

OmniSub Diving Center Elba

Elba · Porto Azzurro, Elba · Scuba diving · Snorkelling · SUP · Boat trips

Rules by
Safer Shorelines
V6.1 · 21.09.2026

THE FIVE SENTENCES FOR THESE WATERS

- 1 Where a dive flag or a buoy floats, there are divers below you. One hundred metres distance, also with the inflatable.**
Rule 8 · Keep Your Distance – Protect Swimmers, Divers, and Others
- 2 Up to 40 hp nobody here needs a boat licence. Assume the boater next to you does not know the rules.**
Rule 4 · Watch for Others
- 3 Every group carries at least one buoy. If you have to surface, send it up first, or surface right next to the shore or the boat. Never somewhere out in the open.**
Rule 7 · Always Proper Equipment
- 4 Between the boat and the shore floats our buoy, on it a line with a flag, on the boat the big flag. Nobody drives through between boat and shore.**
Rule 3 · Know the Rules & Zones
- 5 At most four divers per guide, under 25 dives only guided, never deeper than 40 metres. And self-discipline: we expect it, because it protects you.**
Rule 6 · Education & Limits

IF SOMETHING HAPPENS

112

EUROPEAN
EMERGENCY
NUMBER, ITALY

1530

COAST GUARD
(GUARDIA
COSTIERA)

118

AMBULANCE

At the dive site someone from OmniSub is always on board.
Oxygen and first aid on board: to be confirmed with Markus.

WHERE THIS COMES FROM

From the safety briefing on board and the videos of **Markus Schempp**, OmniSub Diving Center, Porto Azzurro, on 2026-08-26.
Interview by Dieter Heinz, Safer Shorelines Ambassador.

„If you have to surface: either you send up a buoy, or you surface right next to the boat. Surfacing somewhere out in the open is what we want to avoid.“ – Markus Schempp, OmniSub Diving Center

Experience of the centre, not official regulations. Complete with all 71 tips in six languages at safershorelines.com. Liability notice: just-add-safety.com/haftung

Draft · as of September 2026 · from Markus' videos, review by the centre to follow



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1 Check Weather and Surroundings

Safety: „Your day on the water starts with a quick look up: check the weather, wind, and waves - and you set off prepared, relaxed, and knowing your spot.“

ON ELBA **HOUSE RULE**

All trips depend on wind and weather. The morning decides where we dive, not the plan. 25 sites around the island always give us a sheltered side.



2 Always with a Buddy or Supervision

Safety: „Water sports are best enjoyed together - with someone by your side who looks out for you and shares the experience.“

ON ELBA **HOUSE RULE**

Under 25 dives you dive guided, in groups of up to four. Someone from us always stays on the boat while you are down.



3 Know the Rules & Zones

Safety: „Know the rules of your spot and you move like a local: zones, buoys, and flags show you where your sport works best.“

ON ELBA **HOUSE RULE** (to be confirmed)

Our dive site is marked: big dive flag on the boat, a buoy between boat and shore, plus a line with a small flag. Within these buoys boats should keep 100 metres away. In August inflatables drive everywhere here, so we set the buoys before we anchor.



4 Watch for Others

Safety: „A quick glance at the people around you makes you a guardian angel: those who look early can help before help is even needed.“

ON ELBA **EXPERIENCE** (to be confirmed)

Up to 40 hp nobody in Italy needs a boat licence. Many boaters do not know the dive flag. While you dive, one of us stays on board and honks boats away. That is our job, not yours.



5 Secure Entry & Exit Points

Safety: „Sort out your entry and exit before you start - you'll get in relaxed and always know how to get back ashore with ease.“

ON ELBA **HOUSE RULE**

From the centre it is ten metres to the water and the pier. At the dive site: surface close to the boat or close to the shore, never in the open water between.



6 Education & Limits

Safety: „Every bit of training makes your playground bigger: the more you learn, the more you can trust yourself - and truly enjoy your skills.“

ON ELBA **HOUSE RULE**

Training to CMAS and SSI standards, at most four students per course, dives to 40 metres. A medical certificate is mandatory, under 40 at most three years old, over 40 and for minors at most one year. And we expect self-discipline, we tell everyone so.



7 Always Proper Equipment

Safety: „Good gear feels good: it keeps you warm, makes you visible, and lets you enjoy what you love without a worry.“

ON ELBA **HOUSE RULE**

Every group carries at least one buoy, that is mandatory. If you have to surface, send it up first. Rental gear is Mares and replaced every two years.



8 Keep Your Distance – Protect Swimmers, Divers, and Others

Safety: „Keeping a good distance gives everyone in the water room to breathe - swimmers, divers, and you. That is the mark of a true waterman.“

ON ELBA **LAW** (to be confirmed)

As a boater: dive flag and buoy mean divers underwater. 100 metres distance, do not pass between boat and shore. As a diver: surface only under the buoy, at the boat or at the shore, so every boat can see you.



9 Adjust Your Speed & Remain Absolutely Sober

Safety: „Slow and clear-headed near the shore - that keeps the day beautiful for everyone on and in the water.“

ON ELBA **EXPERIENCE**

In summer Barbarossa Bay is full of boats, many without a licence. Near the shore and around buoys: ease off. Whoever drives stays sober, also on the inflatable.



10 Enjoy & Protect Nature

Safety: „Clear water and living shorelines are your playground: enjoy nature and leave it as beautiful as you found it.“

ON ELBA **HOUSE RULE**

Gorgonian forests, seagrass, groupers, lobsters, morays: Elba depends on nothing being touched and nothing taken. Our bio dives show you what you are looking at.