



Fly Dressing

Qualified Status

Syllabus

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APGAI Ireland Qualified Fly Dressing Casting Syllabus

Welcome to the APGAI Ireland Qualified Status Fly Dressing Syllabus. This syllabus is designed to assist candidates who are preparing for Assessment and is based upon the experience of those who have successfully prepared for and been through the process. First and foremost, APGAI Ireland is a teaching organisation. That is what we do, to the very highest standards. You may be a good fly tyer, but are you a good teacher? Our Assessment emphasis will be on this aspect of your abilities. You must possess an extensive breadth and depth of knowledge across the whole spectrum of Fly Dressing. The most important benefit of preparing for the Assessment is the expanded knowledge and increased proficiency you will gain. It is important to note that the Association does not advocate any particular style of fly dressing as being superior. Our primary concern is that you are a good tyer, an excellent teacher and that you have an outstanding knowledge of fly dressing techniques, entomology, common tying faults and their corrections. You will find the process rigorous and demanding and we make no apology for that. This is so in order to uphold the integrity of the testing and qualification process and to meet our high standards.

Routes to Membership:

1. This APGAI Ireland award covers the skill set of a Fly Dressing Instructor and qualifies the candidate as a Qualified Game Angling Instructor within APGAI Ireland. Once a full member, they will be encouraged to proceed to our highest award of Advanced Game Angling Instructor, which has a separate Syllabus and Assessment. Many of the following modules, when successfully passed, are also valid for the Advanced Award and therefore will not be required to be taken again.

The course comprises a number of units that range from specific technical instruction and accreditation on specialist disciplines within Fly Dressing to general units on First Aid, Child & Vulnerable Adult Policies, Risk Assessment, Health & Safety, Customer Care, Teaching Techniques and Entomology. Successful students will be eligible to become a qualified member of APGAI Ireland and to avail of our unique insurance schemes, Instructor Discount programme, mentoring facilities and an enhanced Access NI or Garda Child Protection/Vulnerable Adult Clearance Certificate. The Award equips successful students with the teaching, technical, safety and legal requirements to coach all age groups and offers credible employment opportunities.

2. The average time to be spent on the above course is 4/5 contact days (at a Beginners' and an Interim Workshop) followed by at least 300-plus hours of home study, project work, tutorials with senior instructors and home practice and finally a one-day Assessment Day involving both practical and written assessments. Course costs will be subject to the qualification required, numbers enrolled and venues selected but as a guide price the Instructor courses will cost circa £450 - €650.

Assessment and Guidance Notes on Individual Units for Fly Dressing

1. Entomology

The candidate will be expected to know and understand the life cycles of the six main insect groups that are of the most importance to both the trout and angler. They will also be expected to know what insects will be present on river and lough at various periods throughout the season and the relevant imitations required for 'match the hatch'. Also required will be the candidate's ability to score water/habitat quality via the use of the invertebrate scoring card system.

The examining system will be as follows:

1. Deliver a presentation of relevant content:
 - You will be given a sample survey report of a water test from a river. You will be given 10 minutes to score the invertebrate scoring card and then make a 5-minute verbal presentation on your findings. You will be expected to comment on the results and draw a conclusion on the quality of the invertebrate life in respect to the quality of this piece of water.
2. Identify specimens of listed invertebrates and their importance:
 - You will be shown some images of invertebrates
 - On your answer sheet, you must state the invertebrate species by common name, Latin order and imitative pattern used to represent each against the number shown with the image.

2. Tools for Fly Dressing

The candidate will understand the tools commonly used in fly dressing. The candidate will explain and describe those tools and their use in fly dressing. The candidate will explain and demonstrate the use of specific tools for given techniques e.g. dubbing twister, whip finish tool.

The examining system will be as follows:

1. Practical demonstration:
 - You will be with two Assessors and an APGAI observer.
 - You will demonstrate the use of key tools and describe your actions to the Assessment Team
 - The Assessors may ask you some questions to clarify any points they feel necessary.

