

# Becoming a PADI SCUBA Instructor

## **How to prepare for your PADI IDC & Instructor Examination (IE)**

**Preparation is the key to your successful and fun PADI IDC.** The following information is intended to assist Instructor Examination Candidates in their preparation for their IDC and IE with information on venues, times, and dates. **Make sure you read it carefully.** If you have any questions in regards to the IE contact us as soon as possible - we want to make sure you have no questions or concerns about taking the IDC!

## **Where Should You Take Your Instructor Development Course?**

Deciding where you'll take your PADI 5 Star Instructor Development Course (IDC) is one of the most important decisions you'll make on your journey to becoming a certified PADI Instructor. Depending on where you go can affect the quality of your education and the style in which the information is taught. At Gigglin' Marlin Dive Center our goals are to make sure you will have fun, be comfortable and confident in your Instructor abilities, educate in a style that personally fits your needs, enjoy your class and the company of those you'll train with, and just have a wonderful overall experience!

## **Some important questions to consider are:**

- What do you want to do once you complete your course?
- Where you want to work once you are an Open Water Scuba Instructor (OWSI)?
- Where did your course Instructors do their IDC's?
- How much experience does the Course Director have?
- Where are the available dive locations and what are their water conditions?
- What protection will you need to wear (ie: rash vests, wetsuits, drysuits etc. etc.)?
- What are the other Instructor training and speciality availabilities (Eg: Master Scuba Diver Trainer's "MSDT" Prep Program)?
- Can I do my Staff Instructor course with the same Course Director ?
- What do previous IDC students say about their overall experience with the course, their Course Director, and the other dive staff?
- If you don't reach the required standard on your first attempt at the IDC Course can you do the next one?
- Does the Course Director/IDC Center answer your questions promptly and clearly?

Because choosing the right PADI 5 Star IDC for your instructor training is the most important decision you will make prior to entering the dive industry as a professional educator, we recommend you not only answer the previous questions, but ask your dive shop's former students directly (Facebook is a great place to connect!). You can also look at past students 'verified' comments on this site as well as the dive shop's reviews on Google and Yelp.

I'm very confident that you will be happy completing your IDC with Gigglin' Marlin Dive Center, as we do our best to feature the most experienced, friendly and professional PADI staff.

### **Prerequisites for your IDC**

In order to participate in a PADI IDC you must meet all the following prerequisite requirements:

- Be a certified PADI Assistant Instructor or PADI Divemaster
  - \*\*If not certified through PADI you must be an instructor with another recreational dive organization.
- Be at least 18 years old.
- Be fit for diving and submit a medical form signed by a physician within the last 12 months.
- Have been a certified diver for at least six months
- Logged at least 60 open water dives with experience in night, deep and navigation prior to the IDC
- Logged at least 100 dives prior entering the Instructor Examination (IE).
- Submit proof of CPR & First Aid training within the last 24 months.
- Be ready to change your life and have some life changing experiences.

\*\*\* You will need to provide your diving log to your Course Director or Staff Instructor during your IDC as proof of your diving experience.

\*\*\* You normally only do 4-6 open water dives during your IDC so you should ideally have 95+ logged dives prior to starting your course.

### **Documentation for PADI IDC**

- Passport photos, for your new certification cards and for your Course Director's file.
- Diving certification cards: bring your most current PADI certification card (either Divemaster or Assistant Instructor). Also, you will need the dates of all your other courses so either bring a list of your certifications and dates or just bring all your cards. If you have lost your cards your course dates are available online from PADI and your Course Director has access to this information.
- If you are transferring from another non-PADI dive agency you will need photocopies of your certification cards sent to PADI at the end of your IE.

- Logbook: you will need proof that you have 60 logged dives for your IDC and 100 logged dives by the time of your Instructor Examination.
- The PADI materials compulsory for your IDC include:
  - A digital or paper instructor manual
  - The Guide to Teaching, Open Water and Confined Water cue cards
  - Open Water Training Dive Lesson Preparation Slate
  - Confined Water Lesson Preparation Slates
  - The Best of the Undersea Journal
  - The RDP table and ERDP.

If you have a digital instructor manual installed on your Laptop you will need to show the Original Installation disk from PADI. You will be pleased to know that you can buy all the required IDC / IE materials at one time a discounted price by purchasing the PADI IDC Crew Pack at Gigglin' Marlin Dive Center! Potential PADI Scuba Instructors don't normally travel light!

