



United by true passion



The EFFFA Master Flycasting Instructor Test (Single Hand)

Equipment and general information

The EFFFA Master Flycasting Instructor is qualified as an excellent instructor who has reached the highest level in flycasting and instructing.

He is able to cast all the demands of the Master Test and can give information about all the different questions concerning fly fishing.

A Master candidate needs the recommendation of an EFFFA Master Flycasting Instructor to be allowed to attend an EFFFA Master exam. The EFFFA Master (mentor) guarantees that the candidate is well prepared and has taught at least 70-100 clients after having passed the EFFFA Basic Flycasting Instructor exam. After teaching three years as a Basic instructor he is allowed to attend a Master exam.

All candidates have to be properly dressed when attending the exam.

Properly dressed means:

- clean clothes, no holes
- long trousers, except at very high temperatures.
- proper shirt or fishing jacket
- eye protection device (sunglasses or equivalent)
- proper foot-wear (trekking or Wellington boots if necessary for an outdoor exam)

Rod: single hand fly rod bought in a tackle shop (custom made rods with no original line weight labels are not allowed)
max. #6 weight, length: 7 to 9 feet
Except in case of damage no change of the rod during the exam is allowed!

Line: Well visible(!) floating line not to exceed line weight # 6, length min. 25 m,
It is not allowed to put distance marks on the fly line!
Except in case of damage no change of the fly line during the exam is allowed!

Leader: 7 to 9 feet, tippet length min. 50 cm, tippet diameter max 0.25 mm

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

Costs: Eur 300,-

Each participant has to care of suitable equipment!

Please notice:

The target diameter (ring) for presentation casts is 1(one) meter.

Backhand (off shoulder) 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.

If nothing else is demanded always two false casts have to be made prior to presenting the fly.

A false cast always consists of a back cast and a forward cast.

The fly must always land in front of the leader (min. distance 1 m for bad conditions) and the whole leader must land in front of the fly line (exception: trick casts).

Neither 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.

The candidate has the right to make a test cast for each requirement of the fly casting test (except the targets). The test cast has to be announced by the candidate prior to the attempt and does not count for the exam.

Target casting: In case of delivering a too long cast it is not allowed to pull back the fly to the correct distance before starting to lift it for the next attempt. The test cast is only allowed for the 6 m target.

Procedure: Hold 24 meters of fly line including leader in the air (see drawing):

The rod tip is placed at the base line. Then 22.5 m of line (incl. leader) are pulled out of the rod tip. The candidate makes a knot in the fly line next to his reel. After that he can choose the direction in which he wants to cast. He starts making false casts continuously releasing line until he reaches the knot. Having reached the correct length he should then show several false casts with nice loops (no tailing loops, no touching of the ground). The examiners will check the overall performance.

1. Fly Casting Demands:

(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

- 30 m cast with double hauling
- 22 m cast without use of line hand
- 25 m cast - backhand
- Deliver a backcast 25 m
- 18 m roll cast - forehand
- 15 m roll cast - backhand
- Switch cast 22 m - forehand
- Switch cast 18 m - backhand
- Carry 24 m of line (leader included, measured from the base line to the fly) in the air with a proper loop, with double hauling.
- Pick up 18 m of line (leader included) off the water, smoothly with a minimum of water disturbance and drop back straight on the water.
- Cast all planes and angles with 18 m of line (leader included) - horizontally and vertically
- Presentation casts (12 m). Accurately throw straight, angled (45°) and curved line on command, long (15 m) and short (10 m) line.
- Explain and show at least four different ways how to change the direction of a water born cast (target distance 15 -18 m, minimum angle 45° at least one cast to 90°+)
- False cast and place the fly on target at 6, 12 and 18 meters with great accuracy.
- Pick line up (14 m, leader included), no false cast. Change direction of cast 45° and cast forward min. 18 m. (right handers pick up from left and present to the right and left hander vice versa)
- False cast at least 18 m (leader included). While false casting, strip in line and place fly to a target 6 m away.
- Hold fly in hand (12 m of line stripped out), drop fly and make one back cast and shoot line forward 18 m.
- Starting with 10 m of fly line plus leader, using double haul, cast 25 m (straight) by making no more than 2 back and 2 forward casts.
- Demonstrate well controlled curve casts at 9, 12 and 15 meters.
- 12 m cast with bow next to leader.
- 12 m cast with bow in the middle of line.
- 12 m cast with bow in end of line nearest to the rod tip
- Cast 15 m of line (leader included) with your bad hand (tight loop, double haul)

