

*United by true passion*



## Requirements - EFFA Guide Exam 2025

### Requirements

- The candidate must have the necessary knowledge and experience to conduct guiding in a safe setting and at a high level of fly fishing.
- The handling of fish and nature, the quality of service to the client has to be done in an ecological and responsible way.
- It is assumed that a candidate has experience and or knowledge and the necessary personal and physical conditions to achieve and fulfil the requirements of the activity and the objectives of the workshop.

### Concept

Any prospective guide can apply for certification with the Fly Fishing Department. We have the possibility to carry out certifications in the following countries:  
Switzerland / Germany / Italy / Netherlands.

Certification as an EFFA Flyfishing Guide requires the completion of the full EFFA workshop in presence as well as the positive completion of all parts of the examination (A. to F.) as part of the preliminary examination and the workshop.

The certification consists of two parts:

Examination element I, the preliminary examination:

The preliminary examination (lasting one day) can be organized close to the time of registration and is carried out by qualified instructors/guides and tyers appointed by the Fly Fishing department.

Specific examination content, such as casting, can be delegated to the relevant EFFA departments.

Content of the preliminary review:

- A. Examination part fly tying: EFFA Department of Fly Fishing - Tying Program
- B. Examination part fly casting: EFFA Department of Fly Casting - Casting Program  
(EFFA certified flycasting instructors do not have to take this part of the examination)

The following examination elements must be completed in advance.

- C. Basic medical competence part of the examination: Candidates must candidates must provide evidence of participation in a first aid course and a BLS-AED course with a recognized medical organizer. These certificates must not be older than two years.

Candidates who pass all parts of the preliminary examination receive a final certificate and are thus authorized to take part in the second examination element, the Guide Workshop.

Examination element II the "Guide Workshop":

- The EFFA Guide Workshop is conducted by "EFFA certified" fly fishing guides.
- The orientation, implementation and content structure of the workshop is carried out by the EFFA Fly Fishing Department.
- The final certification as an "EFFA Flyfishing Guide" takes place exclusively at an authorized EFFA workshop by the Flyfishing Department.
- The contents of the examination parts A.-C. are no longer tested or trained at the workshop.
  
- The contents of examination element II (examination parts D. and E.) are taught and tested at the EFFA Guide Workshop. Examination element F. Water rescue is only taught tested at the EFFA Guide Workshop. Examination element F. Water rescue is only taught in the workshop in relation to open water rescue. Candidates must train and acquire skills for the water rescue content in the swimming pool in advance. Water rescue in the swimming pool is only tested in practice at the Guide Workshop.

- All examination elements must be passed for certification. Failed parts of examination element II can be repeated at another EFFA Guide course.

### Examination Element II Guiding Workshop: EFFA Department of Fly Fishing

- A. Examination part: Guide skills
- B. Examination part: Outdoor skills
- C. Examination part: Water rescue

### Completion and certification

- The candidate must pass the examination parts A.- F. and complete the entire workshop in presence!
- The course requires existing experience and personal skills in the content listed.
- During the guide workshop, the candidate will acquire the knowledge required for guiding and deepen their experience and knowledge.
- Finally, the instructors present will decide whether the course has been passed.
- Participants receive a certificate of successful certification as an EFFA guide.

### Costs / Duration

- Block: Preliminary test SFR 200 and lasts one day.  
Possible several times a year on request to the Fly Fishing Department.
- Complete course SFR 500.-, including EFFA examination fee, course duration two days.  
Takes place at least once a year.

### **requirements:**

#### **Water rescue -Test A (Swimming pool)**

- (1) Swim 200 metres at a stretch
- (2) Swim 50 m in waders and wading shoes & 1 dive attempt (for practice purposes only).
- (3) Swim 25 m (briskly) - dive 4 m (without goggles and nose clip) - retrieve "dummy" (person) from bottom
- (4) Bring the person to the surface and tow him/her to the edge of the pool (25 metres - the person to be rescued is lying on the back with the arms crossed over the stomach area). The candidate must not touch the bottom or the edge of the pool.
- (5) Rescue the person from the water in a safe manner.
- (6) Place the person on the edge of the pool in a stable lateral position after personal control (first aid - check consciousness, check breathing, call for help).

