



Sport Divers of Houston

Scuba Olympics

30 August 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Scuba Olympics Competition – Memorandum of Instruction (MOI)

1. PURPOSE

To conduct a Scuba Olympics event designed to enhance diver proficiency, teamwork, and safety through competitive drills focusing on **buoyancy, search and recovery, 100-yard tired diver tow, and underwater navigation.**

2. EVENT DETAILS

- **Date:** 30 August 2026
- **Time:** 9:00 am to approximately 4:30 pm
 - 0800 – 0900 – Event Setup (Event Staff)
 - 0900 – 1000 – Check-in and gear setup
 - 1000 – 1015 – Safety brief and event overview
 - 1030 – 1130 – Event I - Safety brief and event overview - **Search & Recovery "Score O"**
 - 1130 – 1200 – Surface Interval/BREAK
 - 1200 – 1545 – Event II – IV - Safety brief and events overview **The "Neutrally Buoyant" Obstacle Course, The Mammoth Lake Compass Course, & 100-yard Tired Diver Tow.**
 - 1545 – 1630 – Tabulate scores and Awards presentation
 - 1630 – to completion – Event clean-up.
 - **NOTE: Event schedule subject to change pending weather and number of teams registered.**
- **Location:** Mammoth Lake 330 N Dixie Dr. Bldg, F, Lake Jackson, TX. 77566
- **Participants:** Buddy Team of two (2) Certified Divers / Jr. Open Water Divers, 10 – 15 years old, must be buddied with a parent who is a certified diver.
- **Equipment:**
 - A complete Total Diving System: Personal gear - mask, fins, and snorkel. Diving System - BCD, Regulators, depth gauge or computer, weights, tanks, whistle, lights, and wetsuit if needed. All gear owned by the diver should be in good repair and meet all dive agencies standard for upkeep and service. Diving System can be rented or purchased from either [Sport Divers of Houston](#) or [Mammoth Lake Texas](#). Personal gear can be purchased at either shop as well.
 - Slate, pencil, compass, SMB, and line as needed for events scheduled.
 - No DPV's allowed for this event.
- **Safety Protocol:** All activities will adhere to the [SPORT DIVERS OF HOUSTON EAP FOR MAMMOTH LAKE TEXAS](#).
 - For your safety and the safety of your fellow competitors, please **do not participate in any Scuba Olympic events if you are currently sick, recently ill, injured, recovering from surgery, taking new medications, or unsure about your physical fitness to dive.**



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3. COMPETITIVE EVENTS

Event I: Search & Recovery "Score O" (Specialty course [Search & Recovery](#))

- **Objective:** Teams must locate as many hidden "markers" as possible within the allotted time.
- **Time Requirement:** Dive team must be completed within a **45-minute window**.
- **Procedure:**
 - Markers are placed at varying distances and depths throughout a designated search area.
 - Each marker is assigned a point value based on difficulty (e.g., deeper or smaller objects are worth more).
 - Teams are provided with a map with approximate locations but must use search patterns (Expanding square, circular, or U-Pattern) to find the exact items.
 - Jackstay Lines – No additional time will be given for setup or moving “Jackstay’s” during this event. They should be used at the discretion and expertise of the team. Equipment for this search method will **NOT** be provided.
- **Rules:**
 - Strict **45 - minute limit**.
 - “Shotgun” start. (Air horn)
 - Teams must stay together at all times.
 - Teams will record time found and object code for each object found.
 - Do not move or remove objects designated for this event.
 - Moving or removing these objects will result in immediate disqualification.
 - Teams will establish their search area and patterns prior to the dive.
 - Record and submit each diver’s dive profile: Time in/out, start/ending PSI, and max depth.
 - Each team member will surface with no less than 500 psi in their scuba tank.
- **Scoring (100 Points Max):**
 - **Points per Marker:** Values range from 10 to 50 points based on depth/difficulty.
 - Total points are tallied from recovered markers.
 - **Time Penalty:** Deduct 5 points for every minute the team is late returning to the "finish" buoy.
 - Exceeding 60-minute limit: 0 points for the search & recovery event
 - Buddy Separation: Immediate Disqualification (DQ)
 - **Air Efficiency:** +20 points for the team with the highest remaining PSI (normalized for tank size).
- **Equipment:**
 - **Event** –
 - Various sized objects, stopwatch, Event tags for “objects”, and line or zip ties to attached tags to object.
 - **Participants** –
 - (SEE - 2. EVENT DETAILS, Equipment)