3. Materials for Fly Dressing

- The candidate will understand the materials commonly used in fly-dressing and be able to identify them
- The candidate will understand how materials can be mixed, dyed, cut and stored
- The candidate will explain and describe the materials required to tie listed flies
- The candidate will explain the use of dyes to obtain the required colour, how to marry feathers and best practice to store materials.

The examining system will be as follows:

1. Practical demonstration/oral explanation
 - You will be with two Assessors and an APGAI observer.
 - You will be given a list of six flies and you should be able to list the materials required to tie them.

- As part of the written examination, you will be shown a selection of twenty materials and asked to identify them
- The Assessors will ask you questions on the use of dyes, the mixing of feathers or other materials and the storage of these materials.

4. Core Techniques for Fly Dressing

The candidate will understand the core techniques in fly dressing:

- The candidate will understand the use of deer hair/elk in fly dressing.
- The candidate will understand the technique of marrying a built wing.
- The candidate will understand the use of dubbing and tinsel in forming a body.
- The candidate will understand the technique of forming a wing post and parachute hackle

The examining system will be as follows:

Practical demonstration/oral explanation:

You will be with two Assessors and an APGAII observer.

- You will be required to tie a deer hair wing.
- You will be required to marry feather slips.
- You will be required to build a dubbed body and/or a tinsel body.
- You will be required to form a wing post and parachute hackle.
- The assessors may ask you some questions to clarify any points they feel necessary

5. Species Life Cycle & Habitat

The candidate will understand the life cycle of brown trout, sea trout, rainbow trout and salmon where they are relevant to the curriculum being studied. They should be able to 'read the water', identify where best to fish for each species in their preferred habitat and discuss the habitat that each species require.

The examining system will be as follows:

1. You will be required to deliver a presentation of relevant content:
 - This will be a 10-minute presentation on PowerPoint, which you will prepare at home prior to the assessment day.
 - You should bring this with you on a memory stick or CD plus a spare copy, as we are required to retain this for the Awarding Body.
 - You will be videoed during your presentation as evidence for the Awarding Body and this will also count towards your presentation skills assessment. There is no requirement, therefore, to present written notes or script.
 - The presentation may include photos to illustrate your point(s).
 - This presentation should be on your preferred river/lough and species but note this excludes rainbow trout.
 - The presentation must cover the full life cycle of the chosen species and their preferred habitat at different stages of their life; emphasis will be given to the adult habitat and where and why the fishing is best.

6. Etiquette and Angling Law

The candidate will know and understand the law and its relationship to game angling within the island of Ireland or the jurisdiction in which the award is taken. They will also have a sound knowledge of angling etiquette on rivers and loughs.

The examining system will be as follows:

- Written examination – see Section 10 below

7. Methods of Instruction – Teaching Skills for Game Angling Instructors

The candidate will know how to structure a lesson plan for a given fly dressing topic or event and will be expected to have a portion of this tested in a role-play situation.

The examining system will be as follows:

1. Submit a lesson plan for a six-session fly-dressing course for a local angling club.
 - This should be sent to the Lead Assessor one week before the Assessment day
 - This will be marked and annotated by the Assessor and returned to you on the Assessment day. Plans that do not meet the criteria should be re-submitted within two weeks, taking account of the written feedback
2. Role-play: demonstrate one small section of this lesson plan to the Assessment Team, who will act as your pupils. This should be on a topic of your choice and should last no more than 10 minutes.

8. Health and Safety

The candidate will know and understand basic Health & Safety requirements, how to identify known hazards and how to carry out a specific Risk Assessment. Basic knowledge on Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection and control measures should be applied.

The examining system will be as follows:

Written and Oral reports:

- You should submit a written risk assessment of a venue you intend to use or are familiar with. This should be sent to the Lead Assessor one week prior to the assessment day.
- You will also make an oral report to the Assessor Panel on this risk assessment and answer questions with regard to it.
- You will be given verbal feedback on your risk assessment. If it is unsatisfactory, all shortcomings should be addressed and the risk assessment re-submitted to the Lead Assessor within two weeks.

