

# *Michigan Lake Diver's Association*

## *Safe Diving Procedures*

1. The sign-up for each MLDA-sponsored dive will take place at the meeting preceding the dive. The latest to sign-up for a dive will be Thursday afternoon. All payments must be prior to Friday at 1:00 pm.
2. Strict buddy teams of 2 or 3 will be used for all dives. Stay close to your buddy (can he/she reach your alternate air supply?)
3. Surface and descend as a buddy team. Do not allow divers to return alone even if you have plenty of air and/or bottom time left. If you become separated from your buddy, search for him/her for 1 minute and then surface and continue to search on the surface.
4. Each member of a buddy team must have a timing device (watch, or dive computer with a timer built-in), a depth gauge, a tank pressure gauge (SPG). Computer diving is mandatory on all Advanced level dives. Both members of the buddy team are to use dive computers on all Advanced level dives.
5. Strict adherence to the no-decompression dive tables/ computers is a must. No decompression diving is allowed without proper training and certifications.
6. A safety stop of at least 3 minutes at 15 feet is required for all dives exceeding 40 feet.
7. A dive flag must be flown any time you are diving.
8. Discuss and plan the dive with your buddy. Go over time, depth, route, hand signals, emergency procedures, etc. (Do you feel comfortable diving with this person?)
9. On a dive boat the boat crew is in charge-their rules go- No arguments or exceptions. Pay attention to any briefings by the boat crew, since every dive operation does things differently.
10. On any MLDA trip a member of the BOD may cancel the dive due to bad weather, etc. Any member of the BOD may also revoke a member's privilege to dive during a trip if that member violates these rules or otherwise demonstrates unsafe diving practices. No arguments or exceptions.
11. Always begin your dive against the current and return with it to the exit site. Always keep in mind where you are in relation to the exit site.
12. Finish your dive (exited from the water with at least 500psi remaining in your cylinder).
13. Penetrate a wreck only if you are trained to do so and your equipment is positioned so that it won't be snagged, Wreck or Cave Certification is highly recommended. A dive light and a dive knife are also recommended. Penetration Cave Divers is not allowed on MLDA dives unless the purpose of the trip is for cave diving and all divers are certified Cave Divers.
14. Observe the marine life while diving, but do not disturb it. Keep track of where your gauges, octopus, and other gear are so that they don't dangle and hit / damage marine life. The same goes for your fins when you kick.
15. Observe and obey all rules for safe diving practice per your agency and rating level.
16. ANY observed diving practices deemed unsafe by the BOD will result in IMMEDIATE TERMINATION of MLDA membership.

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Member's Signature / Date

Divemaster's Signature / Date

President's Signature / Date