



# **Australian Speleological Federation Inc.**

## **Cave Diving Group (ASF-CDG)**

### **Policy**

*(Adopted by Council May 2020)*

#### **Scope**

Cave Diving within ASF is distributed among numerous clubs throughout Australia. To further underwater speleology in Australia, the ASF Cave Diving Group (ASF-CDG) is responsible for bringing together divers throughout the country and for encouraging developments and techniques, not just in diving, but also in studies related to underwater karst, its exploration and mapping. Membership is voluntary and is only for cave-diving members of ASF clubs.

#### **Structure**

ASF-CDG is headed by ASF Cave Diving Commissioner (or Commissioners) appointed by ASF Executive.

The ASF Cave Diving Commissioner appoints members of the ASF-CDG to assist with the activities of the ASF-CDG, including for membership standards and for state or area co-ordination.

The ASF-CDG Commissioner reports to ASF Executive when required.

ASF Executive appoints one of its members to observe the activities of the Commission and to liaise between the Commission and the Executive.

#### **Responsibilities of ASF-CDG are:**

- To encourage the conservation, exploration, investigation and documentation of submerged caves and cave passages;
- To determine codes of practice for cave diving. This includes diving using breathing apparatus and diving not using breathing apparatus (free diving or breath-hold diving);
- To determine standards for membership of ASF-CDG;
- To encourage all cave divers to follow ASF policy, guidelines and codes, particularly as they apply to cave diving;
- To encourage members to exchange ideas and skills and to dive with a range of other divers.

These responsibilities should be related to the terms of reference of the cave diving commission

#### **Membership Guidelines**

ASF members who are cave divers may apply to be members of ASF-CDG.

An applicant must provide evidence of completion of a cave-diving training course approved by the ASF-CDG or make special application to have their skills accepted.

ASF-CDG may have different levels of membership in recognition of members' differing levels of cave-diving training and skills. Despite there being such levels, all members of ASF-CDG should be treated as equal.

When determining levels for membership, ASF-CDG could apply the deleted national Cave Diving Competencies:

- SISOCVE416A Apply cavern diving skills
- SISOCVE519A Apply sinkhole diving skills

- SISOCVE518A Apply cave diving skills
- SISOCVE521A Apply advanced cave diving skills
- SISOCVE520A Apply sump diving skills

Persons applying for ASF-CDG membership may be required to show evidence they are skilled in dry caving.

Membership of ASF-CDG is free.

Members shall advise the CDG of any current or past penalties associated with cave diving.

In response to any alleged incident during an ASF-CDG permitted trip the ASF-CDG Commissioner may hold a disciplinary hearing to determine the facts of the incident. Depending on the seriousness of any misbehaviour the CDG Commissioner may issue a reprimand to the member or refer the matter to ASF Executive for further action. In such matters the Rules of Natural Justice shall apply.

### **State and Area Co-ordinators**

In some cases, it may be prudent for ASF-CDG to have one point of contact with a particular land manager. In these cases, it may be decided that all diving permit applications to that land manager should go through the state or area co-ordinator. Otherwise, divers should apply directly to the land manager and should advise the state or area co-ordinator.

In cases where no diving permit is required by the land manager, the state or area co-ordinator should be advised when a trip is being planned.

### **Solo Diving**

ASF-CDG recommends divers undertaking solo diving should carefully consider the risks of solo diving and should take steps to minimise them. ASF-CDG encourages all divers to be self-sufficient as if they were solo diving, even when buddy diving.

Solo diving is:

- When away from the immediate assistance of another diver;
- Planned separation from other divers;
- A diver at the far end of a constriction;
- Being the only diver in the water.