

Professional Scuba Association International

Mini-B Shallow Water Scuba Diver

I. Course Description

Mini-B Shallow Water Scuba Diver (MBSWSD) is a Professional Scuba Association International (PSAI) entry-level certification course. Upon successful completion of this course, graduates will have proven their competence to use the Mini-B Scuba equipment and engage in shallow water diving activities without supervision, provided the diving activities and the areas dived approximate those encountered in training. This course does not qualify graduates as Open-water Scuba Divers.

II. Course Objectives and Qualifications

Some key points that differentiate the Mini-B course from Open Water Sport Diver Courses are:

- A. Divers do not need to carry heavy cylinders;
- B. The Mini-B equipment has a very low change in buoyancy during the course of a dive, making mastery of buoyancy control a quick and easy process;
- C. The Mini-B equipment is very compact and streamlined, offering minimal resistance to movement while underwater;
- D. Low volume of the cylinder inherently limits the depth and range Mini-B diver may stray from their surface support platform, obviating the need to teach decompression theory, dive tables, navigation, etc.

A diver that successfully completes this **PSAI** Mini-B Diver program will be qualified to:

- A. Dive with the Mini-B Shallow Water Scuba system in clear waters that do not exceed 9 meters (30 feet) of depth or less than 6 metres of underwater visibility;
- B. Obtain appropriate cylinders of up to 5 litres (30 cubic feet) capacity for use with the Mini-B.

III. Instructor Qualifications

- A. This course may be taught by any active-status PSA International instructor who has completed the online Shallow Water Scuba Instructor/ Mini-B Orientation Course and has submitted a signed Mini-B Instructor Teaching Agreement to PSA International *regional* headquarters.
- B. An **independent instructor or teacher**, who has submitted a copy of their open water teaching qualification, in-date medical and proof of adequate insurance for the territory taught, and has completed the online Shallow Water Scuba Instructor/ Mini-B Orientation Course and submitted a signed Mini-B Instructor Teaching Agreement to PSA International *regional* headquarters, may also apply for a "**Limited Operations Crossover**" which allows them to qualify divers for Mini-B use only.

IV. Prerequisites for Course Entry

- A. **Age**
The student shall be at least 10 years old at time of course entry.
- B. **Certification**
None required.

V. Student to Instructor Ratio

- Instructors who have certified less than 20 Mini-B divers may conduct in-water training with no more than three (3) students at a time.
- Instructors who have certified 20 or more Mini-B divers may conduct in-water training with up to six (6) students at a time

VI. Course Minimums and Standards

- A. **Classroom**
There is no minimum number of hours for the academic phases of the training program; the student must master all knowledge objectives before certification is granted. Mastery of a knowledge objective is measured by successfully passing a

written or online examination with 100% remediation of all concepts.

B. Practical Session

There is no minimum number of hours for the confined water phases of the training program; the student must master all skills objectives before certification is granted. Mastery of a skill is defined as being able to perform the skill correctly, on command, 3 times in a row.

C. Open Water Dives

- No in-water training is to be conducted until after the student has completed the PSA International Shallow Water Scuba Diver/Mini-B Online course and passed the online final exam.
- Each in-water training event is to be logged by the instructor in the student's PSA International online training record.
- Training and skills development may take place in a body of water that is calm, has direct access to the surface, and has no less than 6 meters (20 feet) of horizontal and vertical visibility.
- Qualification dives must take place in a body of water that is calm, have no less than 6 meters (20 feet) of horizontal and vertical visibility, has direct access to the surface, and allow the student to reach a depth of no less than 3 meters (10 feet)
- At no time will students be allowed to reach a depth of greater than 30 feet (9 meters). Any student who violates this depth limitation will have failed the course and be disqualified from certification.
- The student will complete no less than three (3) open-water dives and have accumulated no less than 60 minutes of open-water dive time during the course in order to qualify for certification.

VII. Course Instructional Materials Requirements

All course material is on-line at www.psai-training.com. Where on-line facilities do not exist, a hard-copy training manual will be supplied.

VIII. Course Equipment Requirements

- A. Minimum equipment worn by a **student** during all MBSWSD in-water activities includes:
 - Mini-B system
 - Mask
 - Fins
 - Snorkel

- B. Minimum equipment worn by an **instructor** during all MBSWSD in-water activities includes:
 - Mini-B system or standard SCUBA system with alternate air source, pressure and depth gauges
 - Mask
 - Fins
 - Snorkel

- C. Additional equipment (required if conditions dictate)
 - Weights and belt with quick release buckle (*or Mini-B supplied integrated weight system*)
 - Protective suit

IX. Curriculum Requirements

Academic requirements will be fulfilled by way of an online training program deployed by PSA International and sanctioned by the manufacturer of the Mini-B equipment. The course is a sub-set of a typical open-water scuba diver course. All topics are presented in the context of using Mini-B equipment in clear waters with a recommended depth of 6 meters (20 feet) and maximum depth of 9 meters (30 feet):

