

## 8. Freediving Photographer

### 8.1 Introduction

This course is designed to introduce freedivers to the equipment, techniques, and procedures to take freediving photographs and allow the student to experience and discuss many areas of interest to the freediving photographer

### 8.2 Who May Teach

An active PFI Instructor that has been certified to teach this specialty

### 8.3 Student to Instructor Ratio

#### Academic

1. Unlimited, so long as adequate facility, supplies and time are provided to ensure comprehensive and complete training of subject matter

#### Confined Water (swimming pool-like conditions)

1. N/A

#### Open Water (ocean, lake, quarry, spring, river or estuary)

1. A maximum of 6 students per instructor; it is the instructor's discretion to reduce this number as conditions dictate
2. The instructor has the option of adding 4 more students with the assistance of an active assistant instructor
3. The total number of students an instructor may have in the water is 10 with the assistance of active assistant instructors

### 8.4 Student Prerequisites

1. PFI Freediver, PFI Junior Freediver, or equivalent
2. Minimum age 18, 10 with parental consent

### 8.5 Course Structure and Duration

1. Open Water Execution
2. Two freedive sessions are required with complete briefs and debriefs by the instructor
3. Freedive plan must include surface interval calculation, direct supervision procedures, etc. to be figured out and logged

### Course Structure

1. PFI allows instructors to structure courses according to the number of students participating and their skill level

## 8.6 Administrative Requirements

### Administrative Tasks:

1. Collect the course fees from all the students
2. Ensure that the students have the required equipment
3. Communicate the schedule to the students
4. Have the students complete the:
  - a. *PFI General Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk* Form
  - b. *PFI Medical History* Form

### Upon successful completion of this specialty the instructor must:

1. Issue the appropriate PFI certification by registering the students online through member's area of the PFI website or submitting the *PFI Student Registration* Form to PFI Headquarters

## 8.7 Required Equipment

1. Basic freediver equipment as described in section three of this manual
2. Underwater photography equipment applicable to course structure and activities

## 8.8 Approved Outline

**Instructors may use any additional text or materials that they feel help present these topics. The following topics must be covered:**

1. Underwater Light
  - a. Variation of light under water
  - b. Time for best available light photography
  - c. Color correction filtering for depth
  - d. Strobos vs Video Light
  - e. Selective color absorption of light
  - f. Available light and strobe considerations
  - g. Possible backscatter issues
  - h. Additional drag while freediving

2. Film Considerations
  - a. Color balance
  - b. Grain
  - c. Resolving power
  - d. Latitude
3. Contrast
4. Color reversal
5. Digital
  - a. Capture Media
  - b. Memory Technology
  - c. Printing
  - d. Post Dive Review ability
6. TV vs Computer vs Camera
7. Camera Use in Association with freediving
  - a. Types of cameras
    - i. Housed style
    - ii. Integral unit
  - b. Handling of equipment
  - c. Camera settings
    - i. Auto vs Manual
    - ii. Optional settings (as required)
8. Photographic Subjects
  - a. Composition of scene
  - b. Use of light enhancement
  - c. Subject ease
  - d. Use of models
  - e. Marine Conservation awareness.
9. Care of Equipment
  - a. Saltwater care
  - b. Fresh water care
  - c. Care of the flooded-housed camera
10. Use of Color Positive Films
  - a. Ease of development (E—6 processing)
  - b. Mounting
11. Digital Software
  - a. Downloading images
  - b. Photo Storage
  - c. Photo Manipulation
  - d. Printing & Mounting

## 8.9 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

**Students are required to successfully complete the following:**

1. Open Water Freedive Session 1
  - a. Local freedive site to familiarize the student with the equipment and handling
  - b. Composition to be considered at a beginning point of view
  - c. Plan freedive session
  - d. Suitable Entry (care to be taken with camera & additional equipment; these may be passed to freediver once in the water in conditions & environment allows it)
  - e. Situational awareness (depth, time, hypoxic symptoms, and buddy awareness)
  - f. Photography of subjects as planned.
  - g. Conservational awareness
  - h. Exit
  - i. Care of equipment
  - j. Log freedives
2. Open Water Freedive Session 2
  - a. Choose a freedive site to give the student more application with
    - i. Marine subjects.
    - ii. Additional light considerations.
    - iii. Wide coloring
  - b. Stress on safety while within the water and attaining good quality subjects.
  - c. Both still and moving life subjects shown if possible
  - d. Conduct freedive session as per above.

**A post-freedive session should be scheduled for students to review their photographic images and develop self-evaluation techniques.**