



What is the Mentoring Programme?

Go Dive's mentoring programme is unique to the NZ dive industry and is specifically designed to develop you as a diver in a practical manner over a series of dives and workshops.

The programme has been designed and it's lead by a group of **instructors who are amongst the most experienced in the industry**. We will mentor you through the programme; you will build on and master new and old skills – both in and out of the water. You will without doubt gain knowledge that training materials or **your former training didn't cover**, you will dive in places that you will most likely never reach as an independent diver, and you will become a better, **safer and more satisfied diver**.

The programme is suitable for **all levels** of experience whether you are new to diving or an experienced tech diver.

So, is this just another training agency?

Nope. The mentoring programme is NOT a set of certifying courses, it has no associated course costs, but an objectively driven **calibrated grading system** designed to improve your diving and make you a safer diver. It isn't designed to replace standardised training and advanced levels in the programme can require candidates to meet level pre-requisites. Each level does have some skills that can be **cross credited on request** to pre-requisite training for higher next levels.

Through the different assessment levels we will make sure that your skills are honed and up-to-date, and we will teach you the **things that are not in the manuals** but that are paramount to engage in more advanced dives, or just to become an excellent, knowledgeable diver!

Many training agencies have designed their courses to train divers to meet the requirements of the dives within the limitations of their certification, but have forgotten that the conditions of a dive can **drastically displace these limits**, possibly leading divers to deal with unfamiliar or even risky situations. Think about diving in clear and calm tropical waters compared to other cold and low visibility dive sites. Although still within the limitations of your certification, these dives might be **beyond the limitations of your experience AND training**, and further skills and techniques can be required.

Mainstream agencies might also design countless courses in order to diversify their offer and allow for **tremendous flexibility** in their standards or in the equipment that is required. Although this can initially please customers and manufacturers, soon enough the keen diver realizes that the equipment he bought for one course is not good for another, or **not safe** for a particular dive. In some cases, specialty courses might **not even prepare** you for the type of diving they are promoting.

We have built our **Mentoring Programme** from top to bottom, meaning that all our training philosophy, procedures and equipment configuration are **maintained throughout the programme**. What you will learn in your entry recreational levels with us, **you will still use** in the most advanced technical or wreck dive as an example. You might expand your gear, but you will **never** change it or replace it. Everything we do has a **reason**, and all that you will learn will make sense. This is what we call **comprehensive** and **coherent** mentoring.

Sounds great! So, how does it work?

There are **6 levels**, every level is accessed by doing one of our 6 assessment dives.

The levels grow in complexity and variety as you progress through them, **assessing** your personal dive skill and fitness to do more challenging dives.

Wait! What happen if I fail the assessment?

Relax! It doesn't work that way ;)

The assessment will be always **successful**, for its sole purpose is to evaluate your diving level and **mentor** you **towards the next level**. In order to achieve this, we will sit down and do a comprehensive debriefing with you, watching videos of your performance and analysing weak and strong points. From there you will be able to enrol in a number of **workshops or courses** to keep improving your diving skills and your overall diving experience.

Here you have a short description of each level. Every level consist of a briefing, pre-dive section, dive with skills and procedures, and an extensive debriefing.

LEVEL ONE

This first introductory assessment will gauge your diving skills and basic dive procedures as an entry level diver.

We will focus on basic skills that you have already learned during your training, but also teach you a few more that will come really handy in your dives!

We emphasize buoyancy control and trim, basic propulsion techniques and turns, mastery of mask and regulator usage and close attention to dive procedures and limits. We already introduce extended safety and gear checks in this level.

Being proficient in this level will ensure that you can safely do entry level recreational dives and are capable of dealing with the expected environmental conditions for this level. It also means that you can progress into more advanced training.

LEVEL TWO

This level is aimed to those divers who want to do more advanced dives, at greater depths or more challenging conditions, or frequent un-guided dives .

We focus on team and situational awareness and take for granted that your buoyancy and trim will remain relatively stable while dealing with external tasks or while following procedures. You will also need to use additional gear, like SMBs.