## **Dive Knowledge Preparation**

By the time your IDC starts you should know all the dive theory on the courses you have done yourself inside out. Don't forget that once you pass your IE you will be eligible to teach Open Water, Advanced Open Water, Rescue and Divemaster courses so we recommend that you review each course manual and complete all the quizzes, exams and knowledge reviews.

If you bought the "PADI Guide to Teaching" you should complete all the IDC knowledge reviews. This isn't mandatory, but it will ensure you are the best prepared you can be and will give you valuable extra free time for other parts of the IDC you may need extra time on.

The knowledge reviews require you to read and understand some specific sections of your PADI instructor manual, PADI Guide to Teaching, The Best of the Undersea Journal, The Law & the Diving Professional and The Business of Diving.

You should be confident and happy with dive theory before you begin your IDC. You do not want to turn up on day one of your course and expect to be taught Dive Physics or Physiology - the IDC has so much other information and skills to teach you there is no time to learn the

theory. A good way to check your knowledge is to have new divers ask you things they are not 100% sure about. You only truly know diving when you can explain it to others. Try using these questions and answers as a guide to explain dive theory to others

### **Instructor Manual: Paper or Digital?**

We recommend the digital...but why?

- Most new Instructors will either have a laptop or need to have a laptop to work effectively.
- It is environmentally friendly: the PADI paper Instructor manual has hundreds of pages. Save the planet.
- It is easy to update; you can electronically download updates for your manual.
- The paper manual quickly becomes 'dog-eared' and looks unprofessional.
- The paper manual is heavy! The last thing you want to do is carry it around everywhere.
- Using the instructor manual on an iPad makes searching for terms much easier during the IE.

Gigglin' Marlin Dive Center usually offers a period of revision and practice for their IDC before the actual IDC begins (traditionally the IDC begins on a Monday and the 3-day Pre-IDC course begins on the Friday).

### **What else will help me pass the IDC?**

The most important thing is getting involved in real life classes with qualified Scuba Instructors. You will see how well relaxed and comfortable students absorb dive knowledge. Your goal is to be a calm, confident, friendly source of dive knowledge who makes students feel happy and safe.

Ensure that all your scuba gear is working and serviceable. You need to be super-aware of your BCD and weights - it should be second nature to you where your releases are and how you fasten it up. Get it out and practice putting it on and taking it off until you can do it with your eyes shut. Practice untying your tank band and re-fastening it. There is nothing worse than a student asking you for help and not knowing how to help them. Now is the time to learn.

Watch all the PADI videos.

Get in the Gigglin' Marlin Dive Center swimming pool and practice your skills again and again. You should be confident in the pool with your skills and able to do them to demonstration quality 'before' you begin your IDC. Concentrate on skills such as neutral buoyancy and hovering.

Knots: this is part of the IE and you are expected to know how to tie and teach knot tying. You can find animated demonstrations of each of these knots and much more in the PADI phone app.

You should know how to tie with no question:

- Bowline
- Sheet Bend
- Two half hitches

### **Anything else?**

All working instructors have a SMB and a reel. Buy a set and become familiar with them. Look through our PADI IDC Preparation Hints and Tips

Once you have passed your IDC you will be invited to take your IE. This is normally taken the weekend after your IDC finishes.

### **PADI IE – Instructor Examination**

To complete your Instructor training you need to be tested after you complete your IDC. You will only be allowed to take these exams once your IDC has been passed successfully. These examinations are needed so that you can be certified as an open water scuba instructor or OWSI. The exam is a rite of passage for PADI Instructors and is known as the Instructor Examination (IE).

The purpose of the IE is to evaluate your knowledge and skills in order to make sure they are sufficient enough to earn a PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor certification. It is an evaluation program that tests your teaching ability, dive theory knowledge, water-skills, understanding of the PADI System and attitude and professionalism. The IE is a standardized evaluation conducted by Instructor Examiners who work for PADI.

The IE is run by professional PADI Instructor Examiners from the PADI Regional Headquarters and ensures that your Instructor assessments are correct and without bias.

You will be tested both on your dive theory and knowledge as well as your personal dive skills and teaching presentations which will occur in a classroom type environment. Additionally,

these exams take place in both confined (pool) and open water environments. Confined water environments for the PADI IE is normally restricted to swimming pools to aid administration and logistics.

To pass the IE and to get certified as a PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor you have to successfully meet the standards in every section of the Instructor Examination or IE. If you fail your first attempt at the IE, you will be permitted to take a second IE. Your second IE may not be taken within 5 days of the first. If you wait longer than 1 year after taking the first one you will need to either take a full IDC again or apply to PADI.

