

Association of Professional Game Angling Instructors Ireland (APGAI Ireland)



Single Handed Casting Qualified Status Syllabus

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APGAI Ireland Qualified Single Handed Casting Syllabus

Welcome to the APGAI Ireland Qualified Status Single Handed Casting 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 caster, 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 Single Handed Casting. 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 casting as being superior. Our primary concern is that you are a good caster, an excellent teacher and that you have an outstanding knowledge of casting techniques, common 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 Single Handed Casting 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 Single Handed Casting 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 Qualified Single Handed Casting

The **Practical Assessment** will be as follows:

Rod: Maximum length 9ft

Line: Maximum weight 7#

Leader: Minimum length 7ft.6 ins, (maximum length 9ft) - with bright wool tag attached

- Candidates may use only one rod and line for the assessment; however, we advise the candidate to have a spare rod/line in reserve
- Use a high visibility floating line. It is easier for the Assessors to see and avoids the candidate being asked to repeat the cast.
- Candidates will be given 3 attempts to perform a task and reach the target unless stated otherwise.
- Candidates must be able to explain the correct power application and demonstrate the mechanics of each of the casts below and their uses; explanations must make reference to stance and grip.
- Candidates must be able to explain and demonstrate the common faults associated with each cast and be able to explain and demonstrate the correction of these faults.
- Candidates should perform all casts with ease, with tight loops (2ft. 6ins. to 3 ft.) on both forward and back casts unless instructed to open the loop size.

During the practical assessment, the following will apply:

- Safe practice when teaching and guiding must be fully understood and explained.
- Head and eye protection are essential (e.g. cap and glasses) and must be worn during the Assessment
- Candidates must be appropriately attired (see workshop manual)
- Measured distances will be from the caster's foot to the wool i.e. including the leader
- Casts specified TO a distance means you must shoot line TO that distance
- Casts specified OF a distance means no hauling or shooting line is permitted unless requested.
- (Candidates are reminded that the above underlined print applies in all the tasks below)

OVERHEAD CAST

Task 1: Explain and demonstrate a minimum of 6 Overhead casts over preferred shoulder using one hand, with narrow loops in both forward and back casts, casting distance OF 45ft.

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Task 2: Explain and demonstrate a minimum of 6 Overhead casts over opposite shoulder using one hand, with narrow loops in both forward and back casts, casting distance OF 45ft.

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Task 3: Explain and demonstrate a cast OF 45 feet shooting line TO 55 ft. using one hand

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Task 4: Explain and demonstrate casting into a head wind. Casting distance OF 45 ft. using one hand.

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Task 5: Explain and demonstrate casting with a tail wind. Casting distance OF 45 ft. using one hand.

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Task 6: Explain and demonstrate casting with a crosswind, with reference to wind from either left or right side. Casting distance OF 45 ft. using one hand

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Task 7: False cast continuously and cast tight or open loops on command. Casting distance OF 45ft. using one hand.

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

ACCURACY

Task 8: False cast 5/6 times in the vertical plane and deliver wool tag in a controlled manner to within 15 inches of targets placed at 30 feet and 40 feet from caster's feet. Only three attempts are allowed.

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

SIDE CAST

Task 9: Side cast OF 45 feet of line at 90 degrees below the vertical with three false casts over preferred shoulder using controlled tight loops and shoot line to 50 feet using one hand.

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Task 10: Demonstrate tailing loops on the forward cast on command

- Give three causes of tailing loops
- Be able to demonstrate the various causes of tailing loops

MENDS

Task 11: Demonstrate and explain a Reach Cast, using one hand, to a target at 45 feet on chosen side whilst slipping line in a controlled manner and ending with a straight leader. At the end of the cast the line from the rod tip to the target should also be straight.

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Task 12: Demonstrate and explain a Reach Cast, using one hand, to a target at 45 feet on the opposite side whilst slipping line in a controlled manner and ending with a straight leader. At the end of the cast the line from the rod tip to the target should also be straight.

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Task 13: Explain and demonstrate aerial mends on chosen side around targets at 20 and 30 feet from toe to targets, in a controlled manner with obvious mends, using one hand.

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Task 14: Explain and demonstrate aerial mends on opposite side around targets at 20 and 30 feet from toe to targets, in a controlled manner with obvious mends using one hand.

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Task 15: Explain and demonstrate an overhead cast OF 45 ft. with a change of direction to 90 degrees using 3 false casts.

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Task 16: Explain and demonstrate a wet fly oval mend. Deliver an overhead cast OF 45ft; when line lands on water (or grass); make an upstream oval-shaped mend slipping line while maintaining fly position

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Task 17: Explain and demonstrate a Wiggle Cast showing tight wiggles with 45 feet of line in a controlled manner, using one hand

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Task18: Explain and demonstrate a Wiggle Cast showing loose wiggles with 45 feet of line in a controlled manner, using one hand

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

HAULING

Task 19: Explain and demonstrate a haul on forward cast only.

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

TASK 20: Explain and demonstrate a haul on back cast only.

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Task 21: Explain and demonstrate double hauling with 50 feet of line continually for a cycle of 6 complete false casts with tight loops; demonstrate first with closed stance then with open stance

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Task 22: Explain and demonstrate a distance cast TO 75 feet using a double haul in a controlled manner and in an open stance (there is a 10% reduction for female candidates)

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

ROLL CASTING

Task 23: Explain and demonstrate roll cast (dead line) OF 45 feet, over chosen shoulder, using one hand

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast. Demonstration and explanation should make reference to safety and all winds.

