



# GUE Standards v10.1 **Frequently Asked Questions** *Student Version*

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Please contact [info@gue.com](mailto:info@gue.com) with any additional questions.

## General Questions

1. **Are the new standards in effect right away?**
  - a. Yes, but there are some allowances in place during the grace period, which is until June 10, 2025.
  - b. Instructor standards are in effect immediately, except for the new BLS/O2 expiration requirements and the Level 2 exclusivity requirement.
  - c. Students must meet the stated prerequisites for the new and updated courses, except for the rescue and BLS requirements. While we strongly encourage students to fulfill these requirements before training starts, they are waived during the grace period.
2. **When can instructors start scheduling the new classes and classes with the new names?**
  - a. Right away. All instructors were given the relevant teaching privileges online at launch, so these can now be scheduled and conducted.
3. **When is the last time instructors can schedule or run classes under the v9.2 standards?**
  - a. The grace period for running classes under v9.2 student standards ends on June 10, 2025. After this date, classes will be changed over to the new names and/or formats. As we near the end of the period, HQ will review which classes are still pending and contact instructors as needed to arrange changeovers. Get in contact with your instructor if you are concerned about an upcoming course.
4. **I'm registered for a class scheduled under the old course names, but I would like to have a certification with the new name. Is this possible?**
  - a. This is ultimately up to your instructor. If all students are in agreement, the instructor can have the name changed.
5. **I do not like these changes!**
  - a. Most of us do not like change in general, but give them time and look at the new development with an open mind, and ask questions—we will always be eager to answer them! If you take one of the new or revised courses, please do not hesitate to contact us—either via direct emails or through your QC form—to provide us with experience-based feedback.

## Recreational Classes

6. **Why are all of the Foundational courses now under the Recreational curriculum?**
  - a. This follows the BOD's decision to make a clearer separation between recreational training and more advanced training. After "upgrading" the Technical Fundamentals course, we moved it to the Technical curriculum, leaving essentially only

recreational courses in the Foundational category, and thus it was removed to create a more streamlined structure: Recreational and Technical/Cave.

**7. Why did the Recreational course names change to ones that are familiar in the industry (Scuba Diver, Open Water Diver, Advanced Open Water Diver, Master Diver, Deep Primer)?**

- a. The decision was not easy, especially since we are recognized with the previous names. However, we are investing in our Recreational curriculum and feel that the change better reflects what students are being taught, although the programs are more extensive than the industry standard. If you're unsure of what you will learn in a class, please review GUE standards and contact HQ or an instructor.

**8. Will Rec 1, 2, and 3 divers receive cards with the new course names now or at their next renewal?**

- a. No, student records and certifications for divers who completed their recreational classes prior to Standards v10.1 will continue to reflect the original course names, including renewals.

**9. Why does Deep Primer (formerly Triox Primer), and part of the Advanced Open Water Diver course (formerly Rec 2) no longer require use of triox 30/30?**

- a. The decision is based on helium availability and pricing, as well as due to some locations where this class is taught being unable to provide helium-based mixes consistently.
- b. The dives to 30 m/100 ft can be done with EAN32 or triox 30/30, but students who want to be certified for triox must complete at least two training dives using triox 30/30.

**10. Why did GUE introduce the Performance Diver class?**

- a. Over the last couple of years, we have seen a growing number of students who, via QC forms, provided feedback that they would have preferred a less intense and intimidating class. With Performance Diver, we hope to reach a wider group of divers earlier in their diving journey, who may then pursue advanced training with GUE progressively. We removed the non-certification Part 1 of Fundamentals and Part 2 as an upgrade to full Fundamentals, as it is more appealing to have a class with a certification and then offer Primers depending on the student's interests, needs, and capacity.
- b. As a gateway course, Performance Diver introduces GUE diving principles, the equipment configuration and focuses on building a solid platform through trim, stability, and propulsion techniques—a stepping stone towards further recreational training or full Fundamentals certification.

### **11. Who can teach the GUE Performance Diver class?**

- a. All active GUE instructors can teach GUE Performance Diver classes, including Open Water Diver instructors (recreational instructors) and Fundamentals instructors.

### **12. I saw that Doubles and Drysuit Primers now result in a certification. Will this be applied to past students as well?**

- a. Yes, all previous Doubles and Drysuit Primer students now have digital certification cards instead of certificates of completion, and they have been notified.
- b. All future students will receive a digital certification by default but no printed certification. If any students need or want a printed copy, they can request one via the [Certification Replacement](#) page.

