

**TECHNICAL SCUBA DIVING –  
LIABILITY RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK**



**Please read carefully, fill in all applicable blanks, and initial each paragraph before signing.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, HEREBY DECLARE THAT:

\_\_\_\_\_ I am an experienced and certified scuba diver and technical scuba diver, trained in safe diving practices, including the use of technical scuba equipment, nitrox, trimix, and/or mixed gases, and am aware of the unique and **inherent risks and hazards** of both scuba and technical diving. My technical diving certifications are as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_, my C-Card number(s) is/are \_\_\_\_\_, and my date(s) of certification is/are \_\_\_\_\_. I am aware of the required certification to participate in technical diving activities. I have been a certified technical diver since \_\_\_\_\_, and have been technical diving for \_\_\_\_\_ months/years (circle one), with a total of approximately \_\_\_\_\_ dives, to a maximum depth of \_\_\_\_\_ meters/feet (circle one).

**OR**

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a certified scuba diver, trained in safe diving practices, including the use of scuba diving equipment. My C-Card Number is \_\_\_\_\_, and my date of certification is \_\_\_\_\_. I have been scuba diving for \_\_\_\_\_ months/years (circle one), with a total of approximately \_\_\_\_\_ dives. I am currently being trained in technical scuba diving and am under the supervision of my technical scuba diving instructor:

\_\_\_\_\_, from the agency/organization: \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ I declare that for the planned dive(s), I am properly trained and/or under supervision, thoroughly informed, aware of and completely understand and accept the **INHERENT RISKS AND HAZARDS** of participating in scuba and technical scuba diving activities, including the risk of serious injury or death. In consideration of being allowed to participate in the planned dive(s), I hereby **FREELY AND EXPRESSLY ASSUME** any and all risks in connection with the dive(s), for any harm, injury, or damage that I may suffer, including all risks and hazards in connection with scuba and technical scuba diving, whether foreseen or unforeseen.

\_\_\_\_\_ I declare that I am solely responsible for ensuring my own safety during my participation in the planned dive(s). I acknowledge that I understand the importance and purpose of safe diving practices, including those for technical diving, and my responsibility to fully adhere to them.

\_\_\_\_\_ I declare that I understand and accept that technical diving involves **inherent risks and hazards** that exceed those encountered in recreational scuba diving, including but not limited to: depths that exceed the limits of recreational diving; decompression procedures; over-head environments and/or the risk of entanglement that may prevent direct ascent to the surface in the event of an emergency; sudden loss of visibility, the necessity for computing both nitrogen and/or helium and oxygen loading to plan dives; and the need for specialized training, equipment, and planning or different types of technical scuba diving. I understand that technical scuba diving is a physically strenuous activity, which may involve a greater risk of serious injury or death than recreational scuba diving, including overexertion, heart attack, panic attack, and hyperventilation, or any other cause.

\_\_\_\_\_ I declare that I understand and accept that diving with compressed air, oxygen-enriched air (nitrox), trimix, and/or mixed gases involve certain inherent risks and hazards including but not limited to decompression sickness, embolism, oxygen toxicity, inert gas narcosis, fire and/or explosion hazards, barotrauma, and other hyperbaric injuries, which can lead to serious and permanent injuries and even death.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree and understand that if I am involved in an underwater accident or if I sustain any injury during the dive(s), I do not expect to be rescued and/or if there is an attempted rescue, I do not expect it to be successful. Further, it may be determined that I be evacuated for emergency medical treatment or to a recompression chamber, and I agree and understand that I am responsible for all associated costs and expenses. I further understand and agree that such medical care may not be easily or readily accessible. I still choose to participate in the planned dive(s).



**RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

To the fullest extent allowed by law, I **AGREE TO RELEASE** Juturna Springs, Maryland Dive Training Facilities, LLC (dba Juturna Springs), Comus Properties, LLC, and all of their employees, agents, including instructors, their heirs and assigns (hereinafter referred to as “Released Parties”), **FROM ANY AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY OR LIABILITY** for any and all injuries or damages sustained by me or others during the dive(s). Furthermore, **I AGREE NOT TO SUE** or make a claim against any of the Released Parties for injuries or damages sustained by others or by me during the dive(s). **I AGREE TO RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS, AND INDEMNIFY** the Released Parties from any and all liability for injuries whether arising or resulting from any **NEGLIGENCE, WHETHER PASSIVE OR ACTIVE, OR FROM ANY OTHER CAUSE.**

This document supersedes all other agreements or representations by or between the parties and is intended to provide a comprehensive release of liability, but is not intended to assert any claims or defenses which are prohibited by law. I understand and agree that this Agreement will be interpreted pursuant to Maryland law. If any portion of this Agreement is deemed unenforceable, the remainder shall be given full force and effect. I understand this is legally binding on my heirs and on me.

