

**Piedmont Diving and Rescue Association
Code of Ethics**

1. Member shall maintain a reputation for common honesty, good moral character and good friendship. The PDRA and its members shall at all times foster a family-wholesome and friendly atmosphere. The organization will not tolerate instances of rudeness, hostility, aggression or any other act designed to intimidate or harass others. Incidences of such behavior shall be reported for discipline to the Disciplinary Committee.

No explanation of this should be needed as each member should realize that his personal reputation will reflect those organizations to which he belongs and the activities in which he engages.

2. Member shall at all times support the programs of the PDRA and at no time discriminate against or discredit the PDRA or its members in good standing.

It is understood that all members will not support all programs at all times; however, those programs supported by a majority of the membership are those of the membership. (This should not be interpreted as forcing those members who are instructors or shop owners into acceptance of methods, procedures, or programs which are not nationally recognized as acceptable by the diving community or their national program.)

3. No member shall at any time directly solicit for himself or others while on PDRA property nor while acting or purporting to act on behalf of the PDRA. Those members who should use the PDRA or its property for gain shall do so under the guidelines of the Board of Directors and shall see that the PDRA receives full recognition.

The purpose and existence of the PDRA is clearly defined in the Articles of Incorporation dated 3/16/63 and the Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation dated 8/7/97. It is not the purpose nor intent of the PDRA to provide its facilities to any individual as a means of earning a living. The PDRA recognizes that it is to its benefit to have members who are instructors and dive shop owners belong to the PDRA; however all instructors and dive shop owners must recognize and subscribe to the belief that membership in the PDRA and the issue of "Instructor Permits" is subject to certain conditions, one being the show of support by soliciting membership from students, another is that use of the PDRA facilities comes under the authority of the Board of Directors of the PDRA and is subject to their approval in all matters. Instructors or shop owners who cannot subscribe to this philosophy should find other open water facilities.

Members will not openly approach others to advertise or promote equipment sales or instructional programs while on PDRA property, except as directed by the Board of Directors.

This is not to be interpreted as an attempt to cut off communications between members, equipment and instructors being the favorite topics of conversation, but requires that instructors and shop owners act in a professional manner. If asked a direct question, a shop owner or instructor would then be able to discuss equipment or instruction, but should not initiate the solicitation.

This also insures that those members, who use the PDRA and its facilities, as directed by the Board of Directors, will give credit for its assistance.

4. No member shall act in a manner which at any time would endanger the property, leases, and insurance policies held by the PDRA or continued future enjoyment of the services offered by the PDRA to its members. Any incidences of a violation of this Code of Ethics may result in the revocation of membership, teaching or instructor's licenses, and admission to the properties of the PDRA. Each item referred for discipline shall be forwarded to the alleged violator for response. Failure to respond in writing, within 15 days, and specifically to allegations brought by the Disciplinary Committee shall be grounds for revocation of membership and licenses by the PDRA.

Any member that does cause unwarranted liability to be placed on the PDRA can expect disciplinary action to be brought against them in accordance with the existing Bylaws, Rules and Regulations for Members of the PDRA or the PDRA Instructor Requirements, as they apply.

(Rev. 9/08)