## **Fundamentals Classes**

### **13. Why did GUE split the Fundamentals class?**

- a. Following GUE's current strategy of clear division between recreational and technical (technical diving, cave diving, and CCR) we decided to create a more robust Technical Fundamentals course and nest it under the Technical curriculum, as this class is designed specifically to prepare students to undertake technical classes. The level of performance must be solid so the students can apply to Level 1 classes (cave or tech) and the CCR Fundamentals class directly after passing the Technical Fundamentals course. There cannot be any doubts about the skills and preparedness of a student with a Technical Fundamentals pass joining a Level 1 class or CCR Fundamentals.
- b. Upon request, we maintained, for the time being, the more recreational version called Basic Fundamentals, which is nested under the Recreational curriculum, along with the shorter Performance Diver class.

### **14. Who can teach Basic Fundamentals?**

- a. Only GUE Fundamentals instructors can teach Basic Fundamentals.

### **15. Who can teach Technical Fundamentals?**

- a. Only GUE Fundamentals Instructors can teach Technical Fundamentals.

### **16. Do GUE divers with Rec 1, 2, 3, or "old" Fundamentals or Part 1 certifications have to take the full new Basic or Technical Fundamentals course in order to upgrade?**

- a. In general, no, but it is ultimately up to the instructor to review your training history and the length of time since your original courses to determine what components of the Basic or Technical Fundamentals class are yet to be completed

and/or need refreshing. Depending on the certification and level you're upgrading from, training duration and content will vary.

### 17. Is the Basic Fundamentals class different from the old Fundamentals with Recreational rating class?

- a. No, the course is still the same. The Basic Fundamentals class remains a great option for single-tank or double-tank divers looking to refine their skills, build capacity, and have a gateway into other GUE courses. The class requires six dives and includes access to GUE's new online learning platform.

### 18. Is the Technical Fundamentals class different from the old Fundamentals with Technical rating class?

- a. Somewhat. While theory topics and most skills and drills remain unchanged, the prerequisite requirements are now higher, and the class involves slightly deeper dives and backup light deployment. The level of required performance is also higher, there are more dives (eight in total), and access to GUE's new online learning platform is included.

### 19. Why are there more prerequisites for Technical Fundamentals?

- a. The current prerequisites for this class are:
  - i. Hold a certification from a recognized training agency to dive to 100 ft/30 m or a GUE Deep Primer certification.
    - *Introduced because of the need for experience with deeper dives before commencing technical diving training; see the below prerequisites.*
  - ii. Have conducted at least 75 non-training dives following completion of autonomous scuba diver certification. At least 25 of these must have been at a depth of at least 70 ft/21 m.
    - *Introduced because the class should be catered to more advanced divers who intend to start technical, CCR, or cave diving, and all of these classes require at least 100 non-training dives. If a student has fewer dives, a more appropriate class is Basic Fundamentals, followed by any of the Primers (Deep, Navigation, Rescue) to build capacity and experience.*
  - iii. Have conducted at least 25 non-training dives in a double tank configuration or have conducted 15 non-training dives utilizing doubles following completion of GUE Doubles Primer certification.
    - *Aiming for technical or cave diving with limited doubles experience is not the optimal solution—divers entering the tech or cave curriculum must be more familiar with, confident in, and comfortable with doubles.*

- iv. If using a drysuit during the course, have conducted at least 15 non-training dives in a drysuit or have conducted ten non-training dives utilizing a drysuit following completion of GUE Drysuit Primer certification.
  - *Aiming for technical or cave diving with limited drysuit experience is not the optimal solution—divers entering the tech or cave curriculum must be more familiar with, confident in, and comfortable with a drysuit. Teaching students how to dive a drysuit during Level 1 classes adds unnecessary complexity and reduces learning in the actual tech or cave aspects of the course.*

**20. Can an instructor teach Performance Diver, Basic Fundamentals, and/or Technical Fundamentals simultaneously to fulfill the required minimum number of students?**

- a. Technically, it is possible, but it is not recommended. The idea of Performance Diver is to avoid classes where the differences in skills, knowledge, and capacity are too great.
- b. Practically, it will be more challenging, as the prerequisites for each of these classes are different, and Technical Fundamentals requires experience in diving below 21 m/70 ft, and Performance and Basic Fundamentals students cannot participate in Technical Fundamentals-only course components.

