

United by true passion



The EFFFA Flycasting Instructor Exam (Single Hand)

Equipment and general information:

rod:

Single hand fly rod which can be bought in a tackle shop, length: 7 to 9 feet, maximum #6, no change of rods during the exam (except if damaged)

fly line:

well visible (!) floating line not to exceed line weight #6, length min. 25 m, no change of lines during the exam (except if damaged)

leader:

7 to 9 feet, tippet length 50 cm(min), maximum tippet diameter 0.25 mm

dry fly:

high visible floating fly yarn(min. length 1 cm)

Each participant has to care for a suitable equipment (exception: rod with shooting head will be available)

Please notice:

- The candidates have to be properly dressed.
- Prior to each attempt of the Casting Performance Test the candidate can make a test cast(target casting: only to first ring). This cast is voluntary, has to be announced by the candidat prior to its use and does not count for the result.
- The target diameter(ring) for presentation casts is 1(one) meter.
- If you overcast the target it is not allowed to shorten the line to the correct distance before picking it up
- Backhand cast: The rod hand must cross the middle of the body axis line during casting. It is not allowed to twist the reel 180° during the cast!
- Switch Cast: The fly must be leaving the water and anchoring again before it is finally shot to the demanded distance.
- If nothing else is demanded always two false casts have to be made prior to presenting the fly(except the casts with water contact)

- A false cast always consists of a back cast and a forward cast.
- The fly must always land in front of the leader and the leader must land in front of the fly line(exception: trick casts).
- Whether line nor leader nor fly may touch the ground or water during false casting.
- If tailing loops can be recognized during an attempt(exception: demonstration of a casting mistake) the attempt will not be valid even if the target distance is reached.

Casting Performance Test:

(all limits have to be mastered, 3 attempts are allowed)

Women: 10 % minus on casting distances below 20 m and 20% minus on casting distances exceeding 20 m

- 20 m cast without use of line hand
- Backhand Cast with double haul 21 m
- 27 m cast with double haul
- Hold 20 m of fly line (leader included) in the air with a proper loop, with hauling
- Roll cast 15 m
- Roll cast backhanded 12 m
- Switch Cast or Forward Spey 18 m
- Switch Cast or Forward Spey backhanded 15 m
- Explain and show at least two ways how to change directions when using a water born cast target distance 15 m, minimum angle 45 °
- Pick up 15 m of fly line off water and drop back straight on water smoothly with a minimum of water disturbance
- False cast 5 or 6 times finally presenting the fly to a target 6 m away demonstrating good timing and a controlled loop
- False cast 4 times finally presenting the fly to a target 10 m away demonstrating good timing and a controlled loop
- False cast 4 times finally presenting the fly to a target 14 m away demonstrating good timing and a controlled loop

Casting instructional testing:

- Execute a slight tailing loop
- Execute a bow cast - forehand and backhanded
- Execute a parachute cast
- Execute the reach cast - both "banks"
- Execute a collapsed cast

- Execute a wide, open loop
- Execute a tight, parallel loop
- Explain and show at least two ways how to change directions when using a water born cast (Switch, Underhand or Spey Cast)
- Demonstrate how to pick up fly line off water, smoothly with a minimum of water disturbance
- Cast 15 m of line (leader included) in various planes (horizontally and vertically with explanation)

The term "bow cast":

It is used to facilitate the exam and to avoid any confusion. A bow (curve) in the fly line can be placed at different positions on the water. At the end (= hook cast, positive curve cast , negative curve cast), in the middle (e.g. air mend) or in front of you (upstream or downstream mending). Depending on the situation it is used in different angles (upright rod position, sideways rod position, ...). Instead of giving the cast different names it is easier to ask for a *bow* in the end of the fly line, in the middle, or just in front of the caster.

Teaching skills:

The testee have to demonstrate how to teach the following casts, insuring that the proper form is performed and explained (forhanded and backhanded on demand). All instructions have to be clear and concise.

- basic overhead cast
- roll cast
- Switch Cast or Underhand Cast or Forward Spey Cast
(Explain the difference between two of the techniques!)
- single haul
- double haul
- present the fly (lay down)
- reach cast
- extend and shorten line and fly (while both line and fly are in the air) from 15 m to 8 m and back to 15 m

In all phases of this test it must be demonstrated to the examiners that a high level of abilities in flycasting, line handling and teaching skills are evident.

