



FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

Casting Instructor Performance Exam Evaluation Form

Candidate: _____ Date: _____

Lead Examiner: _____ Location: _____

2nd Examiner: _____ Other: _____

The prerequisites for taking this exam can be found [here](#).

Exam Structure and Administration:

The exam is in two parts: Casting Demonstrations and Teaching. To pass the exam, a candidate must attempt all tasks, pass all of the Teaching tasks and have a combination of scores on the Casting Demonstration tasks that total no more than two Fails. The overall time for exam administration is expected to be between 2 and 2.5 hours. Casting Demonstration tasks can be expected to take approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes (about 5 minutes per task) and the Teaching tasks can be expected to take approximately 45 minutes (about 7 minutes per task). Candidates are advised to plan their lessons to take about 5 minutes to allow time for involvement with examiners where required. If at any point the candidate's performance precludes passing the exam, then examiners may end the exam and offer the remainder of the allotted time to the benefit of the candidate.

Scoring:

Casting Demonstration tasks will be scored Pass, Fail, or Borderline. A task may be scored Borderline when performance is neither a clear Pass nor a clear Fail. Two Borderline scores taken together equal a Fail. Teaching tasks will be scored as a Pass or Fail.

Equipment Requirements:

- The maximum allowed rod length is 9ft (2.74m), and it must be rated by the manufacturer for at most a 7 weight line.
- The fly line must be a floating line of one-piece construction and rated by the manufacturer as no more than a 7 weight line. Candidates are encouraged to use a high visibility line.
- The leader must be at least 7.5ft (2.3m) long.

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- The fly must be yarn.
- Absent equipment malfunctions, candidates must complete Part One: Casting Demonstrations (Tasks 1-15) using a single outfit.

General Information:

- Before the examination, the candidate must inform the lead examiner of his or her dominant hand. The candidate must perform all tasks on the dominant side (on-side, as defined below) using the dominant hand unless otherwise specified by a task.
- Casting direction will be at the discretion of the candidate. If conditions change, the candidate may elect to change the casting direction.
- Course layout: The accuracy targets will be placed on the measuring tape prior to the exam.
- Cast distance will be measured from the caster's forward foot to the fly.
- Marking the fly line is prohibited.
- A false cast is a forward cast followed by a back cast, both of which remain aerialized.
- An off-side cast is defined as:
 - For right hand dominant casters, viewed from behind the caster on the caster-target line, casting with the rod tip to the observer's left of the caster's head.
 - For left hand dominant casters, a similar off-side definition applies, with right and left replacing each other.
 - Bending at the waist to accomplish off-side casts is allowed.
 - Off-side casts may not be performed by using the non-dominant hand.
 - Stance and style of off-side casts are at the caster's discretion.
 - An on-side cast is a cast which is not off-side.
- Neither hauling nor shooting line is permitted, unless otherwise specified in the task.
- When hauling is not permitted, the fly line will be held in the rod hand only, unless otherwise specified in the task.
- Various casting styles are permitted provided the cast meets the performance standards of the examination.
- In Part Two, an examiner will be available to serve as a student. The candidate may use teaching aids only in Part Two.
- The candidate may not use or refer to notes of any kind during the examination.
- Roll cast tasks must be performed on water if it is available. If roll casts tasks are done on water, then with the candidate's consent, the order of the exam tasks may be changed to finish Part One with Tasks 9-11 and start Part Two with Task 18. If roll casts tasks are not performed on water, then the candidate may choose to use a roll cast tool or other means to simulate water tension. The candidate may ask an examiner to assist with placement of the tool and affixing the leader to it. Candidates are expected to perform roll casts as if casting on water, regardless of the actual casting

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surface.

- Unless specifically permitted by a task, elliptical (Belgian/Gebetsroither) casts, Barnegat Bay casts (forward cast away from target, back cast to target), and Galway casts (forward cast away from, and off-side forward cast to target) are not allowed.
- The loop size for all casts will be measured approximately 3 to 4 ft (0.9m – 1.2m) back from the front of the nose of the loop.