**21. Can an instructor certify a student who signed Up for Technical Fundamentals as Basic Fundamentals or Performance Diver?**

- a. It is possible, but in general, GUE would prefer that students be evaluated accurately for the class they have taken; this means, for example, that a student who has taken Technical Fundamentals but fallen short of a pass be issued a Provisional, not a Basic Fundamentals.

**22. Is there still a Rec pass for Technical Fundamentals?**

- a. No, the new GUE Technical Fundamentals class only has pass, provisional, incomplete, and fail evaluation ratings.

**23. What if a student is registered for Basic Fundamentals but is doing well in the course and meets the prerequisites for Technical Fundamentals? Can they be issued a Technical Fundamentals certification?**

- a. Yes, this is possible if all Technical Fundamentals course components are completed and standards met. In such a scenario, your instructor will be able to make the necessary administrative changes to facilitate this.

**24. What will happen with Provisional, Incomplete, or Rec passes from previous GUE Fundamentals courses or Fundamentals Part 1 students?**

- a. The new standards have a 6-month grace period during which your instructor can continue to use the GUE Fundamentals Upgrade and Part 2 classes on GUE.com and conduct upgrades under Standards v9.2.

- b. However, it is strongly encouraged that instructors and divers utilize the new system of classes, which in this case would be through the use of the Upgrade to GUE Basic Fundamentals or Upgrade to GUE Technical Fundamentals, depending on the student's skill level and prerequisite fulfillment.

#### **25. How does a Performance Diver or a Fundamentals Part 1 diver upgrade to Basic or Technical Fundamentals?**

- a. Upgrading directly to Technical Fundamentals is not recommended for students who took Performance Diver due to skill level and/or dive experience. These students should be advised to progress more gradually towards technical diving, and primers like Navigation, Rescue, or Deep, or pursuing Basic Fundamentals, are more appropriate progression paths for this type of diver.
- b. In either case, the students must fulfill all prerequisites to enter either Basic or Technical Fundamentals and then for an Upgrade to Basic (or Technical) Fundamentals as appropriate. During the upgrade class, students will complete all remaining theory, land drill, and in-water components for that level. For Performance Diver to Basic, this would take at least one day and two dives, and for Technical, this would take at least two days and four dives. Part 1 upgrades may vary.

#### **26. How does a Basic Fundamentals certified diver upgrade to Technical Fundamentals?**

- a. Students who fulfill all prerequisites to enter Technical Fundamentals will be able to apply for an Upgrade to Technical Fundamentals class, during which the remaining theory, land drill, and in-water components will be taught. This training will take at least one day and two dives. .

## **Technical and Cave Classes**

#### **27. Why were the Technical and Cave curriculums merged into one?**

- a. The merge was to simplify the document's structure, as with more CCR classes, which overlap both cave and technical curricula, it was harder to organize in a logical way. The forthcoming Project Diver curriculum will also be under the Technical and Cave section, and keeping a simple division between recreational and non-recreational was the preferred choice.

#### **28. Why have Tech 2+ and CCR 2+ ratings been removed?**

- a. Both "Plus" ratings have been removed, as we have created Tech 3 and Cave 3, allowing for proper expansion of limits that includes actual training and is not only based on experience.
- b. During the grace period, divers can still request these upgrades, but once the period ends, no new plus ratings will be issued. The existing plus ratings will, however, continue to be renewed.

**29. Is GUE now allowing other rebreather units for GUE PSCR or CCR training?**

- a. No. GUE's current approved CCR is the JJ-CCR in the GUE configuration, and the current approved PSCR is the RB80.

**30. Why did GUE create CCR Fundamentals? Is it a result of increasing helium prices?**

- a. The main motivation for GUE relates to improving training quality for divers who wish to progress into rebreather diving. The CCR Fundamentals course focuses on developing and refining essential skills, such as buoyancy control, optimal loop volume, breathing techniques, and rebreather configuration. This shift in emphasis allows divers to transition into more complex scenarios and advanced training with the confidence and competence it requires.
- b. For most divers, the cost of the rebreather with maintenance will be more than the cost of helium for some years to come. However, very active deep divers may close this gap quickly.

