commitment to mentoring and developing instructor candidates.
- f. Demonstrating impartiality, equanimity and sound judgment.
- g. Conducting themselves in a manner consistent with GUE General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures, and promoting the best interests of GUE.
- h. Demonstrating that they are promoting the best interests of the candidates, e.g., providing excellent training while mitigating unnecessary costs to the candidate.
- i. Not actively teaching for other dive training organizations.

3.7 Instructor Evaluator (IE)

3.7.1 Rating

A GUE Instructor Evaluator (IE) is qualified to:

- a. Teach GUE ITCs in curricula in which they are credentialed IEs.
- b. Conduct internships during which instructor candidates are able to earn signatures for component parts testifying to their readiness teach the component in question.
- c. Award the first and second of two endorsements that allow an instructor candidate to be ratified as a GUE instructor, though they may not award both the first and the second endorsement for a given candidate.

3.7.2 Prerequisites

All GUE Instructor Evaluator (IE) candidates must:

- a. Be an Active GUE IT in the curriculum for which they are seeking IE status.
- b. Be an Active status GUE instructor for at least five years.
- c. Demonstrate a commitment to mentoring and developing instructor candidates.
- d. Not actively teach for other dive training organizations.
- e. Have the support of GUE's BOA.

3.7.3 Maintaining the IE Rating

The GUE IE rating is reviewed annually and requires renewal by the BOA every two years. Candidates may maintain their IE rating by:

- a. Annually submitting the IT/IE Renewal Form as part of their instructor renewal.
- b. Reapplying for IE status every two years.

- c. Demonstrating leadership level administrative skills.
- d. Demonstrating leadership level educational skills.
- e. Demonstrating continued interest in developing and mentoring instructor candidates.
- f. Demonstrating impartiality, equanimity, and sound judgment.
- g. Conducting themselves in a manner consistent with GUE General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures, and promoting the best interests of GUE.
- h. Demonstrating that they are promoting the best interests of the candidates, e.g., providing excellent training while mitigating unnecessary costs to the candidate.
- i. Not actively teaching for other dive training organizations.

3.8 Recreational Instructor Assistant

The role of the GUE Recreational Instructor Assistant is supporting the development of safe diving practices of GUE students and GUE Recreational Supervised Divers. GUE Recreational Instructor Assistants may fulfill their role while working with a GUE Active status instructor during formal GUE training or while diving with appropriately qualified GUE divers.

This rating allows instructor candidates to more actively engage in GUE training and stay active during their GUE instructor development, enhancing the learning process.

Upon fulfilling the minimum training requirements, the GUE Recreational Instructor Assistant will be qualified to:

- a. Act as an instructor assistant in the following courses: Discover Diving, Recreational Supervised Diver, Recreational Diver Level 1, Recreational Diver Level 2 (including Rescue, Navigation, and Triox Primers), GUE Fundamentals, Drysuit Primer and Doubles Primer.
- b. Act as an instructor assistant in other courses from the Recreational and Foundational curricula, if certified at that level.
- c. Coach students in a 1:1 ratio in the following skills while in confined water: trim, balance, buoyancy, Basic 5 scuba skills, propulsion and maneuvering techniques. The GUE Recreational Instructor Assistant is limited to coaching and active feedback, and cannot offer an evaluation of students' performance, which is the sole responsibility of the GUE instructor. While coaching students, the GUE Recreational Instructor Assistant must be under the supervision of a GUE instructor who is present, responsible, and in charge of all training activities.
- d. Accompany students to the surface as well as perform descents and ascents with students if approved by the instructor.
- e. Act as a sanctioned video diver or safety diver during GUE Recreational Diver Levels 1 and 2 and Foundational classes.
- f. Act as a dive guide, i.e., dive with GUE Recreational Supervised Divers in a 2:1 ratio, or with higher certification levels (up to one level below the assistant's GUE certification level) in a 3:1 ratio.

3.8.1 Prerequisites

Applicants for GUE Recreational Instructor Assistant status must:

- a. Fulfill GUE General Instructor Candidate Prerequisites as outlined in section 3.5.2.
- b. Be certified as a GUE Rec 2 or GUE Fundamentals diver.
- c. Have conducted at least 200 dives; of these, 50 must have been in a GUE configuration.
- d. Complete the internship requirement by observing—as a registered candidate—one entire GUE Fundamentals or GUE Rec 1 class (3.5.3, #1).
- e. Earn component signatures from a GUE IT or IE, as specified in sections 3.8.3 through 3.8.6.
- f. Submit final paperwork to GUE HQ (3.5.3, #4).

3.8.2 Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study package received via online download after GUE course registration.

3.8.3 Academic Topics

The candidate must participate in the following sessions with a GUE IT or IE.

- a. How to Teach: Part 1
- b. How to Teach: Part 2
- c. How to Teach: Part 3
- d. Basic Positioning Control
- e. Debriefing: Part 1

The GUE Recreational Instructor Assistant candidate must earn a signature for each of the following components by participating in appropriate sessions and being evaluated by a GUE IT or IE. Component signatures are documented using the current GUE Fundamentals/Rec1 Intern Evaluation Form.