- Switch Cast or Underhand Cast or Classic Forward Spey Cast. Explain the difference between the three!

- Teach either Switch Cast, Underhand Cast or Classic Forward Spey.

- Demonstrate a variety of casting techniques to provide a drag-free drift and a drag drift of your dry fly over a long distance (in different currents)

2. Error Analysis:

The Master candidate has to analyse casting mistakes (showed by an examiner or on film) and he has to be able to correct them properly by using either verbal, visual, tactile or technical aids or a combination of these. He should be also able to use drawings as a teaching support.

A 100% correct error analysis is required and the candidate should be able to correct the mistakes!

3. Techniques and Styles:

- Explain the principles and core elements of the Underhand Technique!

- Explain the principles and core elements of the Classic Spey Casting Technique!

- Explain the principles and core elements of the TLT style!

- Explain the principles and core elements of the Gebetsroither Style!

- Explain the principles and core elements of Old English Casting!

- Explain the principles and core elements of American Casting!

- Explain the principles and core elements of Skagit Casting!

The answers of the candidate should not only refer to the technique but also to the tackle used.

In all phases of this test it must be demonstrated to the examiners that the highest level of proficiency in fly casting, line handling and teaching skills are evident.

4. Theory Questions

Mechanics of Fly Casting:

1. What is the difference between a fly casting style and a fly casting technique?
2. Explain the most important factor for casting accuracy!
3. How do you combine casts for getting a longer drag-free float?
4. Describe the mechanics of a distance cast the way you do it!
5. Why is the roll-cast very important for double hand beginners? Explain the reason!
6. In which case do you use a *late release*?
7. Give fundamentals for double hand and single hand? (at least 6-7)
8. What is the difference when performing an underhand cast in comparison to a Classic Spey Cast in regard of the loading of the rod?

9. How do you perform a “D” loop and a “V” loop in a waterborn cast? Explain the difference and efficiency!
10. When should you make manoeuvres of the rod tip in order to make various slack line casts?
11. How does the way of holding the handle change when casting long distances in Underhand Casting? What is the reason?
12. Describe a classical Spey Cast and the principle behind it!
13. Are the basic fundamentals of the casting stroke in the casting of two-handed rods similar to single hand rods?
14. Should you drift the rod forward to keep the line tight when the backcast is unrolling?
15. When should you release the line when trying to shoot line forward?
16. Does a rod's action contribute to the tailing loop problem?
17. How do you perform a Skagit Cast?
18. Describe the mechanics of shooting line when distance casting!
19. Why have a lot of beginners a horizontally opened loop when casting backhanded?
20. Based on your experience, what is your favourite casting aid to make the client cast a tighter loop?
21. Which instructions can you give a beginner for casting a two-handed rod?
22. Explain how to hold the handle of a single hand as well as a double hand rod in different techniques and styles (Underhand, Spey, TLT, Gebetsroither, Old English)
23. Explain the most important casts with a two handed rod!
24. How does the shape of the loop change, when the lower leg of your line is travelling about the same speed as the upper one?
25. Do stops at 11 o'clock and 1 o'clock *always* result in the same size of loop or not? If yes, why? If no, what could be the reason?

