

Type	Example of risk	Risk: Anything you think might affect the safe completion of the activity above	Mitigation action: What should be done to reduce or remove the risk?	Risk Rating	Last updated
COVID-19	Infection of self or others	Any activity in relation to diving and the close proximity of other individuals.	Ensure that the Government, BSAC and Sheffield Scuba guidelines are followed in order to minimise the risk of infection of yourself or others.	Low	22/07/2022
Non Diving	Car Park / other vehicles	Equipment or people injured due to car park users while transferring equipment to / from cars in the car park.	Ensure vehicle(s) correctly parked, keep look out for other vehicles in the area especially when transferring equipment.	Low	22/07/2022
Non Diving	Cage unstable	Unstable cage while manoeuvring, due to old age and rust.	Immediately cease to move the cage from the poolside store and replace cage with a new one.	Low	22/07/2022
Non Diving	Carrying/lifting Equipment	Injuries due to poor lifting techniques and dropping equipment. Dropping cylinder on floor/in to pool.	All divers taught to carefully carry cylinders by their side, bending knees and keeping back straight when lifting a cylinder as needed. Ideally stand up the cylinder and carry from valve at your side. Take assistance from your "Dive Buddy" or Instructor as needed. Do not carry cylinders on your shoulders.	Low	19/11/2022
Non Diving	Kit storage cage free wheeling	Due to the nature of the floors around the waterside, kit storage cages should not be left unless wedges are in place to prevent them rolling.	Cages must be transported directly from the poolside store with a minimum of two persons and must then be transported back in the same fashion. If stored on pool side, cages must be placed adjacent to the barrier between the competition pool & dive pit on the competition pool side. Wedges to prevent the cages from moving must be used.	Low	22/07/2022
Non Diving	Physical Injury - e.g. Cut or trapped skin	Manoeuvring of all of the equipment cages in the pool side store. Other club's cages may not be well maintained and safe or other heavy equipment may block access.	Visually observe each equipment cage before moving in an assess the safest way to move it. Ask for help and plan to move the cages sensibly, with a minimum of two persons. Ask Ponds Forge Staff to move heavy equipment blocking access.	Low	22/07/2022
Non Diving	Hot - Exhaustion	Divers could develop hyperthermia, become dehydrated.	The poolside area is a hot environment, ensure you drink plenty of water.	Low	22/07/2022
Non Diving	Poolside Etiquette	Distraction of other pool users due to members getting too close to the pool while the pool is in use by other users.	Club members should not be on the poolside for any considerable amount of time prior to 20:30; with the exception of moving equipment from the store or preparing equipment for trainees. Kit should be built and stored by the high diving boards; with the exception of cages covered in the cage section.	Low	22/07/2022
Snorkelling	Drowning / unconscious	Snorkeller becomes incapacitated.	There must be a qualified member of the club acting as the Rescue Diver. The Rescue Diver must be a BSAC Sports Diver or BSAC Snorkel Diver with Snorkel Lifesaver qualification minimum age 18 years. They must have also attended the Ponds Forge training annually. Ratios are 1:15 for scuba diving, and 1:30 for snorkelling; so any more than 15 divers or snorkellers requires a ratio of 2:30, increasing the Rescue Diver at the 15 pivot point. The Rescue Diver must be ready in swimwear with a mask and snorkel on the poolside to enact a rescue, they should be located at the shorter ends of the pool, so to be close to the drowning alarm button. In a rescue scenario, they must first press the drowning alarm button at the dive pit (this will summon PF staff), or instruct for this to be done, then they must enter the water to rescue the casualty. They would then recover the casualty to the pool side, de-kit as necessary, and start basic life support. Ponds Forge staff will have arrived to assist and will follow instructions from the Rescue Diver to aid with the remainder of the basic life support.	Medium	24/11/2022
Snorkelling	In water collision	Snorkeller collides with another snorkeller by not paying attention.	Regularly keep a watch for other snorkellers moving about the pool, check that the ahead direction is clear before setting off if swimming in lanes. If an accident occurs and snorkellers collide, exit the pool to establish all is ok, and if a head injury has occurred end the session and seek medical attention if feeling faint.	Low	19/11/2022
Diving / Snorkelling	Heart Attack	A diver or snorkeller may have a heart attack.	Medical self-declaration / referral to Medical Referee to prevent divers or snorkeller who is unfit to take part in activities from taking part. If the heart attack occurs, BLS by the instructor and emergency services notified. See <b>Diver Rescue</b> for further mitigation.	Medium	19/11/2022
Diving / Snorkelling	Slipping over / Access to water	Slipping or falling on entry or exit to the pool.	Do not walk forward in fins, side step as shown by instructors, put fins on as close to pool side as possible. Wear wetsuit boots or bare feet to minimise slipping opportunities whilst walking. Enter the pool via one of the standard entry methods as taught by the instructors. Exit either via ladders or by removing kit and climbing out as shown by the instructors.	Low	19/11/2022
Diving / Snorkelling	Panic	A diver or snorkeller may panic.	Monitoring by Instructor. Instructor/trainee ratios in accordance with BSAC recommendations. Assistance from Instructor or buddy.	Low	19/11/2022