- a. Physical fitness (all components)
- b. Professionalism
 - i. Effectively manages logistics (B)
 - ii. Demeanor (D)
 - iii. Interest in students' success (E)
 - iv. Mastery of GUE Standards (F)
- c. General teaching skills
 - i. Speaks clearly and confidently (A)
 - ii. Satisfactorily answers questions (B)
 - iii. Effective solutions to student problems (C)
 - iv. Promotes diving as enjoyment (G)
- d. Classroom performance
 - i. GUE overview (A)
 - ii. Buoyancy and weighting (B)

- iii. Balance and trim (C)
- iv. Decompression procedures (G)
- v. Dive planning (J)

3.8.4 Required Field Drills

The GUE Recreational Instructor Assistant candidate must earn a signature for each of the following components by participating in appropriate sessions and being evaluated by a GUE IT or IE. Component signatures are documented using the current GUE Fundamentals/Rec1 Intern Evaluation Form.

- a. Equipment overview (A)
- b. Gas analysis (B)
- c. Propulsion (F)
- d. Backplate fitting (H)

3.8.5 In-Water Skills

The GUE Recreational Instructor Assistant candidate must receive a signature for each of the following components by participating in appropriate sessions and being evaluated by a GUE IT or IE. Component signatures are document using the current GUE Fundamentals/Rec1 Intern Evaluation Form.

- a. Buoyancy (A, B)
- b. Propulsion and maneuvering (A, B)
- c. Basic 5 scuba skills (A, B)
- d. S-drill (A)
- e. SMB deployment (A)
- f. Rescue skills (A); only unresponsive diver underwater rescue is required

3.8.6 Rec 1 Skills

- a. Basic 5 rescue skills (A)
- b. Compass navigation (A)

3.8.7 Personal Diving Skills

The GUE Recreational Instructor Assistant candidate must receive a signature for all personal skills components by participating in appropriate sessions and being evaluated by a GUE IT or IE. Component signatures are documented using the current GUE Fundamentals/Rec 1 Intern Evaluation Form and must be scored with a minimum of grade 4.

3.8.8 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in [Appendix A](#).

3.8.9 Maintaining Recreational Instructor Assistant Status

Active status GUE Recreational Instructor Assistants are instructor assistants in good standing who are sanctioned to represent GUE and assist in specific GUE classes commensurate with their certifications. To maintain this status, a GUE Recreational Instructor Assistant must:

- a. Maintain a current mailing address with GUE HQ.
- b. Apply annually for renewal
- c. Be familiar with the most current version of the GUE General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures document.
- d. Pay all outstanding debts owed GUE.
- e. Be a nonsmoker.
- f. Log at least twenty-five non-training dives per year. Half of these dives must be at the highest level of certification. The remaining documented dives should be oriented toward enhancing personal skill development.
- g. Document that they have assisted, audited, or participated in one complete GUE diving course from the recreational or foundational curriculum.
- h. Possess a current BLS skills and procedures certification.
- i. Possess unconscious diver rescue skills and procedures training certification.
- j. Carry instructional insurance and provide proof of the policy.
 - i. Instructors in the following categories must carry US-based liability insurance, as recommended and approved by GUE HQ.
 1. ALL instructors of any nationality teaching in U.S. territories.
 2. ALL U.S. citizens teaching U.S. citizens in ANY location.
 - ii. Liability insurance carried by all instructors must, at minimum, meet the following criteria:
 1. Certificates of insurance must cover GUE in case of a claim.
 2. Minimum coverage: \$1 million.
 - iii. Waivers: Instructors who are covered by city, state, federal, or private institutional liability insurance must request, in writing, an exemption for the insurance requirement. U.S. military personnel who teach diving as part of their military duties and teach ONLY U.S. military are exempt from the insurance requirement but must apply, in writing, for the exemption and provide letters of exemption from their commanding officers.
- k. Provide evidence that they have current personal diving insurance, equivalent to the DAN Europe Pro Silver Plan, to cover diving medical emergencies including, but not limited to, third party liability, emergency hyperbaric treatment, hospitalization and repatriation. It is the responsibility of the instructor to ensure that any insurance policy has equivalent levels of cover.
- l. Maintain a good state of mental and physical fitness and submit medical and fitness forms.

3.9 Recreational Dive Leader

Upon fulfilling the prerequisites and receiving the GUE Recreational Dive Leader status, the GUE Recreational Dive Leader will be qualified to be a dive guide to certified GUE Recreational Supervised Divers in a ratio of 1:1.

3.9.1 Prerequisites

Applicants for GUE Recreational Dive Leader status must:

- a. Be certified, at a minimum, as a GUE Tech 1 or a GUE Cave 1 diver.
- b. Have conducted 150 dives, 25 of which must have been at the GUE Tech 1 or GUE Cave 1 level.
- c. Complete an orientation workshop with an Active status GUE Instructor Trainer or Evaluator who is qualified to teach GUE recreational entry-level classes.
- d. Possess a current in BLS skills and procedures certification.
- e. Possess unconscious diver rescue skills and procedures certification.
- f. Have personal diving insurance that specifically covers diving medical emergencies, as well as third party liability which covers GUE in case of a claim.
- g. Maintain a good state of mental and physical fitness.
- h. Submit paperwork to GUE HQ.

