

Los Angeles County Ordinance No. 11215

Reprinted from Metropolitan News

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles do ordain as follows:

Section 1: Ordinance No. 11025, entitled the "County Scuba Diving Ordinance" adopted October 22, 1974, as amended by Ordinance No. 11037 on November 21, 1974, is amended in its entirety so as to read as follows:

ARTICLE I General Provisions

- Sec. 1. **Short Title:** This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "County Scuba Diving Ordinance."
- Sec. 2. **Applicability.** The provisions of this Ordinance and any rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto shall be applicable to and within the unincorporated territory of the County of Los Angeles.
- Sec. 3. **Severability.** If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this Ordinance, and the applicability of such provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.
- Sec. 4. **Violations.** Violation of this Ordinance is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$ 500.00) or by imprisonment in the County Jail for not more than six (6) months or by both such fine and imprisonment. A repetition or continuation of any violation of any provision of this Ordinance on successive days constitutes a separate offense for each day during any portion of which such violation is committed, continued, or permitted.
- Sec. 5. **Construction of Genders.** The masculine gender includes the feminine.

ARTICLE II Prohibitions

- Sec. 101. **Diver Credentials.** A person shall not issue a credential certifying that the recipient thereof has satisfactorily completed a course of scuba diving training unless the training has met the specifications of Article IV of this Ordinance.
- Sec. 102. **Instructor Credentials.** A person shall not conduct any training in basic scuba diving or in instructor certification unless said person has fulfilled the requirements of Article V of this Ordinance and possesses an active credential.
- Sec. 103. **Vessels Used for Scuba Diving in Open Water.** A person shall not operate a vessel for hire as a base of operation for scuba diving unless the vessel is operated and equipped in the manner specified by Article VI of this Ordinance and the operator has submitted a letter of compliance to the Director.

ARTICLE III

Definitions

- Sec. 201. **Director:** Shall mean Director of Parks and Recreation of the County of Los Angeles.
- Sec. 202. **Open Water:** Shall mean any body of water other than a swimming pool.
- Sec. 203. **Scuba Diving:** Shall mean diving with a self-contained underwater breathing apparatus.
- Sec. 204. **Credential:** Shall mean any certification card, identification card, license, diploma or letter.

ARTICLE IV

Requirements for Certification as a Scuba Diver.

- Sec. 301. **Qualifications.** The diver shall participate in a scuba diving course by having satisfied the following requirements:
- (a) Demonstrated the ability to swim continuously for 200 yards without swimming aids: swim 50 feet underwater without swimming aids: swim 50 yards towing another person without swimming aids: float and/or tread water with minimal movement for 10 minutes: and tread water with legs only for 20 seconds.
 - (b) Fulfillment of swimming requirements in accordance with Sec. 301 (a) is recommended prior to enrollment in a scuba diving course and mandatory prior to commencement of scuba training in the open water in said course.
- Sec. 302. **Classroom and Water Training.** The diver shall have received and satisfactorily completed eighteen (18) hours of combined classroom and water training. This water training may be conducted in a pool or other water which is confined or protected. The ratio of students to instructor during this water training shall not have exceeded 12 to 1. The training shall have consisted of the following:
- (a) Instruction from a certified instructor of scuba diving on the use, preventive maintenance, and care of scuba diving equipment: laws of physics relating to scuba diving: physiology with emphasis on the lungs, circulatory system, ears, and sinuses: medical-psychological problems related to scuba diving resulting from effects of pressure, breathing compressed air, carbon dioxide build-up, hyperventilation, physical fitness, exposure, temperature, and carotid sinus reflex: marine hazards: orientation to first aid, mouth-to-mouth and cardiopulmonary resuscitation: Navy Decompression Tables and repetitive diving: recommended diving practices including the buddy system, communications, diver's logbook, emergency procedures, accident reporting, dive plan, procedures for surface and boat, and nutrition: ecology: oceanography: laws or ordinances associated with the sport: and information sources for continuing education in scuba diving.
 - (b) Practice in water with a certified instructor of scuba diving in the use of mask, fins, and snorkel: use of personal floatation devices: surface dives:

water entries: use of weight belts: use of scuba diving equipment under normal and emergency diving conditions: and buddy breathing.