**I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY. I HAVE FULLY INFORMED MYSELF OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS LIABILITY RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT BY READING IT. I HAVE READ AND AGREED TO THE DIVER’S AFFIRMATION AGREEMENT AND HAVE SIGNED IT. I AM OF LAWFUL AGE AND LEGALLY COMPETENT TO SIGN THIS AGREEMENT. I SIGN THIS AGREEMENT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Name of Diver)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Diver)



### Diver's Affirmation

**By signing below, I represent that I understand and promise to adhere to the following dive practices:**

*(Please initial each paragraph)*

1. I am experienced with the proper use of technical diving equipment. I will only dive with my own equipment, which is regularly and properly maintained and fits me, and which I have inspected for the planned dive(s). I know the manufacturer-rated depth and/or time limits for my equipment and will not dive beyond them.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. I will only use technical diving equipment on the planned dive(s) that is accepted in the technical diving community. I will not use technical diving equipment not certified for use during the planned dive(s), or equipment that is not my own. I will deny the use of any of my technical diving equipment to divers not certified in its use.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Prior to the planned dive(s), I will inspect my buddy's and/or team's equipment for correct fit and function for the dive(s) and have him/them so inspect mine.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. I have two (2) functioning life support systems. In the event one system fails, I will use the other to ascend and abort the dive.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. I will always dive with: a buddy, a buoyancy compensator that has a power inflation system, and a regulator system with the necessary gauges, timing devices, lights, and tools for the planned dive(s). I will adjust my weight system to maintain neutral buoyancy and position my weights to keep the quick release or belt buckle easily accessible at all times.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. I will always dive with a Delayed Surface Marker Buoy or lift bag and reel to provide an emergency decompression line and to make my position visible from the surface.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. I know and will obey the local dive laws and regulations, and Juturna Springs' rules and policies for scuba diving, technical diving, and for regulating access to dive site(s).  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. I am solely responsible for ensuring my own safety during my participation in the planned dive(s). I understand the importance and purpose of accepted diving practices, including those for technical diving, and my responsibility to fully adhere to them.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. I will listen carefully to Juturna Springs' dive briefings and directions and will respect the advice of those supervising my diving activities, including the staff and instructors of Juturna Springs.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. I will not remove the Technical Diver hand stamp provided to me by Juturna Springs, and I understand that this hand stamp designates me as a Technical Diver.  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. I will never dive alone or with a person with whom I have not discussed the details of our planned dive(s). I will adhere to the team diving philosophy on the planned dive(s) by planning the dive(s) with my buddy and/or team including, but not limited to, communications, procedures for reuniting in case of separation, and procedures in the event of an emergency.  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. I know I should be aware of the known features of the dive site(s) and, if they are not clear to me, I am responsible for having any questions answered prior to entering the water.  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. I will only enter and exit the water at the designated entry/exit location(s). I understand that care must be exercised at all times whenever entering or exiting the water, or while boarding or disembarking from any watercraft.  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. I will breathe properly during the planned dive(s). I will avoid overexertion while in and under the water and I will dive within my own limitations. I recognize that the deeper I dive, the greater the effort required to breathe, and the easier it is to overexert. I understand that when diving a rebreather, the deeper I dive, the less efficient my scrubber will be, which will raise the carbon dioxide level in the breathing loop, all else being equal. I will use helium-based mixes to reduce gas density and effort of breathing when making technical dives deeper than 130 feet.  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. I will surface with at least 500 psi in my scuba cylinder and will never stay underwater until my breathing gas supply is exhausted.  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. I am qualified for the planned dive(s) and I understand that if I am involved in an underwater accident or if I sustain any injury during the dive(s), I do not expect to be rescued and/or if there is an attempted rescue, I do not expect it to be successful.  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. I understand and accept that diving with compressed air, oxygen-enriched air (nitrox), trimix, and mixed gasses involves certain inherent risks and hazards including, but not limited to decompression sickness, embolism, oxygen toxicity, inert gas narcosis, fire and/or explosion hazards, barotrauma, and other injuries, which can lead to serious and permanent disabilities and even death.  
\_\_\_\_\_



- \_\_\_\_\_
18. I will bail out without delay if I encounter or believe there is a problem. I will not return to the dive until I have identified the problem and corrected it. I acknowledge that any diver can bail out and abort at any time and for any reason, and I will do so without delay if I encounter or believe there is a problem.
- \_\_\_\_\_
19. I understand and accept that even with proper training, technical diving exposes me to more hazards and potential risks than does recreational diving; such hazards may include, but are not limited to lack of direct access to the surface, too much or too little oxygen, high carbon dioxide, gas narcosis, decompression sickness, diving negatively buoyant, and difficulty managing problems due to overall task loading. I further understand and agree that if I cannot accept the risks inherent in technical diving on the planned dive(s), I will not make the dive(s) or will abort if I already have begun. I acknowledge that if I cannot accept the risks in general, I shall discontinue technical diving at Juturna Springs until I am able to do so.
- \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Name of Scuba Diver)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Scuba Diver)