Task 24: Explain and demonstrate a roll cast (dead line) OF 45 feet, over opposite shoulder, using one hand

- Explain the uses and mechanics of the cast and **be** able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast. Demonstration and explanation should make reference to safety and all winds.

SPEY CASTS

Task 25: Explain and demonstrate a forward Spey cast TO 50 feet over chosen shoulder (may shoot line) using one hand

- Explain the uses and demonstrate the cast with particular reference to safety and the relevant parts and rules of Spey casting. Be able to teach the cast
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Task 26: Explain and demonstrate a single Spey cast OF 50Ft. using one hand, over preferred shoulder with an angle change of 45% in a safe controlled manner

- Explain the uses and demonstrate the cast with particular reference to safety and the relevant parts and rules of Spey casting. Be able to teach the cast
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Task 27: Explain and demonstrate a double Spey cast OF 50ft. over preferred shoulder with an angle change of 90% in a safe controlled manner

- Explain the uses and demonstrate the cast with particular reference to safety and the relevant parts and rules of Spey casting. Be able to teach the cast
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

This concludes the Practical Assessment.

GUIDANCE NOTES ON INDIVIDUAL UNIT ASSESSMENTS

ENTOMOLOGY

The candidate will be expected to know and understand the life cycles of the six main insect groups that are of most importance to both the trout and angler. They will also be expected to know what insect will be present at various periods throughout the season and the relevant imitations required.

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:

Delivering a presentation of relevant content

Identifying specimens of listed invertebrates and their importance.

Written examination, e.g. multiple-choice.

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:

Delivering a presentation of relevant content

Written examination

ETIQUETTE AND 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 should also have a sound knowledge of angling etiquette on rivers and loughs.

The examining system will be as follows:

Written and oral examination

KNOTS & RIGS

The candidate will be expected to tie five of the knots below and explain their use and effect when using various materials

- Perfection Loop
- Surgeon's Loop
- Albright Knot
- Double (Full) Blood Knot
- Nail Knot
- Duncan (Uni) Knot
- Arbour Knot
- Four Turn Water Knot
- Half Blood Clinch) Knot

The examining system will be as follows:

Practical demonstration/oral explanation

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION – TEACHING SKILLS FOR GAME ANGLING INSTRUCTORS

The candidate will know how to structure a lesson plan for a given Single Handed Casting 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:

1.1. Submit a lesson plan for a six-session Single Handed Casting Course for a local angling club. This should be sent to the Lead Assessor or Secretary at least one week before the assessment day.

This will be marked and annotated by the Assessor and returned to the candidate on the Assessment day. Plans that do not meet the criteria should be re-submitted within two weeks, taking account of the written feedback

1.2. Role-Play: demonstrate one small section of this lesson plan to the Assessment Team, who will act as pupils. This should be on a topic of the candidate's choice and should last no more than 10 minutes.

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. They must have basic knowledge of Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection and control measures to be applied in a teaching situation.

The examining system will be as follows:

Written and Oral reports

EQUIPMENT AND TACKLE

The candidate will understand and demonstrate how to use the equipment associated with game angling in the Single Handed Syllabus (fly rods, fly reels, fly lines, bait rods, spinning reels, terminal tackle etc.)

The examining system will be as follows:

Practical demonstration / oral explanation

Written exam

OTHER GAME ANGLING METHODS

The candidate will understand all the legal methods involved in bait and spinning for sea trout, brown trout and rainbow trout. The candidate must also demonstrate and describe rigs and terminal tackle associated with bait and spinning.

The examining system will be as follows:

Practical demonstration / oral explanation

Written exam

Presentation on relevant subject

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

WRITTEN EXAMINATION:

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

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 or through Public Libraries. You should focus on those that appeal to you most and appear most helpful.

Title	Author	Publisher
Master the Cast	George V. Roberts Jr.	McGraw-Hill
Nature of Fly-casting	Jason Borger	Shadow Caster Press
The Cast	Ed Jaworowski	Swan Hill Press
Troubleshooting the Cast	Ed Jaworowski	Stackpole Books
Fly-casting Accuracy	Joan Wulff	The Lyons Press
The Essence of Fly Casting	Mel Krieger	Countryman
Fly-casting Handbook	Macauley Lord	The Lyons Press
Advanced Fly Casting	Lefty Kreh	The Lyons Press
The Technology of Fly Rods	Don Philips	Frank Amato Publications Inc.
Longer Fly Casting	Lefty Kreh	Lyons & Burford
Inshore Fly-fishing	Lou Tabory	Lyons & Burford
Spey Casting	Gawesworth	Stackpole Books
Fish On	Floyd Frankie	The Derrydale Press
Two Handed Fly Casting	Al Buhr	Frank Amato Publications Inc.
The Pocket Guide to Fishing Knots	Peter Owen	Merlin Unwin Books
Matching the Hatch	Pat O'Reilly	Swan Hill Press
Modern Fly Lines	Bruce Richards	Odysseus Editions Inc.
Fly Fishing in Ireland	Peter O'Reilly	Merlin Unwin Books