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Diving	Cold - Divers	Divers develop hypothermia.	Ensure divers wear some form of thermal protection, i.e. a t-shirt or wetsuit. Water will be warm, but longer dives can yield cold divers.	Low	22/07/2022
Diving	Contaminated Air	Poisoning due to toxic effects of: Carbon monoxide Carbon Dioxide Contamination (oil, oxides of nitrogen, etc.)	Avoidance of and checking for contamination of breathing gas (buddy check), Buddy monitoring, Experience.	Low	22/07/2022
Diving	Decompression Illness	Divers develop DCI, mild or severe. Category includes: Gas embolism Interstitial emphysema Spontaneous pneumothorax	Pool dives are to a maximum of 6m and are adhoc. Repetitive ascents should be minimised. All divers equipped with depth gauges and watches and/or decompression computers - trainee may rely on instructors. Observation of maximum ascent rates and ascent drills. If required qualified personnel to administer O2 First Aid and summon assistance from qualified personnel.	Medium	22/07/2022
Diving	Diver Inexperience	Trainees or divers junior to Sports Diver in the pool without supervision.	Ideally an instructor is present at each pool session, if this is not the case, only qualified Sports Divers and above to dive in buddy groups.	Low	31/10/2022
Diving	Diver Rescue	A diver may require to be rescued from the pool due to an issue.	There must be a qualified member of the club acting as the Rescue Diver. The Rescue Diver must be a BSAC Sports Diver or BSAC Snorkel Diver with Snorkel Lifesaver qualification minimum age 18 years. They must have also attended the Ponds Forge training annually. Ratios are 1:15 for scuba diving, and 1:30 for snorkelling; so any more than 15 divers or snorkellers requires a ratio of 2:30, increasing the Rescue Diver at the 15 pivot point. The Rescue Diver must be ready in swimwear with a mask and snorkel on the poolside to enact a rescue, they should be located at the shorter ends of the pool, so to be close to the drowning alarm button. In a rescue scenario, they must first press the drowning alarm button at the dive pit (this will summon PF staff), or instruct for this to be done. The Rescue Diver may then need to enter the water to rescue the casualty, or the buddy/instructor in water may be bringing the casualty to the side, this will require on site dynamic decision making. The casualty would be recovered to the side of the pool under coordination of the Rescue Diver and they would then be de-kitted as necessary and basic life support started. Ponds Forge staff will have arrived to assist and will follow instructions from the Rescue Diver to aid with the remainder of the basic life support.	Medium	24/11/2022
Diving	Diver separation	Divers could get separated from each other.	Divers to stay in visual contact and not to dive alone. Instructors may swim around the pool observing, but should aim to be close to a group of other divers at all times. Dive Leaders and Advanced Divers may also swim around the pool, staying close to other groups at all times. All other divers must ensure diving in buddy groups is adhered to.	Low	22/07/2022
Diving	Drowning	Diver inhales water and drowns.	Training in dive planning and conduct, monitoring of air consumption, Buddy check, Buddy monitoring, experience, maintenance of basic level of fitness. Diving with a buddy aids a rescue. See <b>Diver Rescue</b> for further mitigation.	Medium	22/07/2022
Diving	Ear damage	Damage to ears.	Trainees receive specific instruction in 'ear clearing'. Divers do not dive when suffering from a cold.	Medium	22/07/2022
Diving	Equipment failure	Lack of gas supply, buoyancy adjustment.	Check equipment before dive and often during diving. AS or CBL to be effected as needed.	Low	22/07/2022
Diving	Falling Cylinders	A cylinder may fall out of the BCD strap.	Students should ensure that the strap is tight and secure before lifting as shown by the instructors. Buddy check to help detect issues.	Low	22/07/2022
Diving	Fast ascent / Uncontrolled Ascent	Serious injury to diver, e.g. bust lung or DCI.	Divers taught ascent and descents, adequate buoyancy control keep an eye on buoyancy throughout the dive, particularly on the ascent. All divers to be aware that they should never hold their breath. Ensure diver and their buddy understands their buoyancy controls.	High	22/07/2022
Diving	Mask Squeeze	Divers may fail to equalise mask on descent and may result in red mark on face.	Only mask which encloses both eyes and nose in the same airspace used. Trainees receive specific instruction in mask equalisation.	Low	22/07/2022
Diving	Running out of gas	Running out of gas as a result of excessive air consumption.	Diver to maintain constant checks throughout dive and monitored as relevant by the Instructor during training. All SCUBA sets fitted with cylinder pressure gauges and Alternative Sources. Trainees should not use cylinders with less than 100BAR pressure in a 12L, 80 in a 15L. All trainees to notify instructors when they reach 50BAR.	High	22/07/2022

