

# HELL DIVERS SCUBA CLUB

## CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

**ARTICLE I:** The name of the association shall be Hell Divers Scuba Club.

### **ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVE**

1. To undertake all diving applications for scientific purposes or as a sport, using underwater equipment. To encourage the sport of underwater spearfishing as a recreation and as a potential source of diving knowledge. Activities of the club will extend from simple diving to exploration of the undersea to the recommended safe depth limits for sport divers. (2/11/85)
2. The club will further the sport of diving through education programs with schools, Boy Scouts, the Red Cross, and any other interested groups.
3. Only compressed air will be used for diving.
4. The club shall operate without profit, be non-political, and non-sectarian.

### **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

#### Section A. Active Members

1. Any citizen of suitable character and interest, 18 years of age or over, with his application, either oral or written, may become a member by a majority vote with a majority of the voting members present.
2. The membership of the Hell Divers Scuba Club shall be held to a maximum of thirty three (33) active members. (5/9/95)
3. Any member in the Hell Divers Scuba Club must be a paid participant of the L.C.U.D.C. (Louisiana Council of Underwater Dive Clubs) derby board. (7/15/02)

#### Section B. Prospective Members

1. A prospective member must hold a valid Scuba certification. (2/11//85)
2. He must attend five (5) meetings. (1/12/76)
3. He must make four (4) separate satisfactory open water dives with at least 4 different club members. They must be able to be documented.(5/9/94)
4. He pays no dues and has no vote but pays \$25.00 a year, prospective fee. (5/12/04)
5. He may attend club socials by invitation. (1/12/76)
6. He will pay full price on dives and have first consideration by seniority after club members (1/12/76)
7. He will be subject to membership committee review and recommendation. (1/12/76)
8. In order to be considered a prospective member, a diver must pay a \$25.00 per year fee. (5/12/04) This fee is to be payable once each year. the prospective member is required to pay from the month he is first considered. If he is approved for membership before the end of the fiscal year, money collected from the remaining months shall be applied towards the initiation fee. (1/9/89)

### Section C. Retired Members (7/22/85)

1. All retired members with at least seven (7) years membership, or with two (2) years membership that are required to move more than 100 miles from the general area of New Orleans, may apply for retirement status.
2. He will be invited on all dive trips, after prospective members, in order of his retirement (all long distance calls will be at his expense.) He will not be subsidized.
3. He may reapply for membership at any time at any regular meeting and will not required to fulfill ARTICLE III, Section B Prospective Members. An opening must be available before a retired member can be allowed back as a regular member. He will go ahead of any prospective members.
5. He must pay \$18 per year, payable once a year. He may attend all club meetings, but cannot vote. He will receive all club newsletters. If a retired member fails to pay the required fee, he will be placed on the inactive list as a past member in good standings, provided all club debts are paid.
6. In all activities concerning diving or the club, a retired member will be considered a Hell Diver. He may join another club if he moves out of state (Louisiana)

### **ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS**

All club meetings will be decided on at the meeting in session. The date and time will be given before the meeting is adjourned.

### **ARTICLE V: MANAGEMENT**

The management of the club shall be vested to an executive committee, composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian. Any member of the executive committee who is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without a satisfactory and acceptable excuse shall be considered resigned. Each officer shall submit a report of office to the incoming Historian, including meeting minutes, financial report, and competition report.  
(1/14/80)

### **ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS**

#### Section A. President

1. The President, on in the case of his absence the Vice-President, shall preside at all meetings of the club.
2. The President shall have general supervision over the affairs of the club in accordance with the provisions of the by-laws in such a manner as may appear for the best interest of the club.
3. The President shall appoint such committees as shall be necessary to carry on the business of the club, for example: safety, publicity, etc.

#### Section B. Vice-President

1. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in his absence, inability, or failure to act.
2. The Vice-President shall keep an attendance record at the meetings. (12/75)
3. The Vice-President shall keep a record of points towards Hell Diver of the Year, King Spearfisherman, and Champion Skin Diver. (12/75), and (11/24/86)
4. The Vice-president shall keep a record of monthly work reports. (12/75)
5. The Vice-president shall keep a record of prospective members and provide them with information concerning membership, dues, etc. (11/24/86)

#### Section C. Secretary

1. The Secretary shall keep an accurate list on members of the club and their accurate addresses and phone numbers.
2. The Secretary shall keep just and accurate minutes of all the meetings and shall perform duties as directed by the President at any regular or special meeting.

#### Section D. Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall receive all dues and money for the club and give his receipt therefore. He shall deposit the same in the bank approved by the officers and shall be authorized to issue checks with his signature and the co-signature of the President of the club. He shall submit an annual report of all transactions for the previous year.
2. The Treasurer shall distribute the Club Emblem.

#### Section E. Historian (10/12/75)

1. The Historian shall be a member of the executive committee but shall have no vote.
2. The Historian shall keep a dive history of the club and a photo album.
3. The Historian shall handle all club publicity.

