



GUE Procedural Changes

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Surface fin kicks with team emphasis

Land drill practice of kicks has proven inferior to in-water surface practice for divers learning propulsion. Prior to dive number one in GUE Fundamentals, GUE prefers to utilize surface propulsion practice while wearing fins and mask in appropriate thermal protection. During this surface practice the divers should work as a team with primary practice centered on back kick and helicopter turn. Divers also need some method for forward propulsion while practicing these skills, creating a natural opportunity for exposure to frog and modified frog propulsion techniques. While at the surface it is necessary for the diver to adjust their position from the normal diving posture. Yet, the general motion of the kicks as well as the general experience has proven very useful toward a better understanding of propulsion mechanics.

Team diving emphasis in practice and performance of skills

While conducting dives every effort should be made to reinforce the team concept. For example, divers practicing helicopter kicks would place the practicing diver between two buddies while performing the skills. The divers would rotate the center position as each team member practices the skill. Other skills such as the basic five also lend themselves to team building. Divers practicing this skill orient as a team with one dive buddy holding the practicing diver's hose during the "hose deployment" part of this skill. Likewise, divers practicing the s-drill should hold the donors long hose while the light cord is organized and the hose stowed.



New dive planning tool- GUE EDGE

GUE is unsatisfied with the previous dive planning tool know as SADDDDDD. Divers are rarely able to use this tool effectively given the confusing relation of similar words.

Going forward GUE will use the acronym GUE EDGE to facilitate dive planning. GUE Edge is as follows:

- G – Goal- Dive objectives
- U - Unified team- team strategies
- E - Equipment match
- E – Exposure- Depth/Time
- D - Decompression strategies
- G - Gas strategies
- E - Environmental issues

Standardized equipment placement for diver’s pockets

The lack of standardized placement for equipment stowed in a diver’s pockets continues to create confusion among dive teams and may be considered a hazard during emergencies in which a dive buddy needs to assist an incapacitated or troubled diver.

Therefore, GUE has agreed to standardize the placement of equipment in a diver’s pockets. While it is understood that arguments might be made on all sides it has been agreed that the diver’s left pocket will hold “utility” equipment while the right pocket should hold “safety” equipment. This convention allows divers to become familiar with placement which will best serve them in all diving scenarios. For example, a diver using a scooter can access “utility” items while scootering. Utility items include but are not limited to a primary SMB, double end clips, stage carry loops, jump spools etc.; safety items include a reserve SMB, spare mask, safety spool, wet notes etc.

Light head stowage and clip placement

During certain diving scenarios it becomes desirable to clip the light head such that the beam points down away from a team member’s eyes. In order to facilitate this need while reducing the complexity of multiple clips GUE procedures utilize the placement of a permanent clip on the handle of the light head and a loop at the rear of the light head. The rear loop allows the diver to temporarily clip a double end clip to the back of the light head. The permanent placement of clip at the handle ensures that a clip is available at the most important location and is easily used should it be necessary to stow the light permanently in the event of a failure or when the light is no longer needed. This clip is placed on the right side where the diver can hold it with the thumb of their left hand. Lights that are no longer in use should be stowed with the light cord tucked under the long hose.



Valve drill

GUE recognizes that drills are, at least partially, disconnected from real diving scenarios. Yet, every effort should be made to keep drills similar to real diving scenarios and consonant with the GUE ethos of simplicity. For example, GUE's previous drill found a diver shutting down their necklace while breathing from this regulator; the diver was also simultaneously responsible for signaling their team and managing the long hose. There were divergent opinions about the best way to manage this unrealistic scenario; in the end, we agree this problem is created by the drill and not real life diving scenarios. Given these issues GUE has created a new procedure to be used during valve drills; this standard is as follows:

Valve drill procedure:

The diver conducting the drill should prepare the team by signaling his intention to initiate the drill.

Purge the necklace regulator to verify operation.

Begin signaling for attention; the light is situated on the left hand.

Shut down right post, evacuate the hose and switch to the necklace regulator.

Clip the long hose second stage to the right chest d-ring.

Reopen the long hose regulator, unclip the second stage and purge to verify operation.

Switch from the necklace regulator to the long hose.

Close and then reopen the isolator.

Grasp the top of the light with the right hand and begin to signal the team.

Continue breathing from the long hose while closing and then purging the left post necklace regulator.

Reopen the left post.

Return the light to the left hand.

Conduct a flow check to ensure all valves are open.

All valves should be completely open but not jammed in the open position.

Divers turning the valve in the wrong direction will find the valve moving slightly; this reduces the risk that they will jam the valve in the open position, becoming unsure of the proper direction of movement.