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Event II: The "Neutrally Buoyant" Obstacle Course (Specialty course [Perfect Buoyancy](#))

- **Objective:** Navigate a series of submerged structures without touching the frame or the silt/bottom.
- **Time Requirement:** Each dive team must be completed within a **10-minute window**.
- **Procedure:**
 - A designated "Buoyancy Course" will be established.
 - A map of the course and with approximate depth of each obstacle will be posted.
 - Each diver will "swim" through the course one at a time.
 - Diver One will swim the course from the "starting point" to "last structure" with a 30 second stop at the "mid-water station" just past the "last structure", then will swim through the course "last structure" to "starting point" to "tag" Diver Two.
 - Diver Two will then swim the course from the "starting point" to "last structure" with a 30 second stop at the "mid-water station just past the "last structure", then will swim through the course "last structure" to "starting point" to "tag" Diver One to end the time.
- **Rules:**
 - Divers will swim through the course one at a time. A "judge" will be with each diver.
 - While in the "Diver Position", the diver must hover for 30 seconds at a designated "mid-water station" without rising or sinking more than 1 foot.
 - Diver will approach "mid-water station" marked with a stationary PVC pipe in a vertical position. The pipe will be marked with One (1) thick black line and two (2) thinner lines 1 foot above and below the thick line.
 - The diver's mask will be used to determine the divers "buoyancy" level.
 - The diver will stay within one (1) foot from the pipe at all times.
 - Time will start once the diver is in position. One (1) blast of a "sub-duck" will be used to start and end the "mid-water station". (Or some sound making device)
 - Record and submit each diver's dive profile: Time in/out, start/ending PSI, and max depth.
 - Each team member will surface with no less than 500 psi in their scuba tank.
 - **Scoring:** Points are deducted for every contact with an obstacle, the lakebed, or "kicking up" the lakebed.
- **Scoring (100 Points Max):**
 - **Baseline:** 100 Total Points for the "Team". (50 points per diver)
 - **Deductions:** -5 points for every "touch" (hoop, lakebed, "kicking up" the lakebed, or "breaking" the surface).
 - **Deductions:** -10 points for failing to maintain "Diver Position" during the 30-second mid-water hover.
 - **Deductions:** -10 points for failing the 30-second mid-water hover.
 - **Time Deductions:** -5 points for every thirty (30) seconds over ten (10) minutes, and +5 points for every minute under ten (10) minutes. (I.e. 10 minutes 01 seconds = -5 points, 10 minutes 31 seconds = -5 points 9 minutes 59 seconds = + 5 points)
 - **Air Efficiency:** +20 points for the team with the highest remaining PSI (normalized for tank size).
- **Equipment:**
 - **Event:**
 - PVC hoops, weights, and "Yellow" line. Two (2) judges per team.
 - **Participants:**
 - (SEE - 2. EVENT DETAILS, Equipment)



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Event III: The Mammoth Lake Compass Course (Specialty course [Navigation](#))

- **Objective:** Successfully navigate the established underwater compass course at Mammoth Lake.
- **Time Requirement:** Must be completed within 45 minutes.
- **Procedure:**
 - Teams start at the designated "Navigation Buoy."
 - The middle of the "Navigation Buoys" are set at ten (10) feet.
 - Divers must follow the specific headings and distances laid out by the permanent course markers.
 - Teams must record the "Station Code" found at each marker to prove successful navigation.
- **Rules:**
 - Strict **45-minute limit**.
 - Teams will be assigned a start time.
 - Teams will be giving an opportunity to swim a 100' "swim line" prior to their assigned start time.
 - Teams will have a five (5) minute staggered start time.
 - Teams that need to "re-start" will be giving that opportunity, but their time will not restart, and they will have to wait behind the next teams start.
 - Teams must stay together at all times.
 - Each team member must stay shallower than fifteen (15) feet.
 - Record and submit each diver's dive profile: Time in/out, start/ending PSI, and max depth.
 - Each team member will surface with no less than 500 psi in their scuba tank.
- **Scoring (150 Points Max):**
 - **Station Codes:** 30 points for each correct code found in sequence (5 stations total).
 - **Time Bonus:** +10 points if completed in under 20 minutes with all codes in correct sequence.
 - **Air Efficiency:** +20 points for the team with the highest remaining PSI (normalized for tank size).
 - **Deductions:** -5 points per diver, for every foot deeper than fifteen (15) feet.
- **Equipment:**
 - **Event** - Various sized objects, tags for "objects", and line or zip ties to attached tags to object.
 - **Participants** –
 - (SEE - 2. EVENT DETAILS, Equipment)