**31. I already have a Tech 1 certification. Do I have to do CCR-F and then CCR-T1?**

- a. In Tech 1 you have learned many technical skills, and this will help you in CCR-F, which is designed to teach you the basics of the rebreather. You will need this basic knowledge and therefore need to do CCR-F. Since you already have much of the technical diving knowledge, you won't need a full CCR-T1 course, but you will need an upgrade after you have enough experience and capacity on the CCR.
- b. If you already had a CCR 1 class arranged with an instructor, they will still be able to schedule and run this class during the grace period.

**32. I still prefer open-circuit diving. Do I have to use a CCR now to be part of GUE activities?**

- a. Not at all. We still value and promote open-circuit diving. In fact, for many people, open-circuit diving will still be the cheapest, safest, and easiest way to conduct technical dives in a range that is reasonable from decompression, gas, and equipment management perspectives.

**33. Why would I use a CCR in the 100 ft/30 m range?**

- a. The zone of use for CCR diving varies with individual and mission requirements. Regardless of these debates, the CCR-F program focuses on gaining experience, familiarity, and capacity with your rebreather before moving into deeper depths where there is little debate over the value of a rebreather.

**34. How many dives do I need to start a CCR Fundamentals course?**

- a. You need a Technical Fundamentals certification (or Fundamentals with Technical pass) and at least 150 dives.



**35. Do I need to buy a JJ-CCR to do the course?**

- a. No, but you need to be able to access one for the course as well as to build up your experience afterwards.

**36. Is it true that CCR-F may be done in a smaller setup?**

- a. Yes. A configuration with D3/23 ft<sup>3</sup> bailout and smaller oxygen (1.8 L in Europe or 2L in North America) would make an ideal 100 ft/30 m set while you are building capacity to do dives that actually require a CCR, whereas more traditional D7 and 3L oxygen would be more appropriate.

**37. Why is there no helium-based diluent in CCR-F?**

- a. CCR-F is designed as a basic user class with a max depth of 100 ft/30 m and does not include any training in the use of helium-based breathing gases.

**38. Can I carry a decompression tank after CCR-F?**

- a. CCR-F is a basic user class and does not include the use of stages or deco tanks. Even though you may be certified to carry a decompression or stage cylinder through other certifications, we strongly discourage anything that distracts you from gaining valuable experience with learning the intricacies of your rebreather.

**39. Can I take CCR-F with the JJ-CCR in factory configuration, as they are also 3 L tanks?**

- a. No. The factory configuration is different from the GUE configuration, and many of the skills are based specifically on the GUE configuration. CCR-F will use GUE-configured equipment and follow GUE CCR SOPs and general GUE procedures.

**40. What if my JJ-CCR is already configured with double 7 L or double 40 ft<sup>3</sup> cylinders; do I need to change it for the CCR-F class?**

- a. Both of these tank configurations are suitable for CCR Fundamentals, so there is no need to change unless discussion with your instructor or other factors determine otherwise.

**41. How will my experience dives be verified before pursuing the next level of training?**

- a. Your CCR logbook should be sent to your instructor and confirmed before applying for a CCR-T1 course. The best solution is to download it from the unit's Shearwater handset.

**42. What is the difference between Mod 1 JJ-CCR factory training and the GUE CCR-F course?**

- a. Factory courses use a different configuration, and many of the skills are done differently compared to GUE. GUE CCR-F will use GUE-configured equipment and follow GUE CCR SOPs and general GUE procedures.

**43. I already have a lot of CCR experience from another agency. Can I proceed to CCR-T1 directly?**

- a. CCR-F will likely benefit any CCR diver and align you with GUE procedures. GUE Standards do allow for waivers in certain circumstances, and such requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

**44. How many dives do I need before proceeding to CCR-T1?**

- a. After CCR-F, you must complete a minimum of 50 CCR dives in the GUE configuration before progressing to CCR-T1. You will also know when you're ready for more advanced dives when you can ascend in mid-water, perform a minimum decompression ascent in complete control, and are comfortable at 20 ft/6 m on a line.

**45. I was recently certified as a CCR 1 diver (old class). Are there any new requirements for progressing to CCR-T2?**

- a. The only change is that 25 of the 50 dives required after completion of CCR-T1 or CCR 1 must now be a depth of at least 130 ft/40 m, where previously the requirement was 100 ft/30 m. However, even after meeting the minimum dive requirement, you should carefully assess your capacity and readiness before undertaking CCR-T2, as it is a very challenging class without midwater stability.

