

# DIVEMASTER COURSE

## Conduct and Skill Recommendations

### Overview

The PADI Divemaster course builds on the problem solving skills developed in the PADI Rescue Diver program, and extends their application from accident management and prevention to supervisory situations with students and certified divers. The course also helps divers form the appropriate leadership attitude and prepares them to make sound judgment calls. Divemaster candidates learn to problem-solve safety-related issues, and to have a positive, solution-oriented attitude toward customer service, business and operational challenges.

The PADI Divemaster course is divided into knowledge development, waterskills development, and practical application sections. Through this training, divemaster candidates develop exemplary dive skills including fine-tuning rescue skills. They also strengthen their dive theory knowledge, which is the foundation for creative problem solving. Divemasters gain competence as certified assistants and dive supervisors. Certified PADI Divemasters are role models who follow responsible dive practices and demonstrate care for the aquatic environment. Their knowledge, skill and enthusiasm for diving helps people have fun within their interests and skill levels.

### Junior Divemaster Course Overview

The PADI Junior Divemaster course is a subset of the PADI Divemaster course. The course is designed for youth, aged 15-17, who want to continue their education and are interested in leadership level training but are not old enough to become PADI Divemasters. PADI Junior Divemasters complete portions of the Divemaster course with some modifications to performance requirements. See the Junior Divemaster Course Conduct and Skill Recommendations pages for an explanation of the course. **Junior Divemasters are not PADI Members and can't act as certified assistants or supervise divers.** They can assist PADI Professionals with many dive management duties and become great diving ambassadors. Keeping Junior Divemasters engaged will continue to build their leadership and dive skills until they meet the age prerequisite for enrolling in a PADI Divemaster course. Note that adults may choose to take the course because they're not ready to commit, or can't complete, the full Divemaster course.

### General Suggestions

1. As with any PADI course or program, diver safety is your first priority when planning, organizing and conducting divemaster training.
2. Develop a mentor relationship with divemaster candidates. Guide them by explaining why you make specific choices and the basis for your judgment. Share your personal insights about teaching and supervising divers. This mentorship approach and relationship is more effective in developing divemaster candidates' judgment and attitudes than simply trying to tell them how to think. (See Training Dive Leaders in the Philosophy and Approach section of this manual for more on this instructional approach.)
3. For the knowledge development segment of the course, candidates have two independent study options: 1) complete PADI *Divemaster eLearning*; or 2) read the PADI *Divemaster Manual* and watch the PADI *Divemaster Video*. You must conduct the first presentation – The Role and Characteristics of a PADI Divemaster. You fill in additional information and clarify understanding during classroom review sessions. Use the Divemaster Course Lesson Guides for both class presentations and prescriptive review.

# JUNIOR DIVEMASTER COURSE

## Conduct and Skill Recommendations

The PADI Junior Divemaster course is a subset of the PADI Divemaster course. The conduct and skill recommendations included here specifically note the different techniques and considerations you should use while teaching the Junior Divemaster course versus the PADI Divemaster course.

### Overview

Faced with modern pressures of today's demanding world, teenagers need fun, adventure, friendship and for many, a confidence boost. This is what PADI's youth programs provide, but they used to stop at the PADI Rescue Diver level. The PADI Junior Divemaster course is designed to address the gap between Junior Rescue Diver and Divemaster. The Junior Divemaster course continues the adventure, provides more skills, experience, develops dive theory knowledge and introduces leadership development to youth between the ages of 15 and 17. There are several components of the course that may credit towards the PADI Divemaster course when Junior Divemasters turn 18.

Of course, there may be adults who want to take this course too. Those that don't feel ready to commit to the full Divemaster course, but are keen to develop some leadership skills; those that just want to extend their diving certifications and have no interest in a professional diving route and those that can't complete the full Divemaster course, but want certification credit for the components they have completed, as well as the referral options available to them.

As the Junior Divemaster certification is not a professional rating (international standards do not permit anyone under the age of 18 becoming a dive professional), Junior Divemasters should never be placed in a situation where they could be held liable for supervising divers. Keep this in mind as you develop Junior Divemaster candidates through this course. They will, however, be helping you and your professional staff, and will engage with your customers.

Junior Divemasters are qualified to help and shadow a PADI Professional in some of their dive management duties such as helping set up the dive site and pre-dive preparation, preparing emergency equipment, greeting divers and setting dive flags. They can, for example, assist with diver spotting from a vantage point, help divers with their gear when they exit the water and assist with the dive roster, but not independently. They can conduct a dive site briefing for customers, but this must always be under the direct supervision of a PADI Professional. They can assist in the logistics of setting up for a student diver class and can help demonstrate skills when the skill requires a buddy.

They are also great ambassadors for diving and for the environment and should be encouraged to be involved with promoting diving such as giving "benefits of learning to dive" and other diving promotional talks or environmental presentations, within the dive center or resort, local school or wider community, off and online. Continue to help and mentor them beyond this course, encourage activities, stay connected and put some of their new found confidence, leadership skills and enthusiasm to good use.