**Areas you will be evaluated on:**

1. Dive theory Classroom Exams
  - a. Physics
  - b. General Skills & Environment
  - c. RDP – Recreational Dive Planner
  - d. Physiology Equipment
2. PADI Classroom Exams
  - a. PADI Standards & Procedures
3. Classroom Presentations
  - a. Knowledge Development Teaching Presentation
4. Pool / Confined Water Teaching Presentations
  - a. Confined Water Presentations (1 randomly assigned skill – know them all perfectly)
  - b. 5 Confined Water Skills
5. Open Water Presentations
  - a. Open Water Teaching Presentation (2 skills)
  - b. Rescue Exercise Demonstration

Your application fee for the PADI Instructor Examination are not included in your IDC course or package price and need to be paid at the IE to PADI. Becoming an instructor is not cheap but by actively working and teaching new students you can easily make your money back (and then some!).

Be sure to bring all the IE required materials to your orientation. Additional information of venues and scheduling will be provided at this time.

## Entry to the IE

If you are taking the full IE, your PADI Examiner needs three documents related to you. These include:

- **An Instructor Certificate of Completion filled out and signed by a PADI Course Director.** This form documents your completion of the IDC or OWSI program. Please note that the hologram shipped with your PADI Instructor PADI Guide to Teaching should be affixed to this form. Failure to do so may delay the processing of your IDC and IE paperwork.
- **Your completed IE Enrolment Form with payment details attached.** The IE fee is payable by cheque, credit card or bank draft to the PADI Examiner at the IE. All checks and bank drafts should be made payable to PADI.
- **A copy of an approved medical form.** This form must be signed by a physician indicating that you have been examined and declared unconditionally fit to dive within a year of the IE's final day. Without an approved medical form, you will not be allowed to participate in the confined or open water components of the IE.

## Confined Water Logistics

The confined water portion of the IE will be held at a local pool / confined water area and most likely will not be held at Gigglin Marlin Dive Center. All cylinders should have boots to minimize risk of damage to pool surrounds otherwise access may be denied.

## PADI IE requirements

To enroll in a PADI Instructor Examination, you must:

1. Successfully complete an IDC or OWSI program within 12 months of the start date of the IE.
2. Have documentation of at least 100 logged dives including experience in deep, night and navigation diving.
3. Present an Instructor Certificate of Completion that has both the AI and OWSI / IDC completion dates and diving experience signed by a Course Director or present an IE Certificate of Participation from a previous IE.
4. Present an IE Enrollment form and appropriate fee.

5. Present a medical form attesting to diving fitness, signed by a physician and current within the last 12 months.

\*\*In the event you are unsuccessful at an IE you must wait at least five days before attending another IE. If unsuccessful at a second IE, you must complete remedial training as prescribed by PADI Instructor Development.

For further information read about the [PADI IE](#)

### **To successfully complete a PADI IE an individual must:**

- Complete the PADI Instructor Exam IE Classroom Presentations
- Score 75 percent or higher on all five sections of the dive theory exam. Only one makeup on one of the sections is allowed).
- Score 75 percent or higher on the Systems, Standards and Procedures exam. No makeups are allowed.
- Score a 3.5 or higher on an assigned knowledge development teaching presentation. One makeup presentation is allowed – passing makeup score is 3.5 or higher.
- Score a 3.4 or higher on an assigned confined water teaching presentation. One makeup presentation is allowed – passing makeup score is 3.4 or higher.
- Score an average of 3.4 or higher on two assigned open water teaching presentations. No makeups are allowed.
- Demonstrate competence in the rescue of a scuba diving victim simulating unconsciousness/nonbreathing at the surface. One makeup is allowed.
- Score a 3.0 or higher on five skill demonstrations. In addition, score a total of 17 points or more on the entire skill circuit. If score is less than 17 points, a makeup of all five skills is allowed. If one skill scores less than 3.0, but the total is 17 points or more, one makeup is allowed for the one skill. Passing makeup score is 3.0 or higher for any skill and no less than 17 total points if demonstrating all five skills. Scores of 1.0 or 2.0 on two or more skills initially or not passing the makeup will disqualify you from certification during the IE.
- Demonstrate competence with all dive skills during confined water and open water sessions.
- Demonstrate professional behavior, attitude, and actions during all phases of the IE.

We know this is a lot of information, but here at Gigglin' Marlin Dive Center our goals are to HELP you complete your IDC, answer ALL questions you may have, SUPPORT your journey, and most of all: MAKE IT A FUN EXPERIENCE. Please do NOT hesitate to contact us if you have ANY questions!!! See you soon – get ready to dive!