9. Customer Care

- The candidate will be asked to submit a short Customer Service Plan of 2-4 pages in length prior to Assessment
- The candidate will engage in a role play with a prospective client. Within this section of the Assessment they will cover the main criteria of Customer Care and will demonstrate to the Assessors that they understand the benefits of good customer service and the drawbacks of poor customer service

- Each candidate will be given a pro forma reply letter/email which they should personalise to their business and present at the Assessment day. This should cover a first response to a customer contact and cover the information given to the client and the information required from him or her to allow an itinerary to be drawn up which suit their needs, levels of experience and fitness. Within this should be alternative options should the weather or water conditions rule out the preferred plan.
- ***The examining system will be as follows:***
- Role Play
- Written documentation/oral explanation

10. Written Examination:

- This exam will cover all of the above aspects of the Fly Dressing Syllabus
- There will be 60 questions in total, split approximately 40:20 multiple choice/written answer. You will be allowed an hour and a half to complete the examination.

Additional Information for Fly Dressers:

Prior to the examination you must tie and submit a set of twelve sample flies of your choice, with two identical examples of each pattern covering the six categories listed below: -

- Dry fly (winged type)
- Wet fly (winged type)
- Nymph
- Salmon shrimp fly
- Hair winged fly
- Lure/streamer

You will be asked to tie several of the patterns below during the Assessment. You may be asked to tie some of your already submitted flies again during the Practical Assessment so that the Assessors may assess your consistency.

Wet Flies	Dry Flies
1. Peter Ross	1. Adams
2. Connemara Black	2. Wonder-Wing
3. Wickham's Fancy	3. Klinkhamer Special
4. Green Peter	4. Griffith's Gnat
5. Claret Dabbler	5. Spent Gnat Mayfly
6. French Partridge	6. Olive Quill
7. Bibio	7. CDC & Elk

Nymphs	Lures	Salmon
1. Black Buzzer Nymph	1. Muddler Minnow	1. Stroat's Tail
2. Pheasant Tail	2. Clouser Minnow	2. Black & Silver Shrimp
3. GRHE Gold-head	3. Viva	

Compulsory Pattern Descriptions:

WET FLIES

1. Peter Ross

Hook: Size 10
Thread: Black
Tail: Golden Pheasant Tippets
Body: Rear half, silver tinsel; front half, red seal's fur
Rib: Oval silver tinsel
Hackle: Black cock or hen
Wing: Barred Teal

2. Connemara Black

Hook: Size 10
Thread: Black
Tail: Golden Pheasant topping
Butt/Tag: Lemon floss silk
Body: Black seal's fur
Rib: Oval silver tinsel
Hackle: Black cock or hen with blue jay tied at the throat, beard style
Wing: Bronze mallard flank

3. Wickham's Fancy

Hook: Size 12
Thread: Brown
Tail: Fibres of ginger-red cock hackle
Rib: Fine oval gold tinsel
Body: Oval gold tinsel
Hackle: Ginger-red cock hackle, palmered
Wing: Matching slips of teal duck primary

4. Green Peter

Hook: Size 10
Thread: Brown or black
Rib: Fine oval gold tinsel
Body: Green olive seal's fur
Hackle: Red game palmered and clipped on top edge
Wing: Four matching slips of hen pheasant secondary, tied flat (boat-wing style)
Head hackle: Red Game, cock

5. Claret Dabbler

Hook: Kamasan B830 Size 10 or Partridge L2A Size 8

Thread: Brown

Rib: Fine oval gold tinsel

Tail: Ten or twelve cock pheasant centre tail

Body: Claret seal's fur

Hackle: Ginger cock palmered with a light claret cock hackle (three turns) at shoulder

Wing: Bronze mallard tied 360° to cloak the body and to reach the point of the tail