D. Applied Sciences:

1. Physics
2. Pressure-volume relationship
3. Buoyancy
4. Physiology
5. Air spaces and equalization
6. Vision
7. Acoustics
8. Medical considerations
9. Medical contra-indications to diving
10. Fitness
11. Personal limitations
12. Hydration
13. Sunburn

14. First Aid for pressure related injuries
15. Environmental considerations
16. Temperature/Heat loss
17. Marine/Aquatic life hazards
18. Water movement hazards
19. Cuts and abrasions

D. Diving Equipment:

Select, prepare for use and care for the following pieces of equipment within the context of Mini-B Shallow Water Scuba diving:

1. Mask
2. Fins
3. Snorkel
4. Protective suit
5. Float and flag
6. Mini-B system

D. Diving Skills:

1. The diving environment
2. Demonstration of required skills
3. Evaluation of knowledge about required skills
4. Emergency and self rescue skills

D. Continuing education:

1. Scope of Mini-B appropriate diving activities
2. Limitations of new divers
3. Recognizing and developing personal abilities
4. Awareness of the seamless upgrade path to open-water scuba diver certification by way of PSA International's training hierarchy.

X. Skill Requirements

A. Watermanship

1. Survival swim for 10 minutes without support (touching bottom or sides of a swimming pool). Mask, fins and snorkel may be used.

B. Equipment handling

1. Inspect, assemble, adjust and don mask, fins, snorkel, Mini-B, weights and protective suit (if worn).

2. Remove and replace Mini-B cylinder for filling.
3. Post-dive care of equipment

C. Surface Skills

1. Enter and exit the water using the best techniques for the local conditions.
2. Correctly give, recognize and respond to surface communications for divers to include, but no limited to:
 - I am/Are you Okay
 - I am in distress
3. Inflate and deflate the Mini-B buoyancy compensator using the power inflator and manual dump valve, respectively
4. Remove and drop weights
5. With face submerged, breathe through the snorkel while resting and swimming without choking
6. With face submerged, switch from breathing through the snorkel to the Mini-B and back without choking.
7. If required in the diving environment, enter and exit the water with a float and/or "Diver Down" flag and line.
8. Simulate releasing a calf muscle cramp from him or herself or dive partner.
9. Establish positive buoyancy upon command by releasing weights
10. Establish positive buoyancy by inflating the Mini-B buoyancy compensator
11. Swim 50 meters/yards while wearing the Mini-B equipment and breathing from the snorkel.

D. Descent/Ascent Skills

1. Equalize pressure in air spaces during descents and ascents
2. Descend feet first with a minimum of hand movement (sculling), using Mini-B buoyancy compensator and lung volume to control rate of descent
3. Ascend slowly and in control from depth.
4. Perform a swimming (shallow dive angle) descent.

E. Underwater Skills

1. Give, recognize and respond to common underwater communications
2. Mask clearing
3. Donning and clearing mask while underwater and breathing from Mini-B.
4. Remove, release, recover and clear primary second stage regulator
 - a. By exhalation

- b. By using the purge button
- 5. Hover without support or significant movement
- 6. Monitor gas supply with submersible pressure gauge
- 7. Monitor and maintain depth using depth gauge without exceeding 9 meters (30 feet) at any time

F. Environmental Skills

- 1. Dive using techniques that have a minimal impact on the environment.

G. Emergency Skills

- 1. Perform a simulated controlled emergency swimming ascent that spans no less than 3 vertical meters (10 vertical feet) or 9 horizontal meters (30 horizontal feet) that ends with the student establishing buoyancy at the surface.
- 2. Establish buoyancy at the surface by ditching weight belt
- 3. Perform a sharing air ascent with the instructor playing the role of the out of air diver and donor in turn.
- 4. Simulate signaling and calling for assistance at the surface.

XI. Course Completion Performance Requirements

Upon successful mastery of all academic, topside, surface and underwater skills, an active status PSA International instructor may certify that the student has demonstrated competency and ability to dive with the Mini-B Shallow Water Scuba system in clear waters that do not exceed 9 meters (30 feet) of depth.

The PSA International instructor does this by retrieving the student's online training record and logging the final in-water training event and selecting "yes" in the "Did this training event result in certification". At that point the diver is now "certified". The instructor may now issue a PSA International "temporary card" to the diver.

The instructor or student may contact the PSA International *Regional* Office to obtain their certification card. The certification card will contain the words to the effect of: "This diver is certified to use Mini-B Shallow Water Scuba Equipment only. Diving depth is not to exceed 9 meters/30 feet. Cylinders of up to 5 liters (30 cubic feet) capacity may be refilled for this diver"