## General Suggestions

1. Mentoring young people may take more time and patience than working with adults. Guide youngsters by explaining why you make specific choices and the basis for your judgment. Respect their viewpoints, recognizing these may not yet be fully informed. Gently correct where necessary and praise them regularly to build confidence. Working with teenagers demands consistent role model practice and positive attitude from all the dive staff.
2. **Junior Divemasters are not PADI Members and must not act as certified assistants or supervise divers.** Ensure that Junior Divemaster candidates are very clear on their limitations and their allowed activities. They should be made aware that their role is only to assist a PADI Professional, that their activities are restricted post certification and why this is necessary.
3. Junior Divemaster candidates can develop their dive theory and supervisory knowledge, using the PADI Divemaster course materials, but do not allow them to take the actual Divemaster Final Exam. When they move onto the Divemaster course, the exam should be seen for the first time, to ensure the integrity of the exam system. The Junior Divemaster course has its own tailored exam.
4. It is possible to combine divemaster candidates and Junior Divemaster candidates in the same classes. The advantages of this approach are efficiency, mutual motivation and increased mentorship potential from the divemaster candidates. The disadvantage is that there needs to be clarity in any explanations regarding roles post certification. Combining groups provides an extra advantage of building social confidence with different age groups and excitement about what the full Divemaster course can bring once youngsters turn 18. The disadvantage is that developing leadership skills, including public speaking (for example, during briefing development) may be more intimidating alongside adult candidates. Consider how reduce stress levels particularly during development.
5. Certify Junior Divemasters by completing a PIC (envelope or online). It is not an application process because this is not a professional rating.
6. Junior Divemasters do not need physician's approval unless they respond "yes" to any medical statements on the Diver Medical form that is completed in conjunction with the Continuing Education Administrative Document.

## Sample Junior Divemaster Course Schedule

The following sample schedule suggests ways you can organize the PADI Junior Divemaster course. With this as a guide, arrange a schedule that fits your logistical and candidate needs. Remember that there is a great deal of flexibility allowed for arranging course components.

### One

**Preparation:** Candidates study using *Divemaster eLearning* – verify completion by checking eRecord.

**Classroom:** Course Orientation and The Role and Characteristics of a PADI Divemaster.

**Confined Water:**

- Waterskills Exercises 1 and 2
- Skills demonstration practice

**Assignments:** Emergency Assistance Plan and Mapping Project

**Two****Confined Water:**

- Waterskills Exercises 3 and 4
- Diver Rescue

**Open Water:**

- Skill 1 – Dive Site Set Up and Management
- Skill 4 – Search and Recovery Scenario

**Three****Confined Water:**

- Dive Skills Workshop – evaluate 24 skills

**Open Water:**

- Skill 2 – Mapping Project
- Skill 3 – Dive Briefing

**Four****Confined Water:**

- Remediation if necessary

**Open Water:**

- Skill 2 – Mapping Project completion

**Classroom:**

- Junior Divemaster Exam and remediation if necessary
- Closing

**Optional:** Shadow instructor for Divemaster course practical workshops

## Junior Divemaster Skill Development Conduct and Technique Recommendations

### Waterskills Exercises

Junior Divemaster candidates only complete Exercises 1 to 4 nonstop. They do not complete the more complex Exercise 5 – Equipment Exchange. There is no score, – candidates only must complete each exercise nonstop. You may time exercises, but do assign a score or focus on time.

Be aware of the fact that some may complete exercises straight away whereas others need development time. Teenagers may be more sensitive to not achieving success on the first attempt than adults. Candidates may practice and attempt the exercises as many times as needed. Encourage teamwork in training sessions with candidates supporting each other so that the whole group gets through together.

## Practical Skills

**Skill 1 – Dive Site Set Up and Management:** This skill prepares Junior Divemaster candidates to assist a PADI Professional with dive site management. Use the suggested conduct and technique recommendations for the Divemaster course with the following considerations:

- Junior Divemaster candidates may require more guidance than divemaster candidates.
- Remember you are preparing them to assist, rather than being able to accomplish these activities independently. Developing their communication and teamwork skills is therefore vital.
- Encourage candidates to ask questions and confirm tasks.

**Skill 2 – Mapping Project:** You must indirectly supervise this practical skill, which means that you are at the dive site helping Junior Divemaster candidates plan and execute their mapping project. Consider the following:

- Show them examples of maps for dive sites they are familiar with.
- Go over the steps for developing a map. Discuss which navigation patterns may work best at the dive site. Show examples of how to best record data on their slates.
- Have certified assistants in the water accompanying buddy teams or checking in with the candidates during mapping.
- Plan additional dives as necessary to complete maps.

**Skill 3 – Dive Briefing:** Have Junior Divemaster candidates give you a dive briefing. Consider starting on a one-to-one basis and then schedule a repeat session once all candidates have accomplished the task successfully. Avoid asking candidates to speak in front of others until they are comfortable for this level of exposure and scrutiny. When ready, include the others to build confidence in public speaking.

**Skill 4 – Search and Recovery Scenario:** Use the suggested conduct and technique recommendations for the Divemaster course, however, you must directly supervise Junior Divemaster candidates as they rig and bring an object to the surface using a lifting device. Because they may have less diving experience than divemaster candidates, take time to demonstrate how to safely rig and lift an object.

Similar to divemaster candidates, Junior Divemaster students who have a PADI Search and Recovery Diver certification may be credited with completing this skill. Consider integrating the Search and Recovery specialty course into Junior Divemaster training to cover this requirement.