6. French Partridge

Hook: Size 10

Thread: Brown

Rib: Fine oval gold tinsel

Body: Natural raffia

Body Hackle: Medium-olive cock, palmered

Hackle: Medium-olive cock with a French Partridge hackle wound in front

7. Bibio

Hook: Size 10

Thread: Black

Rib: Fine oval silver tinsel

Body: Seal's fur in three parts - black, red, black

Hackle: Black cock, palmered, with longer black cock or hen in front

DRY FLIES

1. Adams

Hook: Size 14

Thread: Grey

Tail: Grizzle cock hackle fibres

Body: Blue/grey rabbit under-fur

Wings: Two grizzle cock hackles tied upright

Hackle: Grizzle and red game cock hackles wound together

2. Wonder Wing Stone Fly

Hook: Size 14

Thread: Black

Tail: Moose

Antennae: Stripped black cock hackle stalks

Body: Any coarse dubbing (black/dark brown)

Wing: Black cock hackle, tied Wonder Wing style

Head: Fine black dubbing

3. Klinkhamer Special

Hook: Size 14 Daiichi 1160, Daiichi 1167 or Partridge Klinkhamer Hook

Thread: Black

Body: Light tan poly-yarn

Wing: White poly-yarn

Thorax: Peacock herl

Hackle: Blue dun or Chestnut cock hackle

4. Griffith's Gnat

Hook: Size 14
Thread: Black
Body: Peacock herl
Hackle: Grizzle, palmered

5. Spent Gnat Mayfly (F. McPhillips)

Hook: L/S 10
Thread: White
Tail: Three cock pheasant centre tail fibres
Rib: Oval silver
Body: White floss or white polypropylene
Wings: 2 black cock hackles, tied spent
Hackle: 2 grizzle hackles starting behind wings and wound through individually

6. Olive Quill

Hook: Size 14
Tail: Medium olive cock fibres
Body: Stripped peacock quill
Wings: Starling slips, tied split and upright
Hackle: Medium olive cock

7. CDC & Elk

Hook: Tiemco 102Y or equivalent
Body/Hackle: CDC feather (type 1)
Wing/Head: Fine-tipped coastal deer hair

NYMPHS

1. Black Buzzer Nymph

Hook: Kamasan B100 Size 14
Thread: Black
Breathers (head and tail): White feather fibres
Rib: Fine oval silver tinsel
Body: Black tying thread
Thorax: Peacock herl
Wing Buds: Orange goose Biots

2. Pheasant Tail Nymph

Hook: Size 14
Thread: Brown
Tail: Natural cock pheasant centre tail fibres
Body: Natural cock pheasant centre tail fibres
Rib: Fine Copper wire
Thorax: Natural cock pheasant centre tail fibres
Thorax Cover: Natural cock pheasant centre tail fibres

3. Gold Ribbed Hares Ear with Gold Head Bead

Hook: Size 12
Silk: Brown
Tail: Hare's body fur guard hairs
Rib: Oval gold tinsel
Body: Hare's body fur
Wing Cases: Dyed black turkey or goose feather fibre
Thorax: Hare's body fur
Head: Gold-coated brass or tungsten bead

LURES

1. Muddler Minnow

Hook: Size 12 L/S
Thread: Brown^{[L][S]}_[SEP]
Tail: Mottled turkey^{[L][S]}_[SEP]
Body: Flat gold tinsel^{[L][S]}_[SEP]
Rib: Gold oval Tinsel^{[L][S]}_[SEP]
Under-wing: Grey squirrel^{[L][S]}_[SEP]
Wing: Mottled turkey^{[L][S]}_[SEP]
Collar: Deer hair^{[L][S]}_[SEP]
Head: Deer hair

2. Clouser Minnow

Hook: Saltwater Size 6
Thread: White
Eyes: Dumbbells
Tail: White bucktail
Body: Tying thread
Wing: Chartreuse bucktail
Head: UV Resin

3. Viva

Hook: L/S 12
Thread: Black
Tail: Fluorescent green floss
Rib: Oval Silver Tinsel
Body: Black chenille
Wing: Black marabou
Hackle: Black cock

SALMON

1. Stoat's Tail

Hook: Size 8 single salmon iron
Tag: Oval silver tinsel
Rib: Oval silver tinsel
Tail: Golden pheasant topping
Body: Black floss silk
Hackle: Black cock
Wing: Black squirrel tail

