



Double Handed Casting

Advanced Status

Syllabus

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APGAI Ireland – Syllabus for the Advanced Qualification in Double Handed Casting

A. Background information

The following notes are provided as a guide to those members preparing to take APGAI Ireland's Advanced Level Qualification in Double Handed Casting. It must be noted that the Advanced Level Qualification is **not** available as a stand-alone competence.

This qualification is available **only** to those members of APGAI Ireland who are already recognised as a Qualified-Level Instructor in this discipline within the Association. Only in exceptional circumstances, and at the sole discretion of the APGAI Ireland Management Committee, will any candidate be exempt from this requirement.

B. Introduction

Candidates will be examined on their ability as an **Advanced Professional Game Angling Instructor in 'Advanced Double Handed Casting'**. In order to be successful at this level, an instructor must be able to demonstrate an exceptional breadth and depth of knowledge in Double Handed Casting techniques, the common faults associated with these and how to correct them. Above all, the Assessors will seek the highest levels of skills in teaching Double Handed Casting. The Double Handed Casting Assessment consists of four parts:

Part 1

Written Examination

Written questions comprising multiple-choice questions and others that require short sentence type answers. **(Duration 30 minutes)**

Part 2

Practical Assessment in Double Handed Casting

Candidates will be required to **explain & demonstrate** their ability to perform all of the casts and techniques listed below as well as to **analyse and correct** the common faults associated with them. **(Duration 1.5 hours)**

Part 3

Knots and General Theory

The candidate will be asked demonstrate several (but not all) of the commonly used knots listed in Section 10 below and to answer questions on General Theory listed in Section 13 below. **(Duration 30 minutes)**

Part 4

Teaching Presentation

The candidate will be required to deliver a Double Handed Casting session tailored to an Advanced Level client base. Assessors will look for:

- A detailed Lesson Plan
- An In-depth subject knowledge
- Enthusiastic & interesting teaching techniques

- Clear and concise explanations
- Overall presentation (**Duration 30 minutes**)

The entire Assessment will therefore last for 3 hours including the time allowed for setting up, knots and theory etc.

Equipment to be used during the Assessment:

- Double Handed Fly Rod with a maximum length of 15 feet
- Line to be used within the range of AFTM # 8-11
- One floating Spey Line
- One sinking Spey Line (sink rate 2)
- Shooting Heads (Floating and Sinking)
- Skagit line with appropriate sinking tip with a minimum density of T8.
- Leader, not less than 10ft or more than 15ft. A leader of up to 1.5 times the rod length may be used for the shooting head/underhand casts.
- White or yellow wool to be used as fly
- Double Handed spinning/bait rod (10-11ft) with fixed spool reel
- Spinning/bait rod to have appropriate line and weight

The Assessment:

- The candidate will be asked to explain and demonstrate the mechanics of each cast and its uses.
- The candidate must also be able to explain and demonstrate the faults associated with each cast and be able to explain and demonstrate the correction of these faults.
- The candidate must have a good understanding of the tackle being used. Line profiles must be clearly understood and their uses explained.

During the Practical Assessment the following will apply:

- The test will be conducted on water.
- Casting loop size to be no wider than 3 feet between top and bottom leg unless requested otherwise by the Assessors.
- Spey cast change of direction shall be not less than 45°
- All roll casts must unroll above the water.
- Three attempts will be given when attempting each cast.
- A piece of bright wool shall be attached to the leader.
- Casting distances are from the reel to the wool.

N.B.

- Casts **WITH** means no shooting line.
- Casts specified **TO** a distance means you may shoot line **TO** that distance.
- Safe practice when teaching and guiding must be fully understood and explained.
- Candidates must be properly attired (see Workshop Manual)

The Practical Assessment in Double Handed Casting:

INFORMATION

- Each cast may be attempted three times of which two attempts must be satisfactory. Tight loops are considered to be approximately 3ft.
- Candidate should bring chest waders, foul weather clothing and safety equipment to the examination.
- Distances required will be measured to the wool from the reel.

- Some casts will be made with a specific length of line outside of the tip ring and some casts will be executed by shooting line to the specified distance. NOTE: This is described as casting **WITH** a certain length of line or casting **TO** (or beyond) the specified distance.
- Every cast will be required to be performed satisfactorily twice.
- Except where otherwise stated ALL casts must be performed from BOTH sides of the body with appropriate hand uppermost on rod. i.e. left hand uppermost on left side and right hand uppermost on right side.
- Candidates should be able to execute all of the casts with ease and proficiency with the leader straightening completely and must be able to explain every aspect of the cast clearly.

Prior to the Practical Assessment the candidate will be asked a number of questions to explain

- Rod actions
- Grip
- Left hand up casting
- Reversed casting
- Line Management (stripping, coiling, holding and shooting the line).
- Running lines for Shooting heads and Skagit heads.
- Advantages and disadvantages of coated versus mono running lines and to be able to discuss what can go wrong when the shooting line is too light or too heavy for the head to be used.
- Line rating system including Shooting heads and Skagit heads and tips (T-Tips and MOW Tips) and also the grams/grains system
- American Spey Line standard head lengths
- Bank orientation for casting Double Spey & Snake Roll
- Safety measures and safe practice when teaching and guiding must be fully understood and explained.

During the Practical Assessment the candidate may be asked prior to or during any cast any of the above questions and also other questions to explain:

- Stroke length
- Arc
- Loop shape
- Anchor
- Creep
- Upper body rotation
- Weight shift
- Causes of tailing loops

The examiners will use their discretion at all times, and may make a 10% reduction in distances required in allowance for adverse winds during testing, or for candidates with reduced arm/hand strength (i.e. women, elderly).

