 **SNORKELLING SAFETY BRIEFING (2)**

**The Dive Coordinator is responsible for the safety and conduct of the snorkelling operation**. A Pre-Snorkel briefing in the presence of the entire snorkelling team is required. This Snorkelling Safety Briefing is valid for a maximum of **3 days** when conducting repetitive snorkelling at a fixed location with a fixed team. When the team, site or environmental conditions change please reassess and complete a new Snorkelling Safety Briefing.

1. [ ]  **Roles & responsibility:** The Dive Coordinator is in-charge of the overall snorkelling operation. The Snorkel Leader is responsible for leading his/her snorkelling team. The Surface Lookout is responsible for keeping a vigilant watch (and where applicable the Coxswain/Skipper is in charge of the vessel and safety of the personnel on-board). Note, it is important that direction given by any of these responsible persons is followed by all participants. Note, each member of the team is also responsible for his/her safety and must operate as a cohesive unit to ensure a safe and successful snorkelling trip. Each team member is responsible for giving their full attention during the briefing, as in the event of an incident any team member may be required to initiate and/or control emergency procedures.
2. [ ]  **Full details of the Snorkel Dive Plan:** (i.e. Aim, objective, tasks, equipment, likely snorkelling duration and site boundaries etc.)
3. [ ]  **Details of expected ‘in water’ conditions:** (i.e. seafloor conditions, depth, water temp, visibility, currents, etc.)
4. [ ]  **Likely hazards or risks encountered:** (NB: the Dive Coordinator must refer to form **(1) On-site Snorkelling Risk Assessment.** Note, any items of **Moderate to Higher risk identified, must be communicated to the snorkelling team** i.e. strong currents, poor visibility, entanglement, sharp reefs, dangerous marine animals etc.)
5. [ ]  **Safe snorkelling limits**: All snorkellers must **stay within 20 metres of the Snorkel Leader** who will be clearly marked with an **attached dive float** and/ or snorkel within the clearly **defined snorkelling site**. Snorkellers should always work as **buddy pairs**, preferably novice paired with experienced. The group must consist of at least **1 in-water Snorkel Leader for a maximum of 8 Restricted Snorkellers**. Given the very real danger of shallow water blackout, drowning, and ear barotrauma injuries, snorkelers participating in breath hold diving must take great care to not exceed their personal limits and avoid hyperventilating prior to duck diving. Snorkellers should take no more than **3 deep controlled breaths** and are **only permitted to breath hold dive to a maximum depth of 5 metres**. **All snorkellers must actively equalize their ears on descent** to prevent ear squeeze or a perforated eardrum. Snorkeller buddy pairs must work as a team with a **1 up 1 down protocol** at all timesand **must stay within close proximity and clear visual range of one another and the Snorkel Leade**r. The Dive Coordinator, Snorkel Leader/s and Surface Lookout/s **must maintain a close watch on all snorkellers, conduct frequent headcounts,** maintain watch for any hazards such as boat traffic, sharks etc and be able to assist in an emergency. Note, Head counts and/or sign in/ out sheets will be used by the Dive Coordinator and/or Surface Lookout/s throughout the course of the day so that there is **zero chance of any snorkeller being left behind.**
6. [ ]  **Boating Safety**: Surface boat traffic can be a **major risk to snorkellers**. Therefore, snorkelling groups and/or sites need to be clearly marked using **highly visible dive floats**. Snorkelling is prohibited in areas of high boating traffic, e.g. around boat ramps or in shipping channels. **Snorkellers must pay attention to engine noise and any approaching boats**. (Note, if snorkelling from a boat, when departing **swim well clear of the vessel** and when boarding be careful **to stay well clear of the motors** and have an awareness of the boats movement. Important note, the **Coxswain/ Skipper must also ensure that the motors are off when dropping off or picking up any snorkellers. Live boating is not permitted.**
7. [ ]  **Diver recall protocol:** The ability to be able to communicate in a snorkel group setting is important, for this reason **whistles must** be carried in-water by the Snorkel Leader and top-side by the Dive Coordinator or Surface Lookout/s. The Snorkel Leader may **blow once on the whistle to call attention** of his/ her group. **Diver recall is 4 blows on the whistle**, repeated periodically. (Note, if using a boat, the Coxswain/Skipper may also signal **4 revs on the motor**, repeated periodically to signal all snorkelers back to the vessel).
8. [ ]  **Shark protocol:** Ocean GuardianShark Shield Freedom 7 units are to be worn **at all times** (unless exemption is granted by Maritime Safety Officer). They have a long tail with electrical charge so **please avoid contact with other snorkellers to avoid shocking**. In event of a shark sighting. The Snorkel Leader, Surface Lookout or Dive Coordinator will **signal 10 blows on the whistle**, repeated periodically. Snorkellers should gather in a tight group and return to shore in a controlled manner. (Note, if boating, the Coxswain/ Skipper may also signal **10 revs on the motor**, repeated periodically. The boat will be positioned next to the snorkellers, they should gather in a tight group and board the boat efficiently).
9. [ ]  **Team briefed on location of safety gear:** (i.e. first aid kit, oxygen kit and notification of who are the trained personnel).
10. [ ]  **Emergency contacts** i.e. Australian Emergency Services (Police, Fire, Ambulance) **000,** Diver Emergency Services **1800 088 200**, Marine Rescue VHF **Ch 16** or 27 MHz **Ch 88**, Coast Guard Assist (South Australia) **8248 6100**, Flinders University Security (24hrs) **8201 2880** and Maritime Safety (Dive) Officer (Matt Lloyd) **0414 190 051**.
11. [ ]  **Location of nearest medical facility**.
12. [ ]  **Final check** that snorkellers are fit and well, understand the Snorkel Dive Plan and are comfortable to undertake the snorkelling operation. If any snorkellers have any doubts on their swimming ability or fitness please notify the Dive Coordinator who must be able to provide you with some **buoyancy assistance in the form of a PFD or life jacket** and **buddy you up with an experienced Snorkel Leader**. Note: if any member of the group becomes distressed or suffer from cramp during the snorkel, please notify the in-water Snorkel Leader who can utilise the dive float to aid buoyancy and assist the distressed snorkeller.

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| **Name:** |  | **Signature:** |  | **Date/time:** |  |

 \*A signed copy of this form must be submitted to the Maritime Safety Dive Officer (Matt Lloyd) post trip.