



Ontario Underwater Council OUC Release for Adults

Go to: <https://underwatercouncil.com> - select “Forms & Releases” on the menu

Frequently Asked Questions FAQs

1	Question	Why do we need to review and sign an OUC Release?
	Answer	A properly executed OUC Release may discourage lawsuits and serve as an important line of defense if you are sued. However, it does not prevent someone from initiating legal action. We believe our online Release meets all legal requirements for validity and enforceability. If you are aware of any requirement we may have overlooked, please inform us at admin@underwatercouncil.com , and we will investigate immediately. Any necessary changes to the OUC Release, as a legally binding document, can be implemented in the following membership year.
2	Question	How often do we need to sign the OUC Release?
	Answer	Annually – You do not have to re-sign the OUC Release for each event in your club. Please review and sign a new OUC Release at the beginning of each calendar year. The annual OUC Release expires at the end of the day on December 31.
3	Question	When do we need to sign the OUC Release?
	Answer	Preferably January 1 or as soon you join your OUC member club in the new year. The OUC Release must be reviewed and signed at least 24 hours before your first club sanctioned event of the year.
4	Question	How should we answer the questions in the OUC Release?
	Answer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use your full legal name in both “name” fields. • Use the same unique email address that you used when joining your OUC member club. • Use your current year’s OUC number. If you don’t know it, check your email inbox, your spam folder for the email title “Your OUC Membership”, then contact membership@underwatercouncil.com. I am happy to assist.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select your OUC member club -- and select all other clubs where you participate in activities. If at a later date, you want to participate in another club's OUC sanctioned event, please start fresh and re-sign the OUC Release selecting multiple clubs. • If you have made a mistake when signing your OUC Release or if you are asked to re-sign your OUC Release, please open a fresh OUC Release from the website and start again.
5	Question	Will I receive a copy of my signed OUC Release?
	Answer	Yes, immediately upon signing, a copy will be emailed to you. If you feel you did not receive a copy, contact membership@underwatercouncil.com or your Club membership director who will verify receipt.
6	Question	Who will administer and validate the signed OUC Releases?
	Answer	The administrator of OUC's electronic files has created a program to store and validate your OUC Release. The OUC Membership Director will contact you if your OUC Release was flagged as invalid (see Q 4 above). Your OUC Club executive representative, such as your club membership director, will have access to the list of signed OUC Releases for your club to ensure compliance.
7	Question	Does OUC retain an archive of the OUC Releases in case one needs to access it later?
	Answer	Yes, contact president@underwatercouncil.com for retrieval.
8	Question	Can I sign a paper form instead of an online form?
	Answer	Yes. You are then responsible for printing a hard copy of the OUC Release, filling it out and signing it, taking in-focus photos of all pages, and emailing all the photos 48 hours before participating in activities. Send the email to two people: 1) your Club's Membership Director and 2) admin@underwatercouncil.com
9	Question	What if I choose not to sign the OUC Release?
	Answer	That is your choice; however, we ask that you not participate in any OUC sanctioned activities if you have not signed the OUC Release accurately and completely.

10	Question	Can a participant sign the OUC Release at the sanctioned event?
	Answer	A participant cannot sign the OUC Release at the event. The OUC Release must be reviewed and signed a minimum of 24 hours in advance to ensure they have adequate time for review and to prevent potential claims of signing under duress of time.
11	Question	Who should review and sign the OUC Release?
	Answer	<p>All OUC members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of OUC clubs • Individual and commercial OUC members • Guests who have joined an OUC club • Non-diving members of an OUC club • Non-OUC participants who are volunteering or participating in an OUC sanctioned event. <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who are not OUC members, but are participating in the OUC sanctioned event, are asked to review and sign the OUC Release, even if they are not members of OUC. • However, if the event is open to the public, participants do not have to sign an OUC Release.
12	Question	If someone does not have an OUC number for the current calendar year, what number should they use when signing the OUC Release?
	Answer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use your official OUC number if you have it. If you think you have a current OUC number, but don't know what it is, contact membership@underwatercouncil.com • If you are an OUC member, scuba student member or guest diver, but have not received your OUC number yet, use the 8-digit temporary code of: 99999999 When you have received your official OUC number, please <i>immediately</i> re-sign your OUC Release using your official OUC number. • If you are a non-OUC volunteer or participant at an OUC sanctioned event, use the 8-digit code of: 88888888 • If you are a "Discover Scuba" participant, use the 8-digit code of: 77777777

13	Question	Do participants at meetings have to sign the OUC Release?
	Answer	<p>OUC recommends that Executives, Officers, Instructors, Divemasters, Advisors and decision-makers at OUC sanctioned meetings ensure they have a signed OUC Release on file with OUC, whether the meeting is in-person or online.</p> <p>If a gathering is open to the public (e.g., outreach, seminars, a booth at a sporting event, etc.), the members of the public do not have to sign the OUC Release. However, OUC recommends that the OUC club organizers ensure they have a signed OUC Release on file with OUC.</p>
14	Question	Who can be sued?
	Answer	<p>Anyone can be sued. Anyone who owes a duty of care can be held legally accountable if they fail to meet that duty. In the context of diving, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divers: A diver owes a duty of care to their buddy. • Rescue Divers: A rescue diver owes a duty of care to all individuals they attempt to rescue. • Divemasters: A divemaster owes a duty of care to all divers under their supervision. • Instructors: An instructor owes a duty of care to their students and assisting staff. • Club Directors & Officers: A director or officer of an OUC member club owes a duty of care to their members. • Umbrella Organization Directors: A director of an overarching diving organization owes a duty of care to the member clubs and their members.



Ontario Underwater Council

OUC Indemnity Agreement for Parents of Minors

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Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs

with additional information at:

<https://underwatercouncil.com/minors/>

Important: Indemnity Agreement for Minors must be signed by Both Parents

1	Question	What is a “Minor”? What is the age of majority in Canada?
	Answer	The age of majority in Canada is 18 or 19 years old, depending on the province or territory. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Age of majority = 18: Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan• Age of majority = 19: British Columbia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Yukon
2	Question	Who signs the OUC Indemnity Agreement for Minors?
	Answer	Both Parents of a Minor Child participating in OUC sanctioned activities must correctly complete the Indemnity Agreement for each of their Minor Children at least 24 hours prior to the start of the OUC sanctioned activities.
3	Question	Why do both parents have to sign?
	Answer	To ensure that both parents are fully informed of the wide range of risks their Minor child may face while participating in scuba diving activities, as well as the potential financial implications. The requirement for signatures from both parents helps mitigate legal risks for clubs, instructors and OUC. If only one parent provides consent, and the other later disputes their lack of involvement or understanding, it could result in significant legal and financial implications for all parties.

Read additional information about the Indemnity Agreement at:

<https://underwatercouncil.com/minors/>