**Medical-Test** (in direct succession to the water rescue test A)

- (7) Determine if there is a heart or brain infarct.
- (8) Perform correct cardiac massage on a manikin. Demonstrate defibrillator, apply pressure dressing.
- Steps 3 to 6 must be performed in a continuous sequence, including oral components of the medical test.

**Water rescue – Test B (Open water)**

- Demonstrate the principle "reach, throw, row and go".  
Will be trained and examined on flowing water (with and without throwing bag).

**Fly tying test / knowledge of flies and entomology**

- The candidate brings 12 different self-tied fly patterns. These are presented, showing and demonstrating his knowledge of the flies.
- The candidate explains the purpose and history of the different patterns. What they imitate, when and where and under what conditions they are used.
- The candidate must tie several of his or her own flies to prove that he or she has mastered the patterns.

**Fly casting test****Equipment and procedure****Rod:**

- Single-handed rod (commercially available), 7 to 9 feet, not higher than Class 6.  
(No change of rod during the test except in case of damage).

**Line:**

- Line class not higher than AFTMA 6, length at least 25 m.  
(No changing of line during the test except in case of damage).

**Leader:**

- 7 to 9 feet, tippet length at least 50 cm.
- Maximum tippet diameter 0.25 mm.

**Fly:**

- Clearly visible, floating fly yarn (length min. 1 cm).
- The participant is responsible for providing the appropriate tackle.

**Procedure fly casting test**

- The candidate is required to appear at the examination in appropriate attire.
- Before each attempt, the candidate may make a test throw. This is voluntary and must be announced by the candidate in advance. The result of a test cast does not count as an attempt.
- Backhand cast: The rod hand must be beyond the centre line of the body!
- No twisting of the reel by 180°!

- Unless otherwise requested, two false casts must be made before the fly is put down (except for casts with water contact).
- A false cast consists of a back cast and a front cast.
- The fly must always land in front of the leader and the leader in front of the fly line (exception: trick casts).
- Any touching of the water or ground during the false cast is not permitted and counts as a failed attempt.
- If tailing loops are seen during the cast (exception: demonstration casting mistake), the attempt is considered a failed attempt.

### Minimum casting requirements

- **The minimum throwing requirements (must all be achieved; 3 attempts are possible per requirement).**
- **Women: stated casting distance minus 10%.**

### Casting elements:

- 23 metres in normal cast (double pull), clean cast.
- Backhand 18 metres, clean cast.
- Bow cast single, both sides in the middle, clean throw (see One Hand Instructor Download, The Bow-Cast, Option 1, [bow casts \(effa.info\)](http://effa.info))
- Switch cast, 15 metres, clean cast (in water).
- Backhand switch cast, 13 metres, clean cast (in water).
- Roll cast, 12 metres, clean cast (in water).
- Backhand, 10 Meter, clean cast (in water)
- Explain double pull - how and why.
- Present and explain the following throws; -Reach cast, parachute cast or snake cast explain how, where and why these throws are used.
- Tailing loop (pear) and open loop - demonstrate the mistake and correct the mistake.

### Theoretical requirements

#### Equipment and materials

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Rods, reels:             | Types, actions, materials, AFTM(A) classes. Use Which rod and which reel for which fishery. |
| Lines, backing, leaders: | types and shapes. Mounts, lengths and knots.  |

Note: Slightly different questions on the same topic may be asked at any time to check a candidate's level of knowledge. Answers to decision questions must be able to be justified

#### Questions:

- Name 2 different types of line and their uses (advantages and disadvantages).
- Which line works well on a small mountain stream?

- Which line and leader do you recommend for dry fly fishing on a stillwater?
- Can a fly line be shortened at the front (advantages-disadvantages)?
- Which action of the rod is good for roll casting (approx. 15m)?
- Advantages and disadvantages of a carbon fibre rod compared to a glass fibre rod?
- Do you recommend a parabolic rod or a rod with tip action to a customer (beginner)?
- What are the advantages of a large arbor fly reel?
- What are the advantages of a fluorocarbon leader?
- When do you recommend fluorocarbon?
- Name and explain 2 different leader assemblies for nymph fishing (Springer-Strecker System).
- Is a tapered leader suitable for pike fishing?
- Name 3 different knots to extend a leader.
- Is backing always necessary?
- Is it useful to clean the fly line?