**Notes:**

The hazards detailed above are the major risks faced by SCUBA divers. Incidents caused by fatigue, equipment failure, etc lead to the listed risks. These incidents would be dependant on the dive site and conditions. In general, the advice from the British Sub-Aqua Club is as follows:

- Dive within your limits
- Build your experience gradually
- Practice the basic skills until you are faultless, and then keep in practice
- Plan and equip yourself correctly for the dive
- Maintain constant vigilance whilst involved in diving activities and be ready to act quickly as soon as things start to go astray
- Ensure that equipment is fully and correctly serviced

**Pool Safety Officers Guidelines from BSAC:** <https://www.bsac.com/advice-and-support/dive-planning/risk-assessments/pool-safety-officers-guidelines/> refer to the use of Rescue Divers in order to make the pool safe. To this end BSAC recommends that lifeguard duties should be assigned to qualified members of the user group. The minimum qualification that gives a diver the necessary skills is the BSAC Sports Diver or BSAC Snorkel Diver with Snorkel Lifesaver qualification minimum age 18 years. As guidance it is recommended that the ratio of rescue divers to pool users for scuba diving activities should be 1:15. For snorkelling activities or surface training the ratio could be increased to 1:30. Thus for a diver training session of 25 - 30 pool users, the recommended minimum number of duty diver rescuers should be 2.

**Buddy Diving:** The buddy system works by ensuring that both divers have done all of their checks together for kit and safety, they then remain together throughout the dive, giving each other regular OK signals and gas updates. In the event that one diver has an issue the buddy will help to resolve, which in the worst case could be a form of diver rescue. If the dive has been successful, both divers will exit the water together.

**Qualifications:** All training records are maintained by the Diving Officer. This includes diver qualifications, which indicates who can be a Rescue Diver, attendance at the Ponds Forge venue induction training and Instructor qualifications. These can be supplied to Ponds Forge on a need basis respecting GDPR.

**Equipment Maintenance:** Club equipment will be serviced in accordance with industry regulations and manufacturer recommendations. It is recommended that personal equipment follows the