



# Double Handed Casting

## Qualified Status

### Syllabus

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Revised May 2018

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## **APGAI Ireland Qualified Double Handed Casting Syllabus**

Welcome to the APGAI Ireland Qualified Status Double 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 Double 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 Double 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 Double 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 a 1 day Beginners 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 Double Handed Casting

*The examining system will be as follows:*

### Practical Assessment in Double Handed Casting:

- All measurements are from the reel to the end of the fly (wool tag)
- Rod length maximum 15ft
- Line rating 11# maximum with a short head Spey Line
- A suitable floating shooting head and a Skagit Line with appropriate sinking tip with a minimum density of T8.
- Leader length 10ft minimum, 15ft maximum
- Bright wool tag
- Candidates will be asked questions on all casts, how to teach them, their use and common faults associated with each cast. Candidates should have a good knowledge of double-handed equipment, to cover rods, lines, reels, fishing and safety equipment.
- Candidates should perform all casts with ease, with tight loops (35-50 inches) on both forward and back casts, unless instructed to open the loop size.
- All casts performed should be done with ease and end with a good presentation of the fly; the candidate will be given 3-4 attempts to perform the cast.
- Head and eye protection (e.g. cap and glasses) must be worn during the Assessment

During the practical assessment, the following will apply:

- **Note:** ~~if~~ Casts specified **OF** means no shooting line or hauling is allowed.
- Casts specified **TO** a distance means you must 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 CASTS TO BE ASSESSED:

#### 1. ROLL CAST

- Roll cast (dead line), 70 feet of line
- Explain and demonstrate the casts
- Understand its use and mechanics and be able to teach the cast
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

#### 2. SWITCH CAST

- Jump roll of 70 feet
- Explain and demonstrate the cast
- Understand its use and mechanics and be able to teach the cast
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

#### 3. OVERHEAD CASTS

- Overhead cast of 70 feet of line, pick up and lay down
- Explain and demonstrate all casts associated with the overhead cast
- Understand its use and mechanics and be able to teach the cast
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast
- Explain and demonstrate the casts

#### **4. SINGLE SPEY**

- Single Spey with 70 feet of line with an angle change of 45° and 90° in a safe controlled manner
- Explain and demonstrate the cast
- Understand its use and mechanics and be able to teach the cast
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

#### **5. DOUBLE SPEY**

- Double Spey with 70 feet of line with an angle change of 45° and 90° in a safe controlled manner
- Explain and demonstrate the cast
- Understand its use and mechanics and be able to teach the cast
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

#### **6. SNAKE ROLL**

- Snake roll with 70 feet of line with an angle change of 45° and 90° in a safe controlled manner
- Explain and demonstrate the cast
- Understand its use and mechanics and be able to teach the cast
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

#### **7. Shooting Head Casts**

- Perform an Overhead Cast with a shooting head to 70 ft.
- Show and explain trajectory of final delivery.
- Explain Overhand
- Explain shooting lines and the difference between coated running line and monofilament shooting line.
- Explain how to manage running line
- Explain leader lengths for different casting and fishing situations.
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it.
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

#### **8. The Candidate will be required to perform a number of the following Casts**

- Execute a Single Spey Cast with the shooting head with a 45/90 degree change of direction to 60 ft shooting line.
- Execute a Snake Roll Cast with a 45/90 degree change of direction to 60 ft shooting line.
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it.
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

#### **9. Skagit Casting**

##### **The Candidate will be required to perform a number of the following casts:**

- Execute a Circle C with a 45 degree change of direction to 60 ft shooting line.
- Execute a Double Spey with a 45 degree change of direction to 60 ft shooting line.
- Understand the uses and the mechanics of the casts and be able to teach them.
- Explain the difference between casting Shooting Heads and Skagit Lines.
- Explain and demonstrate faults associated with the cast.

## **Guidance Notes on Individual Unit Assessments**

### **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. 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 will 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

- Rapala Knot
- Riffle Hitch
- Trilene Knot
- Perfection Loop
- Surgeon's Loop
- Albright Knot
- Double (Full) Blood Knot
- Nail Knot
- Arbour Knot
- Duncan (Uni) 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 Double 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. Submit a lesson plan for a six-session Double Handed Casting 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 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
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

***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 Double Handed Syllabus (fly rods, fly reels, fly lines, bait rods, fixed spool reels, multiplying reels and 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 with bait / spinning for salmon. The candidate must also demonstrate and describe rigs and terminal tackle associated with bait / 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/ e mail which they 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 Double Handed Syllabus
- There will be 30 questions in total, split approximately 40:20 multiple choice/written answer. You will be allowed an hour 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.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Publisher</b>
Master the Cast	George V. Roberts Jr.	McGraw-Hill
Nature of Fly-casting	Jason Borger	Shadow Caster Press
The Cast	Ed Jaworowaski	Swan Hill Press
Troubleshooting the Cast	Ed Jaworowaski	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