Being proficient in this level means that you are more prepared to dive independently and become a safe and proactive dive team member, assets that you will need for the rigours of more aggressive dives and more complex equipment configurations.

LEVEL THREE

This level supposes a reasonable leap in complexity and skill. We include advanced equipment configurations, like twinsets, sidemount or single tank plus stage, depending on your preferences.

We will focus on gear handling, some task overloading, exhaustive dive & team procedures and more advanced planning. At this point really good buoyancy control, trim and situational awareness are expected.

Completing this level will means that you can safely progress into the first steps of technical diving and overhead environment dives.

LEVEL FOUR

Here, we aim to assess fully rigged divers, with redundant technical equipment and accessories.

We will dive a simulated deco dive that must be planned beforehand and must be accompanied by a comprehensive plan, including realistic and personalized gas consumes, runtimes and gas strategies.

We focus on team resources management, procedures and communication, situational awareness and problem solving. Excellent diving techniques are expected.

Completing this level means that you can be a safe and competent tech dive team member, or be a useful tech dive surface support member. This level opens the door for more aggressive tech and overhead dives.

After this level, the Mentoring Programme branches out into two different areas: Tech Deep and Tech Overhead. Divers can be assessed in either of them independently as long as they meet the certification requirements.

DEEP ONE

Aimed for the decompression diver who wants to test his abilities in a controlled session. Divers will carry two stage tanks and full technical diving rig. The session focuses on equipment failure and team resources management, as well as on proper ascents, deco and gas switches.

This is a demanding dive and divers who complete it successfully are capable of handling moderate tech dives safely and with high performance standards.

DEEP TWO

On this level, thorough planning skills and an excellent performance are expected. The session will require the divers to have an excellent control of the dive parameters and in-water plan adjusting. Priority is to keep to the dive schedule while handling and resolving failures and managing team resources.

Divers successfully completing this dive are high-end divers and can engage into aggressive technical dives safely.

OVERHEAD 1

Diving in caves or wrecks bring a unique set of challenges into play. Access to the surface is not immediate and problems must be solved in-water. In this first level we assess basic penetration techniques, like line laying, propulsion techniques, light communication and navigation. We pay close attention to team procedures and gas management.

Completing this dive means that you are able to explore wrecks, caverns or other overhead environments within the light zone in a safe manner.

OVERHEAD 2

This level intends to assess divers in full cave/wreck penetration range. Complex navigation, correct usage of markers and emergency situations are evaluated.

Divers completing this dive are competent overhead environment divers and are able to successfully adjust the dive plan parameters when required.

EXPEDITION DIVING

After having completed either DEEP 2 or OVERHEAD 2 dives, or both of them, you will be able to join our expeditions. These are complex goal-oriented dives, where an experienced and skilled team of divers is required. Expeditions usually include exploration and documentation of new dive sites, caves or wrecks, and the usage of different gases and thorough planning.

Check with your closest participating dive shop if you are interested on joining the local exploration team.





MENTORING PROGRAMME

ENTRY LEVELS

LEVEL 1

OPEN WATER DIVER

LEVEL 2

OPEN WATER DIVER

LEVEL 3

ADVANCED DIVER
NITROX DIVER

LEVEL 4

RESCUE DIVER
NITROX DIVER
INTRO TO TECH

WORKSHOPS

BUOYANCY & TRIM
MASTERY

ADVANCED EQUIPMENT
CONFIGURATION

SIIDEMOUNT &
BACKMOUNT CLINIC

ADVANCED PLANNING

TECH DEEP

DEEP 1

DECOMPRESSION DIVER

DEEP 2

DECOMPRESSION DIVER
EXTENDED RANGE

TECH WORKSHOPS

TECH PROBLEM
SOLVING I

TECH PROBLEM
SOLVING II

LINWORK
CLINIC

ADVANCED
PENETRATION

TECH OVERHEAD

OVERHEAD 1

RESCUE DIVER
NITROX DIVER
CAVERN/WRECK DIVER

OVERHEAD 2

RESCUE DIVER
NITROX DIVER
FULL CAVE/ADV WRECK

*Certification requirements are orientative only. Check with your diveshop for more information.