Theory Questions:

Attention: Slightly different question about the same topics can be placed at any time. Answers to decisive questions have to be explained !

Fly Casting and Teaching Comprehension

1. Explain the main principles of fly casting.
2. Why is it necessary to make a positive stop in the back cast to create a well formed loop in the front?
3. How do you cure loop problems?
4. How and when exactly are loops formed?
5. Why is it not wise to let a beginner perform false casting over and over again?
6. How do you correct a student if he makes several casting mistakes at the same time?
7. Which parts of the body are most commonly used in the style you teach? Explain!
8. What happens to the forward cast if there is no straight line in the back cast?
9. Explain how to perform a single haul and when to use it?
10. What happens if the line speed of the back cast is low?
11. What kind of influence has the path of the rod tip on the forming the loop?
12. Why have most of the beginners problems with the roll cast?
13. Which aspects are important for casting long distances?
14. Is there a relationship between the line length carried in the air and the rhythm and speed of the casting motion?
15. Identify some situations where it is not desired to cast a straight leader?
16. What will happen to the rod and line if you put too much power into your cast?
17. What possibilities do you have when the wind is blowing directly on your rod hand?
18. How can you use the wind to your advantage?
19. How do you notice whether your line is straightened in the back cast or not?
20. Is it necessary to watch the back cast?
21. How do you become a good caster?
22. What will you notice in the movement of the rod, line and body during a well executed cast?
23. The leader of your student never straightens. What could be the reason?
24. Explain the terms back cast and backhand cast?
25. What happens if the caster rotates too much during false casting?
26. Name situations where the use of a double haul is essential?
27. What line colours are useful for yourself and students during lessons and demonstrations?
28. How are so called "wind knots" caused?
29. Is there a difference between casting a sinking line and a floating line?
30. How do you cast a heavy nymph or a streamer?
31. How do you cast a shooting head?
32. How would you instruct a student to achieve a narrower line loop?
33. At what point should you start the forward cast? Explain why!
34. What are the two most common casting mistakes made by a beginner? Describe how you eliminate them!

Organisational Belongings and Safety

1. How do you organize and teach a larger group?
2. How can you cope with different levels in a group?
3. Describe the stages of a casting lesson?
4. What makes a good / bad instructor?
5. What is the difference between a demonstration and an instruction?
6. A good instruction meets certain requirements. Name a few!

7. You are asked to do a workshop or demonstration. What kind of information will you ask in advance?
8. How can you use the help of other instructors when teaching a large group?
9. What is the difference in your approach when teaching a "one time only group" compared to a group that you teach regularly?
10. Name some safety rules you have to follow as an instructor?
11. What changes if you teach a group at the banks of a river compared to teaching them on a lawn?
12. What does responsibility for the client(s) mean to you?

Tackle and Fishing

1. When fishing at 12 m distance, which line roll casts best?
 2. When fishing at 18 m distance, which line roll casts best?
 3. Which line is the heaviest at 9 m? WF-6-F / DT-6-F / ST-6-F / WF-6-S Type V
 4. Are sink-tip lines or sinking lines suitable for teaching beginners?
 5. What are the advantages of a WF line?
 6. What is the advantage of putting the correct type and amount of backing on your reel?
 7. Which are the most common fly fishing knots?
 8. Which is the most common backing material?
 9. For which sort of fishing is a sinking line a good choice?
 10. What can you tell me about rod actions and material?
 11. What is the best fly line for you to use generally?
 12. What is your preferred knot for connecting a leader to the fly line? Explain why!
 13. What does balancing the tackle mean?
 14. Is a very short leader of 2-5 ft. easier to cast than a 7 1/2 ft. leader?
 15. Are there situations when short leaders are a good choice?
 16. What leader length would you recommend to a beginner and why?
 17. Explain different types of fly lines and their use! Drawing!
 18. Which rod length is suitable for practising with a beginner?
 19. On what type of fly lines will we find the term "inch per second"?
 20. What is a density compensated fly line?
21. What equipment advice will you give to a student who wants to fish e.g.
- a small trout stream?
 - a medium sized trout river?
 - for bream and roach in still water?
 - for pike?
 - for sea trout at the coast?
- ...
22. Why are shooting heads used and when would you suggest to use them?