THE CASTS

ROLL CAST:

- Perform and explain a roll cast with 80ft of line
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

OVERHEAD CAST:

- Perform 3-4 false casts with 80ft of line, maintaining narrow (tight) loops forward and back.
- Perform 3-4 false casts with 80ft of line with an open loop forward and back.
- Explain and demonstrate the difference in casting open and tight loops.
- Demonstrate a tailing loop on command. Explain how to correct a tailing loop.
- Make a change of direction cast (30 degrees or greater) with 80ft of line.
- Perform overhead cast to 100ft or more (shooting line allowed)
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

JUMP ROLL/SWITCH CAST/FORWARD SPEY:

- Perform a cast to 100ft.
- Perform a cast with 80ft of line make initial lift, sweep and place the anchor
 - a) in front of you.
 - b) level with you.
 - c) behind you.
- Explain and demonstrate the difference between “D” and “V” Loops.
- Explain and demonstrate an incorrect sweep dumping dead line on the water.
- Explain and demonstrate a piling anchor
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

SINGLE SPEY:

- Execute a 45° change of direction cast with 80ft of line.
- Execute a 90° change of direction cast with 80ft of line.
- Shoot line to 100ft with a change of direction of 45°
- Perform and explain a cast with incorrect timing for the final delivery (both too soon and too late).
- With 80ft of line, show the ability to place the anchor further upstream and further out from the angler than normal
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

DOUBLE SPEY:

- Execute a cast with a 45° change of direction with 80ft of line.
- Execute a cast with a 90° change of direction with 80ft of line.
- Execute a cast with a 45° change of direction shooting line to 100ft.
- Explain and demonstrate where and why the anchor point should land and the end of the first line placement of a Double Spey.
- Explain and show the causes of a) a ‘Bloody L’ and b) a reversed ‘Bloody L’.
- Explain and demonstrate the difference when casting with: a) very little space and b) a lot of space behind the caster
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

SNAKE ROLL:

- Execute a 45° change of direction Double loop snake roll cast with 80ft of line.

- Execute a 90° change of direction Double loop snake roll cast with 80ft of line.
- Execute a 45° change of direction Double loop snake roll cast to 100ft. (shooting line allowed)
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

SNAP T/CIRCLE SPEY

(The candidate will be required to execute both casts).

- Execute a snap T with a 45° change of direction with 80ft of line.
- Execute a Snap T with a 90° change of direction with 80ft of line.
- Execute a 45° change of direction Snap T to 100ft shooting line allowed.
- Execute a Circle Spey with a 45° change of direction with 80ft of line.
- Execute a Circle Spey with a 90° change of direction with 80ft of line.
- Execute a 45° change of direction Circle Spey to 100ft shooting line allowed.
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

SUNK LINE CASTING:

- Execute a roll cast 80ft of line.
- Overhead cast to 100ft. after initial roll cast (candidate preferred side).
- Double Spey after initial roll cast 45° change of direction to 100ft (candidates preferred side).
- Double Spey after initial roll cast 45° change of direction to 100ft (candidates preferred side).
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

SHOOTING HEAD OVERHEAD CAST:

- Perform an overhead cast with a shooting head to 100ft. (candidates preferred hand up).
- Show and explain trajectory of final delivery.
- Explain overhang.
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

Spey Cast with a Shooting Head:

The candidate will be required to perform a number of the following casts;

- Execute a Single Spey cast with a 45° change of direction to 80ft shooting line.
- Execute a Single Spey cast with a 90° change of direction to 80ft shooting line.
- Execute a Snake roll with a 45° change of direction to 80ft shooting line.
- Execute a Snake roll with a 90° change of direction to 80ft shooting line.
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

SKAGIT CASTING:

The candidate will be required to perform a number of the following casts:

- Explain the difference between casting shooting heads and Skagit lines.
- Execute a Snap T with a 45° change of direction to 80ft shooting line.
- Execute a Double Spey with a 45° change of direction to 80ft shooting line.
- Execute a Circle Spey with a 45° change of direction to 80ft shooting line.
- Execute a Perry Poke with a 45° change of direction to 80ft shooting line.
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

BAIT CASTING/SPINNING:

- Candidates may choose to perform right or left-handed.
- Explain and perform overhead casts and side casts.
- Explain different rod actions, fittings, reel seats etc.
- Explain terminal tackle, rigs and weights

KNOTS

The candidate should be able to tie the following knots and explain their use:

- Double (Full) blood
- Half-blood/Clinch knot
- Tucked Half-blood/Improved Clinch knot
- Double Grinner
- Double Grinner
- Perfection loop
- Surgeon's knot, Surgeon's loop.
- Turtle knot
- Nail knot
- Needle knot

PLAYING, LANDING AND RELEASING FISH

- The candidate should be able to explain and demonstrate the strike or not to strike, lift, playing, correct landing and safe release of fish

FISHING LAW & ETIQUETTE

- The candidate should be able to explain the rules and regulations as they relate to fishing in Ireland (North and South)
- Explain proper etiquette in relation to both river and lough fishing.

SAFETY

- Explain Safe Practices when teaching and guiding on rivers and loughs
- Explain the dangers and precautions for Weil's Disease, Tetanus and other water-borne hazards

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 most to you and appear most helpful.

Title	Author	Publisher
Master the Cast	George V. Roberts Jr.	McGraw-Hill
Nature of Flycasting	Jason Borger	Shadow Caster Press
The Cast	Ed Jaworowski	Swan Hill Press
Troubleshooting the Cast	Ed Jaworowski	Stackpole Books
Flycasting Accuracy	Joan Wulff	The Lyons Press
The Essence of Fly Casting	Mel Krieger	Countryman
Flycasting Handbook	Maculey 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 Flyfishing	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