

2.2.1 GUE Fundamentals Part 1

2.2.1.1 Course Outcomes

The GUE Fundamentals Part 1 course is designed to cultivate the foundational skills required by sound diving practice. Included among its course outcomes are: to provide the recreational diver, who does not desire diver training beyond the recreational level, with an opportunity to advance their basic diving skills and to provide non-GUE trained divers with a gateway into GUE training.

The GUE Fundamentals Part 1 course is a non-certification course; only successful course completion is required for the student to be permitted to progress to GUE Fundamentals Part 2.

2.2.1.2 Prerequisites

Applicants for the GUE Fundamentals Part 1 program must:

- a. Submit a completed Course Registration Form, a Medical History Form, and Liability Release Form to GUE HQ.
- b. Hold insurance that will cover diving emergencies such as hyperbaric treatment, e.g., DAN Master-level insurance or equivalent.
- c. Be physically and mentally fit.
- d. Be a nonsmoker.
- e. Obtain a physician's prior written authorization for the use of prescription drugs, except for birth control, or for any medical condition that may pose a risk while diving.
- f. Be a minimum of 16 years of age. Documented parental or legal guardian consent must be submitted to GUE HQ when the participant is a minor.
- g. Be a certified autonomous scuba diver from a recognized training agency.

2.2.1.3 Course Content

The GUE Fundamentals Part 1 course is normally conducted over two days. It requires a minimum of two dives and at least fourteen hours of instruction, encompassing classroom lectures, land drills, and in-water work.

2.2.1.4 GUE Fundamentals Part 1 Specific Training Standards

- a. Student-to-instructor ratio is not to exceed 8:1 during land drill or surface exercises; it cannot exceed 4:1 during any in-water training.
- b. Can be run with one trainee
- c. Maximum depth of 60 ft/18 m
- d. No overhead diving
- e. All dives must be within minimum decompression limits (MDLs), i.e., no required stops.

2.2.1.5 Required Training Materials

GUE training materials and recommended reading as determined by the course study packet received via online download after GUE course registration.

2.2.1.6 Academic Topics

- a. Introduction: GUE organization and course overview (objectives, limits, expectations)

- b. Building a solid skill base: buoyancy, trim, balance, and propulsion
- c. Fundamental diving skills
- d. Streamlining and equipment configuration
- e. Situational awareness
- f. The GUE system

2.2.1.7 Land Drills and Topics

- a. Equipment fit, assembly and disassembly
- b. Propulsion and maneuvering techniques
- c. Gas analysis
- d. GUE EDGE and pre-dive checks
- e. Basic 5 scuba skills
- f. Dive team protocols

2.2.1.8 Required Dive Skills and Drills

- a. Demonstrate safe diving practices, including pre-dive preparation, in-water activity, and post-dive assessment.
- b. Demonstrate awareness of team member location and a concern for safety, responding quickly to visual indications and dive partner needs.
- c. Demonstrate reasonable buoyancy and trim, i.e., approximate reference is a maximum of 30 degrees off horizontal while remaining within 5 ft/1.5 m of a target depth.
- d. Demonstrate a safe and responsible demeanor throughout all training.
- e. Demonstrate ability to use underwater communication.
- f. Demonstrate the following open water skills: mask clearing, mask removal and replacement, regulator removal and exchange, long hose deployment.
- g. Demonstrate safe ascent and descent procedures.
- h. Demonstrate basic equipment awareness and an understanding of the GUE equipment configuration.
- i. Demonstrate three propulsion techniques, including comprehension of the components necessary for a successful backward kick.

2.2.1.9 Equipment Requirements

GUE base equipment configuration as outlined in Appendix A.

Prior to the commencement of the class, students should consult with a GUE representative to verify equipment requirements and appropriateness of any selected equipment.

Appendix A - GUE Base Equipment Configuration

The GUE base equipment configuration is comprised of:

- a. Tanks/cylinders: Students may use a single tank/cylinder with a single- or dual-outlet valve. Students may also use dual tanks/cylinders connected with a dual-outlet isolator manifold, which allows for the use of two first stages. Dual tanks/cylinders connected with a dual-outlet, non-isolator manifold can be used, but only in recreational (no

decompression) diving, and are considered an alternative for a single tank/cylinder. Consult course-specific standards and your instructor to verify size requirements.

- b. Regulators:
 - i. Single tank: The first stage must supply a primary second stage via a 5 to 7 ft/1.5 to 2 m hose. A backup second stage must be necklaced and supplied via a short hose. The first stage must also supply an analog pressure gauge, inflation for the buoyancy compensator (BC), and (when applicable) inflation for a drysuit.
 - ii. Double tank: One first stage must supply a primary second stage via a 5 to 7 ft/1.5 to 2 m hose (7 ft/2 m hose is required for all cave classes), and inflation for the buoyancy compensator (BC). The other first stage must supply a necklaced backup second stage via a short hose, an analog pressure gauge, and (when applicable) inflation for a drysuit.
- c. Backplate system:
 - i. Is held to the diver by one continuous piece of webbing. This webbing is adjustable and uses a buckle to secure the system at the waist.
 - ii. A crotch strap is attached and looped through the waistband to prevent the system from riding up a diver's back.
 - iii. The continuous webbing must support five D-rings;
 - 1. The first placed at the left hip
 - 2. The second placed in line with a diver's right collarbone
 - 3. The third placed in line with the diver's left collarbone
 - 4. The fourth and fifth are placed on the front and back of the crotch strap when divers plan to use advanced equipment such as DPVs.
 - iv. The harness below the diver's arms has small restrictive bands to allow for the placement of backup lights. The webbing and system retains a minimalist approach.
- d. Buoyancy compensation device (BC):
 - i. A diver's BC is back-mounted and minimalist in nature.
 - ii. It is free of extraneous strings, tabs, or other material.
 - iii. There are no restrictive bands or restrictive elastic affixed to the buoyancy cell.
 - iv. Wing size and shape is appropriate to the cylinder size(s) employed for training.
- e. At least one time/depth measuring device
- f. Wrist-mounted compass
- g. Mask and fins: Mask is low-volume; fins are rigid, non-split.
- h. Backup mask
- i. At least one cutting device
- j. Wetnotes with pencils
- k. Surface marker buoy (SMB) with spool: when required, the SMB should be appropriate for environmental conditions and deployed using a spool with at least 100 ft/30 m of line.
- l. Exposure suit appropriate for the duration of exposure

Additional Course-Specific Equipment

- a. Where required, back gas and stage cylinders are marked in accordance with the GUE General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures document and configured in line with GUE protocols.

- b. When drysuit inflation systems are applicable, they should be sized appropriately for the environment; small tanks are placed on the left side of the backplate with larger supplies affixed to the diver's left back gas tank.
- c. Underwater lights:
 - i. When required, backup lights should be powered by alkaline batteries (not rechargeable) and stowed on the D-rings at a diver's chest.
 - ii. Backup lights should have a minimal amount of protrusions and a single attachment at the rear.
 - iii. The primary light should consist of a rechargeable battery pack and be fitted with a Goodman-style light handle.
 - iv. When burn time requirements create the need for an external battery pack, it should reside in a canister mounted on the diver's right hip.
- d. Guideline devices, as required during cave diving activities:
 - i. A primary reel is required for all cave diving and provides a minimalist form factor with a handle designed to support a Goodman or "hands free" handle operation. The primary reel must contain at least 150 ft/45 m of line.
 - ii. A safety spool is required for each diver while cave diving and must contain at least 150 ft/45 m of line.
 - iii. A jump or gap spool is required during Cave 2 diving and must contain at least 75 ft/23 m of line.