



# Release of Liability/Assumption of Risk/Non-Agency Acknowledgment Form

PADI FREEDIVER AND MERMAID TRAINING PROGRAMS

Please read carefully and fill in all blanks before signing.

## Non-Agency Disclosure and Acknowledgment Agreement

I understand and agree that PADI Members ("Members"), including \_\_\_\_\_ and/or any individual PADI Instructors and Divemasters associated with the training program and/or activity in which I am participating, are licensed to use various PADI Trademarks and to conduct PADI training, but are not agents, employees or franchisees of PADI Americas, Inc, or its parent, subsidiary and affiliated corporations ("PADI"). I further understand that Member business activities are independent, and are neither owned nor operated by PADI, and that while PADI establishes the standards for PADI diver training programs, it is not responsible for, nor does it have the right to control, the operation of the Members' business activities and the day-to-day conduct of PADI programs and supervision of divers by the Members or their associated staff. I further understand and agree on behalf of myself, my heirs and my estate that in the event of an injury or death during this activity, neither I nor my estate shall seek to hold PADI liable for the actions, inactions or negligence of \_\_\_\_\_ (store/resort name) and/or the instructors and divemasters associated with the activity.

## Liability Release and Assumption of Risk Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby affirm that I am aware that freediving and mermaid training and activities ("Programs") have inherent risks which may result in serious injury or death.

I understand and agree that neither my guide(s)/instructor(s), nor the facility through which this program is offered, \_\_\_\_\_, nor PADI Americas, Inc., nor its affiliate and subsidiary corporations, nor any of their respective employees, officers, agents, contractors or assigns (hereinafter referred to as "Released Parties"), may be held liable or responsible in any way for any injury, death or other damages to me, my family, estate, heirs or assigns that may occur as a result of my participation in this Program or as a result of the negligence of any party, including the Released Parties, whether passive or active.

In consideration of being allowed to participate in this Program, I hereby personally assume all risks of this Program whether foreseen or unforeseen, that may befall me while I am a participant in this Program including, but not limited to, the academics, confined water and/or open water activities.

I further release, exempt and hold harmless said program and Released Parties from any claim or lawsuit by me, my family, estate, heirs or assigns, arising out of my enrollment and participation in this Program including both claims arising during the Program or after I receive my certification.

I understand that freediving and mermaid Programs are physically strenuous activities and that I will be exerting myself during this Program, and that if I am injured as a result of heart attack, panic, hyperventilation, drowning or any other cause, that I expressly assume the risk of said injuries and that I will not hold the Released Parties responsible for the same.

I further state that I am of lawful age and legally competent to sign this liability release, or that I have acquired the written consent of my parent or guardian. I understand the terms herein are contractual and not a mere recital, and that I have signed this Agreement of my own free act and with the knowledge that I hereby agree to waive my legal rights. I further agree that if any provision of this Agreement is found to be unenforceable or invalid, that provision shall be severed from this Agreement. The remainder of this Agreement will then be construed as though the unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.

I understand and agree that I am not only giving up my right to sue the Released Parties but also any rights my heirs, assigns, or beneficiaries may have to sue the Released Parties resulting from my death. I further represent I have the authority to do so and that my heirs, assigns, or beneficiaries will be estopped from claiming otherwise because of my representations to the Released Parties.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, BY THIS INSTRUMENT AGREE TO EXEMPT AND RELEASE MY GUIDE(S)/INSTRUCTOR(S), THE FACILITY THROUGH WHICH I RECEIVE MY INSTRUCTION /ACTIVITY \_\_\_\_\_, AND PADI AMERICAS, INC., AND ALL RELATED ENTITIES AS DEFINED ABOVE, FROM ALL LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY WHATSOEVER FOR PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR WRONGFUL DEATH HOWEVER CAUSED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASED PARTIES, WHETHER PASSIVE OR ACTIVE.

I HAVE FULLY INFORMED MYSELF AND MY HEIRS OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS NON-AGENCY DISCLOSURE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AGREEMENT AND LIABILITY RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT BY READING BOTH BEFORE SIGNING BELOW ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND MY HEIRS.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (Day/Month/Year)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian (where applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (Day/Month/Year)



# Safe Mermaiding Practices Statement of Understanding

Please read carefully before signing.

This is a statement in which you are informed of the established safe practices for mermaid swimming and diving. These practices have been compiled for your review and acknowledgement and are intended to increase your comfort and safety while mermaiding. Your signature on this statement is required as proof that you are aware of these safe practices. Read and discuss the statement before signing it. If you are a minor, this form must also be signed by a parent or guardian.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Name) \_\_\_\_\_, understand that as a mermaid I should:

1. Always mermaid swim and dive with a trained buddy and follow established mermaiding buddy practices.
2. Not participate in open water mermaiding after scuba diving on the same day.
3. Equalize my ears and mask (if worn) immediately as I descend, frequently and gently, before I feel discomfort. Never descend wearing goggles, which can't be equalized.
4. Never continue descending without equalizing. If I can't equalize, return to the surface.
5. Never attempt a forceful and/or extended equalization. A forceful, extended equalization can cause serious, permanent injuries to ears and hearing.
6. Descend with my lungs full.
7. Mermaid swim and dive in good health. Never mermaid swim and dive with a cold or congestion.
8. Even if I'm a scuba diver, not take a breath from scuba at depth while mermaiding. An exception may be an emergency, in which case the scuba diver should share air with me as we both make a scuba ascent.
9. Use relaxation to extend breathhold time. Never use hyperventilation.
10. Increase breathhold durations gradually. Gain experience slowly.
11. After descending to depth, ascend well within my limits. The deeper the dive, the sooner I should ascend.
12. Send a mermaid who blacked out underwater or who may have inhaled water at the surface to professional medical evaluation (such as at a hospital), even if apparently fully recovered.
13. For mermaid diving, weight myself so that I float comfortably at the surface after exhaling.
14. When using a snorkel, remove it from my mouth when I descend.
15. Not exhale during the dive, except when performing certain mermaid skills or immediately before breaking the surface upon ascent so I can inhale sooner.
16. Upon returning to the surface, exhale passively and gently. Inhale actively and more quickly. Do this at least three times.
17. Recover for at least three times the duration of my breathhold before starting another dive.
18. When ascending from a dive to depth, have my buddy escort me for the final part of my ascent.
19. Not start a descent until my buddy has completely recovery from a previous dive.
20. Always follow a buddy system or rotation so that there is a buddy at the surface for each mermaid underwater. Wear bifins when acting in the buddy role.
21. Assess conditions before a mermaiding session and plan my session. It is ultimately me who decides whether to go mermaid swimming or diving. I am responsible for my own safety, so only I can make the final decision to dive.
22. Avoid mermaiding in large and rough surf.
23. Avoid contact with all organisms, but especially unfamiliar ones. Know the potentially hazardous ones for the area where I'm mermaid swimming or diving.
24. Get a local orientation to a new mermaiding location and/or join a group to help learn about conditions, organisms, hazards and local procedures.
25. Protect myself from the sun and stay hydrated.

**I understand the importance and purposes of these established practices. I recognize they are for my own safety and well-being, and that failure to adhere to them can place me in jeopardy when diving.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (Day/Month/Year)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian (where applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (Day/Month/Year)