- Sec. 303. **Open Water Training.** The diver shall have received and satisfactorily completed nine (9) hours of open water training with a certified instructor of scuba diving. No more than six (6) hours of open water training shall have been received during any one day. This training shall have been received where the ratio of students to instructor did not exceed 8 to 1 when using scuba diving equipment nor 12 to 1 when using skin diving equipment. The training shall have consisted of practice entries and exits from shore or boat or both, with and without scuba diving equipment: use of mask, fins, and snorkel: descent and ascent with and without scuba diving equipment: buoyancy control on and beneath the surface: swimming beneath the water with and without scuba equipment, in and around aquatic plants, clearing the mask and regulator: activating, where applicable, a reserve mechanism: monitoring a submersible pressure gauge: buddy breathing, emergency swimming ascent: buddy teamwork: swimming in surf or rough water with and without scuba equipment: and use of the safety whistle.
- Sec. 304. **Dives to Be Performed During Open Water Training.** The diver shall have made, and satisfactorily completed one skin dive from shore, which shall have included surf or rough water training in the presence of a certified instructor of scuba diving. The diver shall also have made and satisfactorily completed two dives with scuba equipment, one of which shall be from shore, and one of which may be from shore or a vessel, in the presence of a certified instructor of scuba diving. Credit for no more than two (2) scuba dives shall be given within any one day.
- Sec. 305. **Completion of Written Examination.** The diver shall have taken a written examination on scuba diving and received a grade of no less than 70%, which shall reflect thorough understanding diving physics, diving physiology, and diving emergency procedures.
- Sec. 306. **Completion of Performance Examination.** The diver shall transport himself and his gear 400 yards in the water.
- Sec. 307. **Physically Handicapped Divers.** If an individual cannot comply with the requirements of Section 301 (a) due to a physical handicap, the requirements may be waived if the individual can demonstrate sufficient watermanship to the satisfaction of a certified instructor of scuba diving.

ARTICLE V

Requirements for Certification As Instructor of Scuba Diving.

- Sec. 401. **Qualifications.** The instructor shall have qualified for certification in a course of instruction on the teaching of scuba diving that provides the training and testing specified by Sections 402 and 403 of this Ordinance by having satisfied the following requirements:
- (a) Possess current training in first aid, life saving, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, and current scuba certification.

- (b) Found to be physically fit to scuba dive by a physician whose opinion is based upon a physical examination of the diver that has included an examination of the diver's ears and sinuses: respiratory system: and cardiovascular system.
- (c) Demonstrated the ability to swim three hundred (300) yards, demonstrating at least two strokes in good form: be able to demonstrate 10-minute surface survival techniques: back floating: treading water, bobbing/drownproofing (survival floating): swim twenty-five (25) yards under water with one breath and no push-off: scuba dive in open water: use and perform preventive maintenance on scuba diving equipment: and use recognized safety procedures associated with scuba diving.

Sec. 402. **Training.** The instructor shall have received and satisfactorily completed a total of 100 hours of training from a recognized certifying organization during which the following instructions shall have been received by both lecture and practical work, including water work: watermanship in pool and open water, classroom teaching presentations: practical teaching presentation: teaching theory, methods, techniques, evaluation, and aids: diving environment: diving equipment: medical aspects of scuba diving: decompression and repetitive diving: diving physics: scuba diving course operations and procedures: emergency procedures and openwater diving: diving physiology: diving physical fitness: diving first aid: diving life saving: legal aspects of diving instruction: advanced and specialty-diving orientation concerning subjects such as, but not necessarily limited to, skin diving, underwater navigation, deep diving, and air consumption: and a written examination of the training received.

Sec. 403. **Completion of Written Examination.** The instructor shall have taken and satisfactorily passed written examinations covering the instruction received. The content of the written examination shall have been prepared by a recognized certifying organization and the determination of satisfactory completion shall be made by or under the supervision of a certified instructor of scuba diving.

ARTICLE VI

Requirement For Vessels Operated For Hire As A Base Of Operations For Scuba Diving.

Sec. 501. **Required Emergency Equipment.** The vessel shall be equipped with emergency equipment including an oxygen resuscitative unit: first aid kit, floatation device for quickly reaching and aiding a distressed diver: a recall system capable of being heard or seen by scuba divers under and on the surface of the water: and a marker buoy.

Sec. 502. **Trained Operator For Emergency Equipment.** The vessel shall carry personnel trained in the use of the emergency equipment described in Section 501.

Section 2 (Continued From Page 1): **Declaration of Urgency.** Due to the continuing participation in scuba diving on the part of citizens of the County of Los Angeles and the continuing use of the territorial waters of the County of Los Angeles for

scuba diving, it is imperative that the public health and safety be immediately protected by the establishment of mandatory standards designed to make scuba diving safe. This Ordinance establishes such standards. By reason of the foregoing facts, this Ordinance is urgently required for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, and the same shall take effect immediately upon passage thereof.

Section 3: This ordinance shall be published in the Metropolitan News, a newspaper printed and published in the County of Los Angeles.

JAMES A. HAYES
Chairman

ATTEST:

JAMES S. MIZE
Executive Officer-Clerk of the
Board of Supervisors of the
County of Los Angeles

I hereby certify that at its meeting of September 16, 1975, the foregoing ordinance was adopted by the Board of Supervisors of said County of Los Angeles by the following vote, to wit:

Ayes: Supervisors Peter F. Schabarum, Edmund D. Edelman, Baxter Ward and James A. Hayes.

Noes: None.

JAMES S. MIZE
Executive Officer-Clerk of the
Board of Supervisors of the
County of Los Angeles

Effective date: September 16, 1975.