Fly Fishing Techniques and Fly Fishing Knowledge

1. Describe all of the different methods of fishing sub-surface flies: types of weight, lines, indicators, etc.
2. When and how do you perform a mending of the line?
3. Dry fly movement - especially skittering - how do you efficiently combine the two wrists to strip and bounce the rod?
4. What logical steps would you go through to find out what the fish are feeding on, how to match it and how to fish it?
5. What is the difference between free-stone streams and spring creek-type water and how do you attack each?
6. Describe how you hook, land and release freshwater fish! Give an example!
7. Describe how you hook, land and release saltwater fish! Give an example!
8. How do you fish a sedge imitation (dry fly)?
9. How do you fish a stonefly imitation (dry fly)?
10. How do you fish a mayfly imitation (dry fly)?
11. What do bulges on the surface mean to you, and what sort of imitations do you need in this case?
12. What does the tailing of trout tell you?
13. What does dead-drift fishing mean?
14. In which part of rivers and streams can you find nymphs of the clinger type of mayflies?
15. Which terrestrials are of importance for a fly fisher. Describe how to fish them!
16. Why do you bend to big jumping fish - like tarpon for instance?
17. In which waters can you find mayflies of the digger type?
18. How do you sharpen a hook?
19. What do you do when you only get short strikes on dries and wets?
20. How would you rig a multi-fly system, wets and dries?
21. Explain the strategy to fish a mangrove-lined shoreline vs. open flats?
22. Describe the use of etiquette when wading a stream, in a drift boat and float tubing on a lake!
23. How does an upstream mending influence the drift of a fly?
24. Which situation requires a downstream mending?
25. How can you save the day when you have forgotten or lost the floatant or mud?
26. How do you fish a nymph or a dry fly in a lake?
27. When and where are pikes easiest to catch?
28. What is an attractor pattern?

29. Which areas and lies do fish prefer in a lake!
30. Which areas and lies do fish prefer in moving water?
31. What is an evening rise and what is it dependent on?
32. What time in the year can you expect large mayflies to be present at a stream?
33. How do you hold a fish when you remove the hook to be sure he will keep still?
34. How do you cast and fish a fly in a lake or reservoir?
35. When do you use the Single Spey and when do you use the Double Spey cast?
36. What can you say about how to strike a salmon?
37. How does the water temperature influence the choice of the fly when fishing for Atlantic salmon?
38. What does "top water" mean in salt water fishing?
39. Describe some different fish rises!
40. Describe stages and life cycle of a may fly / stone fly / caddies.

Fishing Tackle

1. Which type of fly line would you choose for instructing the double haul?
2. What does the modulus of graphite in a rod refer to?
3. How do you cast a sink-tip line?
4. Which type of fly line is the best choice for teaching a beginner to cast a two-handed rod?
5. Which is the correct line to perform a classical Spey cast?
6. What is not a good shooting line to be used with a shooting taper?
7. Which tackle do you suggest for belly boat fishing?
8. Name some safety rules for belly boat fishing!
9. What are the advantages (if there are any) and the fishing situations for poly leaders?
10. Explain the difference between monofilament and fluorocarbon.
11. Why are most of the lines "tapered"?
12. What is a "density compensated line"?
13. What is the difference between a shooting line and a running line?
14. Which is the major advantage of a two-handed rod?
15. Give at least three examples of different running lines and describe the materials.
16. Explain the most important difference between freshwater and saltwater fly lines?
17. Explain the differences between knotted and tapered leaders! What are the advantages of each?
18. What is the difference in leader length when using a classical Spey Cast in comparison to an Underhand Cast with a two hand rod?
19. Are the first 12 m of a WF line and a sink-tip line of the same weight?
20. For which sort of fishing is a DT the best choice?
21. What tackle would you suggest for fishing a reservoir and why?
22. What is the most important part of your tackle when targeting big game species?
23. What is the difference between a flats rod and a bluewater rod in saltwater fly fishing?

Miscellaneous

1. Name some safety rules for fly fishers!
2. Name safety rules for boat fishing in the sea and in the lake!
3. What have you learned when teaching that you could forward to other instructors to improve their teaching?