#### Section F. Fiscal Year of Officers (7/15/02)

Hell Divers Fiscal Year for Officers shall be January 1st through December 31st to correspond with the L.C.U.D.C. competition year. (7/15/02)

#### Section G. Nominations for Offices

After being a member for 1 year, if a member has never held an office he may not decline a nomination for office. (9/13/93). Any new member that fails to meet his requirements as an officer and doesn't have an acceptable excuse (such as work, health related matters) will be replaced by another officer but still falls under the "No Decline" that all new members fall under. If this happens a second time he will lose his membership as a Hell Diver. (1/16/03) Also it has been decided, that the person serving as the web master for the Hell Divers web site does not fall under the "No Decline" and his job is considered that to fulfill an office. (1/16/03)

## **ARTICLE VII: DUES (1974)**

1. The initiation fee shall be twenty (20) dollars.
2. Annual dues shall be (172 plus 30 LCUDC Derby Board Fee) dollars to be paid all at once before the new Fiscal Year starts. (7/15/02) and (Nov 2006)
3. The price of the club emblem shall be actual cost.
4. Any member who shall fail to pay club dues within sixty days after due date or who fails to pay any club fee within thirty days after due date shall be suspended from all the privileges of membership and shall remain suspended until the full account has been paid. However his membership can only be reinstated if there is an available position in the club after paying the past due account according to article 3A-2. The Secretary is not obligated to send overdue memos of the preceding months, or any notification of club activities after sixty (60) days.
5. All club members are required to have a red jacket with the Hell Divers' emblem (Grebe) sewn on it. (9/24/79) and (12/27/82)

## **Article VIII: CLUB TRIPS**

1. A sanctioned Hell Diver Trip shall be defined as any trip where as many Hell Divers as possible are notified of the dive trip and at least six (6) Hell Divers sign up for the trip. Commitments to the dive trip shall mean a commitment to any or all days of the proposed trip, not a set plan, to give the trip captain maximum flexibility to provide the best trip for all trip participants. The trip captain has supreme authority, next to the boat's captain, to arrange the best trip possible, in his judgment.
2. Members will raise their hands and acknowledge that they want to go on a club trip. Any member volunteering for another is held responsible for the member he said would go. (1/14/80)

## **ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS**

Amendments presented through the Executive Committee may be made at any regular or special meeting, by two thirds vote of all members present, at three (3) consecutive meetings. (11/28/77)

## **Article X: CLUB COMPETITION**

### **Section A. Trophies**

1. Trophies awarded for all first, second, and third place fishes (9/10/79) are:  
Amberjack, Barracuda, Buffalo/Carp, Catfish, Cobia, Drum, Flounder, Gar, Warsaw and non-warsaw Grouper, Jack Crevalle, Mangrove Snapper, Miscellaneous (excluding Redfish, Jew Fish, Nurse Shark, and Ocean Sunfish), Ray Red Snapper, Shark, Sheepshead, Spadefish, Tarpon, Triggerfish, a King Spearfisherman, Champion Skin Diver and Boat Award. (11/28/77), (9/24/84), (12/9/85), (5/12/86), (2/22/88), (11/14/88) (7/15/02) and (10/13/08)
2. Club competition dates are from January 1st - December 31st. (7/15/02)

### **Section B. Competition Rules**

- 1 Only spring, rubber powered, or pneumatic spearguns to be used. (8/10/87)
2. No free shafts.
3. Diver must break surface before he may receive assistance.
4. No poison or tranquilizer is permitted on spearhead.
5. No power head will be used.
6. Any controversy over registration or taking of fish in club competition will be settled by the Competition Committee.
7. Every member must possess a valid fishing license.
8. Competition in the Hell Divers Spearfishing Rodeo by club members will be limited to sanctioned trips or authorization of the executive committee. (9/10/79)

#### Section C. Points toward Hell Diver of the Year. (12/75)

1. Club meetings and social events - 1 point
  2. Dive - 2 points
  3. Rodeo Competition - 2 points
  4. Club Work - 1 point per hour of work
  5. Sales - 1 point per ten (10) dollars of sales
  6. Trip Captain - 3 points per day
  7. King Spearfisherman at a rodeo - 5 points
  8. Trophies
    - 1st place = 3 points;
    - 2nd place = 2 points;
    - 3rd place = 1 point (fish on the Hell Divers Competition Board will also count as above).
- (9/10/79)

#### Section D. Trophy Point System

The point system for fish entered on the Hell Divers Club Competition shall be five (5) points for first, three (3) points for second, and one (1) point for third place. (9/26/77)

#### Section E. Fish Registration Deadline

Any fish speared must be registered within thirty (30) days. Any fish speared at the end of the competition year must be registered by January 7th of that year to qualify. (11/14/77) and (7/15/02)