2. Black & Silver Shrimp

Hook: Size 8 single salmon iron

Thread: Black

Tag: Oval silver tinsel

Tail: Golden pheasant red breast feather, wound

Rear body: Flat silver tinsel

Rib: Oval silver

Middle hackle: Black

Front body: Flat silver tinsel

Rib: Oval silver

Wings: Roofed Jungle Cock

Front Hackle: Black

Throat: Blue Jay

Head: Black

Core Techniques

You should be familiar with the following Core Techniques. Some or all of them will be examined:

- Securing the thread
- Pinch and loop techniques
- Ribbing
- Dubbing, including dubbing loop and twister
- Floss bodies
- Tinsel bodies
- Hackling – collar, palmered, doubled, beard, dry-fly, parachute, dabbler, blue jay
- Winging - matched pair slips, folded/rolled, roofed, hair-wing, built-wing, hackle-tip wings, Wulff wings, synthetic, CDC, deer hair and split wings.
- Spinning deer hair
- Whip finish (including both tool and finger method)
- Heads (e.g. bead heads), varnishing

Reading List Follows:

READING LIST

The following list, which is not in any particular order, will help you broaden your perspective. It is not possible to emphasise any particular one. Availability alone may be a substantial limitation as some titles are only available second-hand, electronically or through Public Libraries. You should focus on those that appeal most to you and appear most helpful. Those in **bold** type are classified as **Instructional** and those in plain type as **Reference**. Instructional books marked with an asterisk are regarded as particularly helpful. You may bring some Reference books with you into the examination for pattern guidance.

TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER
<i>Instructional:</i>		
Tying Flies in the Irish Style *	E.J. Malone	Smith Settle
Flytying for Beginners*	Peter Gathercole	Aurum Press Ltd.
Beginners Guide to Flytying*	Mann & Griffiths	Merlin Unwin Books
Flytying Techniques *	Jacqueline Wakeford	Black
An Introduction to Flytying	Pat O'Reilly & Derek Hoskin	Crowood
The Fly-tying Bible	Peter Gathercole	Aurum Press Ltd.
Fly Tying Methods	Darrel Martin	David & Charles
Tying Dry Flies	Randall Kaufmann	Western Fisherman's Press
Fly Dressing I	Dave Collier	David & Charles
Fly Dressing II	Dave Collier	David & Charles
Further Guide to Fly Dressing	John Veniard	A & C Black
How to Dress Salmon Flies	T.E. Pryce-Tennatt	Black
Salmon Flies	Poul Jorgensen	Stockpole Books
The Art of the Atlantic Salmon Fly	J.D. Bates	Swan Hill
Tying Flies with CDC	Leon Links	Merlin Unwin Books
Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple	Skip Morris	Frank Amato Publications
The Art of tying the Dry Fly	Skip Morris	Frank Amato Publications
The Art of tying the Nymph	Skip Morris	Frank Amato Publications
<i>Reference:</i>		
A Man May Fish	T.C. Kingsmill-Moore	Colin Smythe
Waterside Guide	John Goddard	Merlin Unwin Books
The Flytiers Companion	Mick Dawes	Swan Hill
Tube Flies	Mark Mandell and Les Johnson	Frank Amato Publications
Shrimp and Spey Flies	Mann and Gillespie	Merlin Unwin Books
A Dictionary of Trout Flies	John Roberts	Collins
Hairwing and tube flies for Salmon	Chris Mann	Merlin Unwin Books
Saltwater Flies	Deke Meyer	Frank Amato Publications
Flies of Ireland	Peter O'Reilly	Merlin Unwin Books
Irish Trout & Salmon Flies	E.J. Malone	Colin Smythe
Irish Mayflies: A Fly Fishers Guide	Patsy Deery	Ken Smith Publishing
An Anglers Entomology	J.R. Harris	Collins
The World's Best Trout Flies	John Roberts	Tiger
Matching The Hatch	Pat O'Reilly	Quiller Publishing Ltd
Waterside Guide	John Goddard	Coch-Y-Bonddu Books