



CODE OF ETHICS OF CHICAGO UNDERSEA EXPLORERS SOCIETY

PREAMBLE

Members of the Chicago Undersea Explorers Society (CUES) recognize the importance of underwater activities for recreation, public service, education, and research, as well as the necessity of preparing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to engage in recreational underwater activity while minimizing risk. CUES leaders recognize the right of mature persons with requisite skills and physical capacity to receive instruction without discrimination on the basis of age, race, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, gender identity or expression, disability status, neurodiversity, citizenship, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local law. We pledge to practice the scuba profession and hobby according to the highest ethical standards. CUES members acknowledge that they are exposed to potential risks that accompany skin or scuba diving, and are committed to safe diving instruction.

Section 1: Commitment to the Student. A CUES member's first duty is to student safety. Success is measured by the progress of each student toward gaining skills, knowledge, and habits essential to minimize the risk of underwater activity. The instructor, volunteers, and representatives of CUES are obligated to stimulate the acquisition of knowledge, understanding, physical skills, fitness, and the formulation of safe personal diving practices. In fulfilling this obligation, these entities shall:

- A. Assure the safety of students;
- B. Expose the student to varying points of view and theories;
- C. Instruct in all subject matter as required by CUES and the Standards and Policies of their certifying World Recreational Scuba Training Council (WRSTC) and/or International Standards Organization (ISO) compliant agency;
- D. Personally follow all safe diving principles while participating in CUES activities and programs, recognize that influence by example is the cornerstone to the development and promotion of safe diving practices;
- E. Instruct objectively, without favoritism or granting special advantage or placing special requirements, and not expose the student to prejudice, embarrassment or disparagement;
- F. Enroll and instruct any student physically and psychologically qualified and not engage in any arbitrary discriminatory practice or procedure;



CODE OF ETHICS VERSION 1.0 (2020-06-29)

- G. Maintain a level of physical, educational, and professional competence;
- H. Work with the Training and Mission Committees to arrange for training sessions to be conducted by a designated qualified CUES member;
- I. Instructors will certify only those students who have satisfactorily achieved the established standards of a CUES course and award certification materials within a reasonable period of time;
- J. Instruct in conformity with established industry and/or CUES standards and policies; and
- K. Fully disclose to the prospective student all reasonably anticipated costs, charges, fees, and assessments before enrollment or obligation is established.

Section 2: Commitment to the Public. CUES members are responsible for the support and development of sound public policy relating to diver education, the use and conservation of wetlands, bodies of water, and aquatic life, and for the promotion and encouragement of programs and policies directed at such use and conservation. CUES is committed to opening the underwater world and the diving community to a diverse group of people including underserved and underrepresented communities. In fulfilling this obligation to the public, CUES members shall:

- A. Participate in the implementation of sound educational and conservation policies;
- B. Keep informed of developments in diving equipment, techniques, procedures, technology, and education; and
- C. Officially represent CUES to the press and public only when specifically authorized by the Board of Directors (BOD) or their designated representative. In other cases specifically identify personal views and opinions as such.

Section 3: Commitment to the Society. CUES members, by virtue of their voluntary membership in CUES, recognize a responsibility and obligation to promote the Society and support the official decisions and policies of the Society. In fulfilling this obligation to the Society, the CUES member shall:

- A. Publicly support CUES as a Society;
- B. Bear in mind that CUES is a democratic organization with a leadership and Board of Directors directly elected by the membership. As such, members have the opportunity, if they wish, to lead CUES at the highest levels;
- C. Make every effort to bring about necessary changes in a professional manner by direct personal contact with those fellow members who are in positions of authority and responsibility;
- D. Prior to instructing in any fashion, be in active status with a recognized certification agency and be on the CUES Certificate of Insurance;
- E. Accord just and equitable treatment to all members of CUES;
- F. Not delegate assigned tasks to unqualified personnel;
- G. Cooperate in a professional inquiry if and when requested by CUES; and



CODE OF ETHICS VERSION 1.0 (2020-06-29)

H. Accurately represent their professional qualifications.

Section 4: Violations of the Code of Ethics. In order to maintain high standards of professional conduct, the Board of Directors of the Chicago Undersea Explorers Society shall have the power to censure, suspend, or terminate any CUES member, or impose any other discipline, sanction, supervision, or probation if the member is found in violation of this Code of Ethics, pursuant to the CUES Bylaws Article III, Section 4. The Board of Directors may review and, with good cause, reinstate a suspended or expelled member. The Board of Directors may appoint Ethics Committees to hear complaints regarding alleged violations of the Code of Ethics and to recommend a course of action to the Board of Directors.