

BOA meeting, 13th of February 2017

Discussion Topics

1. Instructor development:

- a. Should we require an instructor candidate endorsement by IT/IE?
- The board appreciates potential value but does not currently feel such a system provides enough value to justify the additional administration on the part of HQ or, in particular, the candidate.
- b. How many internships do we want to require from instructor candidates and where should they be placed? Before the ITC and/or between the ITC and IE. What about those not following a formal ITC?
- One internship will be required prior to the ITC/beginning of instructor development with at least one additional internship prior to registering for an IE. To receive the first signature, an additional logistics checkbox should be completed testifying the candidate has a solid grasp of course structure and implementation.
- c. Should we add Cave 1 as a prerequisite for Fundamentals instructors in addition to tech? (as an addition to T1)
The board appreciates the possible value but feels such requirements are problematic and unnecessarily restrictive for a Fundamentals program. This is especially true until better clarity develops about the best way to manage GUE Recreational instructors needing a gateway for divers in their community.
- d. Should we remove mentor status? Do we need anything to replace it?
Removal of mentor category approved

2. Should we adopt a policy regulating use of imagery during GUE classes?
The board remains sensitive to the value and motivations of instructors and students. Yet, the need to adequately manage course priorities, privacy concerns and diver safety/legal risk are extremely complicated without a clear policy. The board agrees to prohibit posting of any underwater imagery during class. Any imagery can only be posted with student permission after the class is formally complete; this completion includes course evaluations and quality control documentation.

3. GUE Courses:

- a. Cavern class – to be or not to be?
The board does not feel a cavern class brings sufficient value but agrees to compromise with refinement of provisional cave 1 status. The board is open to receiving a proposal for a non-certification

workshop program which would confer no diving qualification but would formalize experience opportunities.

b. Wreck class?

The board does not feel a wreck class brings enough value to justify the risk or use of resources needed. Discussions did highlight a variety of options that would include video tutorials and workshop-based experiences as a means to support GUE wreck diving guidelines.

c. Level 3 programs

The board has committed to development of Level Three programs for 2018 with preliminary development prior to the 2017 GUE conference and working groups at the conference in Gainesville, FL.

d. DPV cave light – popular request. Do we need one?

The board is aware of divergent opinions regarding the current structure of the DPV cave curriculum though graduates and auditors attest to multiple DPVs and stages which appears better placed in a future C3. No changes planned immediately but preliminary agreement to discuss with cave instructors and refine for the best mix between DPV cave diving and a cave 3 program in 2018.

e. Tech training in caves – separate class or a gas endorsement on Cave 2 card?

Tech classes successfully completed in a cave will result in a cave 2 card with normoxic/hypoxic trimix endorsement (for tech 1 and tech 2 respectively). To be trained in a cave, students should be cave 2 certified and have at least 25 cave 2 dives after certification. To teach such a program, the instructor should be a tech 2 and cave 2 instructor.

Some discussion also occurred regarding Tech 2 courses in various other environments. General agreement was that Tech 2 programs should be taught from boats in the ocean-like conditions. This expectation should be made clear to all T2 instructors.

f. Cave training in mines?

Mines will be considered on case by case basis. If a mine is approved by the BOA it may only be counted toward a portion of the class to prevent the entire class being taught in a mine.

- g. How many training sites are necessary for a GUE cave 1 class?
At least 3 dive sites are necessary for a cave 1 class. Waivers may be issued by the BOA on case by case basis.
 - h. Tech 60 – renaming, removing?
General agreement to remove T60 after finalizing all Tech restructuring plans for 2018.
 - i. Tech 2+ removal?
General agreement to remove after creation of Tech 3 but with an eye toward safeguarding OC diving beyond 70m.
4. How should a Rec 1 diver transition to Fundy tech or rec?
The board feels that Fundy tech qualification by novice open water divers might be problematic. Current discussions involve requiring advanced ow or equivalent. GUE Rec 2 divers or higher would be allowed to upgrade. Plans to solicit community experience are underway.
5. Primer pre-requisites – GUE only or any diver certification?
Doubles and Dry Suit are permissible for industry-standard OW card.
In-development Triox, Rescue and Navigation primers require GUE training for entry.
6. Medical form addition – add any form of smoking (e-cigarettes, shisha, vaping)?
Agreed
7. Internal conflicts within certain GUE communities discussed.
The board is monitoring a few tense relationships between instructors and determining how best to manage such complexities. It is understandable that everyone will not be friends but open tension or hostility is unacceptable.
8. Should we address divers exceeding their level of certification or divers taking non-qualified divers beyond their certification/experience level?
Private consultation by GUE representative is needed and should be stern where appropriate. Where this is unsuccessful, a note will be made not to renew the offender's certification card.
9. IT/IE candidates –
IT and IE candidates discussed. Additional information/development needed in all cases.

10. Rebreathers:

The Board agreed to continue developing basic structure and details for a possible restructuring of tech training. This structure would involve two RB levels and a published rebreather standard configuration.