## **Class Prerequisite Changes**

**46. Why do Performance Diver and the Fundamentals classes now require experience with doubles and/or drysuit prior to attending class? Why can't students learn to use these in class?**

- a. The reason for the changes is related to class content, student capacity, and the primary goal of those classes, which is not teaching how to use a twinset (doubles). It is especially relevant for Technical Fundamentals, as students should be focused on building all the foundational skills like trim, buoyancy, balance, propulsion, awareness, teamwork, effective communication, and ascent training. Technical Fundamentals is too late to learn how to use doubles, as those students are preparing for GUE technical (cave, tech, CCR) classes.

**47. Why did GUE reduce the age for Discover Diving and Scuba Diver (12 years), Performance Diver (12 years), Basic Fundamentals (14 years), and rebreather courses (18 years)?**

- a. This change in age for recreational courses is aligned with our focus on recreational training and introducing GUE concepts earlier to a broader group of divers seeking precision training, as well as being in line with the EU ISO standards.
- a. The change for rebreather courses was to align the programs with open-circuit cave and technical classes, as well as to ensure practical progression timelines given the lower ages for the prerequisite GUE Technical Fundamentals course.

**48. Rescue certification is now required before completion of most courses, and basic life support (BLS) is now required before attending Advanced Open Water Diver or Rescue Primer. Why have these additional requirements been added?**

- a. Previous course prerequisites (or lack thereof) made it possible for divers without robust rescue training to advance into more complex dive activities like technical, cave, and project diving, where the actual risk of incidents is higher due to the nature of the dives. The rescue skills taught during Fundamentals (limited to unconscious diver lift) do not include recognizing diving injuries, first aid, managing panicked or stressed divers on the surface and underwater, managing emergencies as a surface manager, or providing oxygen to divers with suspected DCI. The new requirement of possessing rescue training is there to provide these critical skills to divers moving on to more advanced forms of diving. The requirement is rescue training from any recognized training agency or GUE Rescue Primer.
- b. During the grace period, students without rescue training can still proceed with their courses as planned.
- c. After the grace period ends, students without rescue training can still proceed with their courses, but they cannot be certified until a rescue certification is obtained.

## Instructor Training

**49. Why has GUE reduced the age, lowered swim times, and added an alternate IE format for OW instructors?**

- a. This change is aligned with the strategy of growing our recreational curriculum and introducing GUE concepts earlier, and it is in line with the EU ISO standards.
- b. Although the Open Water instructor age is reduced to 18 years as a prerequisite, technical/cave/CCR (including Fundamentals) is kept at 21 years.

**50. Why are real IEs (teaching a full class) now required for CCR Tech 1, Sidemount, CCR Cave, Cave Survey, and DPV Cave?**

- a. This is related to the sophistication of these classes and differences in equipment configuration, complexity, and differences in students' control, environment, range, and scope. These are the highest of the ratings we offer in the cave curriculum, and they should be taught by the most qualified, experienced, and capable instructors, as they inherently bring more risk and hence require the highest level of competency.

**51. I am a GUE Fundamentals instructor candidate. What should I expect now with the new changes?**

- a. The instructor standards are being applied immediately with the new Standards release, so if you are concerned about your development plans, you should contact HQ ([info@gue.com](mailto:info@gue.com)), who will forward your request/questions to the Panel of Training Directors.

**52. To fulfill the instructor BLS/O2 requirement, non-professional BLS/O2 ratings must show an earned or renewed date within the last two years.**

- a. Basic life support and oxygen provider skills require retraining and should be refreshed regularly, ideally every 24 months. Thus, all certifications submitted for instructor renewal must have a certification or renewal date within the last two years or have another stated expiration date.
- b. Professional/instructor-level ratings will continue to require proof of renewal every year unless the certification states another expiration date.

**53. The annual teaching requirement is still one independently taught diving class, but the three audit/assist/co-teach is now three co-teaches.**

- a. To better reflect the teaching capacity we expect from our instructors, the teaching requirement has been adjusted slightly and is effective for renewal in 2025.
- b. This change means that taking a class as a student or interning a class no longer count as eligible training activities in place of teaching a class. Instructors must now have one documented class as the sole instructor or have three documented classes as a co-instructor.