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Event IV: 100-yard Tired Diver Tow (Specialty course [Diver Stress & Rescue](#))

- **Objective:** Demonstrate rescue awareness, strength, and efficient surface transport of a fatigued diver while maintaining control and safety.
- **Time Requirement:** Complete the course in the fastest time.
- **Procedure:**
 - Both members of the team will be wearing a “Total Diving System”.
 - Teams will start at the designated “Starting Point”, one member of the team will act as the “Rescuer” and the other member of the team as the “Tired Diver”.
 - Using either the 1) Tank valve tow, 2) Underarm tow, or 3) Fin push, the “Rescuer” will tow/push their partner 100 yards to the “turn around point” marked by a buoy.
 - While crossing the back of the buoy, the divers will change positions and return to the “Starting Point”.
 - Each diver will tow/push their teammate 100-yards.
 - Time will stop once the team has touched the “Starting Point”.
- **Rules:**
 - Both divers must remain **on the surface**.
 - Tired diver must remain **passive at all times**.
 - If control of the diver is lost, the rescuer must regain control before continuing.
 - Unsafe behavior results in **disqualification**.
- **Scoring (150 Points Max):**
 - **Time Bonus:** +10 points if completed in under 6 minutes.
 - **Deductions:**
 - +10 seconds – airway submerged
 - +10 seconds – diver turned face down
 - 15 seconds – stopping more than 5 seconds
 - **Disqualification** – unsafe conduct
- **Equipment:**
 - **Event** – Stopwatch, clipboard, 100-yard line, and buoy with weighted line.
 - **Participants** –
 - (SEE - 2. EVENT DETAILS, Equipment)



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4. EVENT AND OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP DETERMINATION

Each event will have a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishes based on the rules established for each event. To determine the "Scuba Olympics Overall Winner," a weighted aggregate score will be used based on the scores achieved at each station.

Event	Max Points	Weighting
I: Buoyancy	100	18%
II: Score O	Variable (avg 200)	36%
III: Compass Course	150	27%
IV: Tired Diver Tow	100	18%
Total Possible	~550	100%

- **Bonus points:** for the team that completes the full circuit with the highest air efficiency (least PSI used).
- **Tie-Breaker:** In the event of a total point tie, the team with the **highest remaining air volume (PSI)** across all three diving events combined will be declared the winner.
- Each participant will receive an event T-shirt, Swag bag, certificate, and SSI digital "Scuba Olympic" recognition card.
- Click [HERE](#) to set up your SSI account.
- Each event winner will receive a medal according to ranking per event.
- Overall winner will receive:
 - 1st place – "Golden Fin"
 - 2nd place - "Silver Pool Noodle"
 - 3rd place - "Bronze Goggles"

5. SAFETY & LOGISTICS

- **Dive Master/Safety Officer:** A designated DM or higher must be on the surface for the duration of the events.
- **Surface Safety Team:** No less than two (2) Kayakers will be on the surface to assist any diver in need.
- **Emergency Oxygen:** Must be staged at the entry point (refer to the [SPORT DIVERS OF HOUSTON EAP](#) for site-specific protocols).
- **Buddy System:** Strictly enforced; any team breaking buddy contact is immediately disqualified for that event.
- **Recall ALL Divers:** If for any reason an event needs to be stopped, an "Air Horn" will be blast six (6) times. A "Sub Duck" will be sounded six (6) times. If a team is on the surface or submerged, will repeat the signal then slowly and safely ascend to the surface to receive further direction.



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6. REGISTRATION

- **Registration Open/Close Dates:**
 - Open NLT 01 April 2026 via:
 - Sport Divers of Houston – Facebook and Website
 - Event registration
 - Mammoth Lake – Facebook and Website
 - Lake [waiver](#) and [entry fee](#)
 - Close after 50 teams register or NLT 31 July 2026, whichever comes first.
- **Cost:** \$100.00 per team (\$50.00 per individual)

7. COORDINATION & ADMINISTRATION

- **Concession Stand:** Sea Scout Ship 1503 will have a concession stand from 9:30 to 4:00.
- **Air fills:** At Mammoth Lake Texas cost: \$10.00 per air tank & \$15.00 per 32% nitrox tank
- **Results Tracking:** Judges will use a master log to track teams/individuals per event.
- **Awards:** Winners will be recognized at the end of the day and will post pictures on Facebook.

FOR THE COMMITTEE:

Kevin Reams/Instructor, SSI

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