3.9.2 Maintaining Recreational Dive Leader Status

Active status GUE Recreational Dive Leaders are dive leaders in good standing who are sanctioned to represent GUE and act as a dive guide to Recreational Supervised Divers. To maintain this status, the GUE Recreational Dive Leader must renew their credentials every three years by:

- a. Submitting a renewal request.
- b. Being a certified GUE Tech 1 or GUE Cave 1 diver.
- c. Providing evidence of a current BLS skills and procedures certification.
- d. Providing evidence of unconscious diver rescue skills and procedures certification.
- e. Providing evidence of a current personal diving insurance policy that specifically covers diving medical emergencies, as well as third party liability which covers GUE in case of a claim.
- f. Maintaining a good state of mental and physical fitness and submit medical and fitness forms.

Appendix A - GUE Base Equipment Configuration

The GUE base equipment configuration is comprised of:

- a. Tanks/cylinders: students may use a single tank/cylinder with a single or dual outlet valve. Students may also use dual tanks/cylinders connected with a dual-outlet isolator manifold, which allows for the use of two first stages. Dual tanks/cylinders connected with a dual-outlet, non-isolator manifold, can be used, but only in recreational (no decompression) diving, and are considered an alternative for a single tank/cylinder. Consult course-specific standards and your instructor to verify size requirements.
- b. Regulators:
 - i. Single tank: the first stage must supply a primary second stage via a 5 to 7 ft/1.5 to 2 m hose. A backup second stage must be necklaced and supplied via a short hose. The first stage must also supply an analog pressure gauge, inflation for the buoyancy compensator (BC), and (when applicable) inflation for a drysuit.
 - ii. Double tank: one first stage must supply a primary second stage via a 5 to 7 ft/1.5 to 2 m hose (7 ft/2 m hose is required for all cave classes), and inflation for the buoyancy compensator (BC). The other first stage must supply a necklaced backup second stage via a short hose, an analog pressure gauge, and (when applicable) inflation for a drysuit.
- c. Backplate system:
 - i. Is held to the diver by one continuous piece of webbing. This webbing is adjustable and uses a buckle to secure the system at the waist.
 - ii. A crotch strap is attached and looped through the waistband to prevent the system from riding up a diver's back.
 - iii. The continuous webbing must support five D-rings;
 - 1. The first placed at the left hip
 - 2. The second placed in line with a diver's right collarbone
 - 3. The third placed in line with the diver's left collarbone
 - 4. The fourth and fifth are placed on the front and back of the crotch strap when divers plan to use advanced equipment such as DPVs.
 - iv. The harness below the diver's arms has small restrictive bands to allow for the placement of reserve lights. The webbing and system retains a minimalist approach.
- d. Buoyancy compensation device (BC):
 - i. A diver's BC is back-mounted and minimalist in nature.
 - ii. It is free of extraneous strings, tabs, or other material.
 - iii. There are no restrictive bands or restrictive elastic affixed to the buoyancy cell.
 - iv. Wing size and shape is appropriate to the cylinder size(s) employed for training.

- e. At least one time/depth measuring device.
- f. Wrist-mounted compass.
- g. Mask and fins: Mask is low-volume; fins are rigid, non-split.
- h. At least one cutting device.
- i. Wetnotes.
- j. At least one surface marker buoy (SMB) with spool per diver.
- k. Exposure suit appropriate for the duration of exposure.

Additional Course-Specific Equipment

- a. Where required, bottom gas, decompression, or stage cylinders are marked in accordance with GUE Standard Operating Procedures and configured in line with GUE protocols. They should be as close to neutral as possible with a relatively small swing from negative to positive during the use of the cylinder.
- b. When drysuit inflation systems are applicable, they should be sized appropriately for the environment; small tanks are placed on the backplate with larger supplies affixed to the diver's left back gas tank.
- c. Surface marker buoy: when required, the SMB should be appropriate for environmental conditions and deployed using a spool with at least 100 ft/30 m of line.
- d. One backup mask is required for some classes.
- e. Underwater lights:
 - i. When required, backup lights should be powered by alkaline batteries (not rechargeable) and stowed on the D-rings at a diver's chest.
 - ii. Backup lights should have a minimal amount of protrusions and a single attachment at its rear.
 - iii. The primary light should consist of a rechargeable battery pack and be fitted with a Goodman-style light handle.
 - iv. When burn time requirements create the need for an external battery pack, it should reside in a canister mounted on the diver's right hip.
- f. Guideline devices, as required during cave diving activities:
 - i. A primary reel is required for all cave diving and provides a minimalist form factor with a handle designed to support a Goodman or "hands free" handle operation. The primary reel must contain at least 150 ft/45 m of line.
 - ii. A safety spool is required for each diver while cave diving and must contain at least 150 ft/45 m of line.
 - iii. A jump or gap spool is required during Cave 2 diving and must contain at least 75 ft/23 m of line.