General Performance Standards:

The candidate must demonstrate a high standard of performance that would create confidence in students and in other instructors. Candidates should successfully complete Casting Demonstration tasks in no more than three attempts. If a Casting Demonstration or Teaching task requires an explanation, the explanation must be clear and concise, and match the demonstration.

Except when a task specifies otherwise, the following requirements apply to all tasks.

- Loops, including the initial back cast loop must:
 - Have a relatively straight fly leg.
 - Be no more than 4ft (1.22m) in width ("narrow loops").
 - Be similar in size and shape between the forward and back casts.
 - Be approximately in-plane, making allowances for wind and gravity.
 - Be made so they can be easily assessed by the examiners.
- The fly line and leader must unroll completely and be relatively straight.
- The line, leader, and fly must not make contact with the ground or water (tick), except as the result of the final delivery.
- Anchors and D Loops must be laid out relatively straight in alignment with the intended direction of the delivery cast and the target, observing the 180 degree principle for anchored casts.
- Casts must be made at slow to medium line speed unless otherwise required by the task.
- Several of the terms used in the exam, including those for loop shapes, can be found in the FFI Fly Casting Definitions. Candidates are expected to be familiar with the terms and their definitions appearing in this examination.
- The diagrams at the end of this document are intended to clarify what is expected of candidates and to help examiners evaluate their performance.

Candidate's Exam Equipment:

Rod Length/Weight: _____

Line Weight: _____

Leader Length: _____

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Part One: Casting Demonstrations

Loop Control Time Started: _____

Task 1. Casting 40ft (12.2m), demonstrate a minimum of six false casts with narrow loops on both the forward and back casts.

Required Performance Standards:

• General performance standards.

Explanation Matched Demonstration, if applicable	First Back Cast	Straight Fly Leg	Loop Size	Loop Size Similar Front and Back	<u>↓</u> Loops In-Plane	No Ticking	Task Score P F B

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Task 2. Casting 40ft (12.2m), demonstrate wide loops on both forward and back casts.

The candidate must start by false casting narrow loops. After several false casts, the candidate will announce his or her intent to cast wide loops, both front and back, which must begin on the next forward cast and continue for several false casts.

Required Performance Standards:

- General performance standards.

Task-Specific Standards:

- The wide loops must exceed the width of the narrow loops by at least approximately 3 ft (0.91m) and may have a convex fly leg.
- The fly line and leader are not required to unroll completely or be relatively straight.

Explanation Matched Demonstration, if applicable	First Back Cast	Straight Fly Leg (<u>where applicable</u>)	Loop Size	Loop Size Similar Front and Back	<u>Loops In-Plane</u>	No Ticking	Task Score
							P F B

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Task 3. Casting 40ft (12.2m), demonstrate a tailing loop on a forward cast.

The candidate must start by false casting narrow loops. After several false casts, the candidate will announce his or her intent to cast a tailing loop, which must be done on the next forward cast, and which will end the demonstration. The candidate must tell the examiners which of the two common caster actions that result in tailing loops (see below) he or she used to demonstrate the tailing loop.

Required Performance Standards:

- General performance standards.

Task-Specific Standards:

- The fly leg must cross the rod leg in a manner that can be seen easily.
- The tailing loop must result from concavity of the rod tip path caused primarily by one of two common caster actions that result in tailing loops (improper force application and/or a casting arc that is too narrow).
- The fly line and leader are not required to unroll completely or be relatively straight.

Where applicable:

Explanation Matched Demonstration	First Back Cast	Straight Fly Leg	Loop Size	Loop Size Similar Front and Back	Loops In-Plane	No Ticking	Task Score
							P F B

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Line Control

Time Started: _____

Task 4. Starting with the fly at 40ft (12.2m), demonstrate a reach mend without slipping line. Then demonstrate a second reach mend with slipping line. The candidate will be asked to explain the uses of the two mends.

The lead examiner will specify the direction of the first reach mend being either to the left side or to the right side. The candidate must perform the second reach mend in the direction opposite to that of the first.

Required Performance Standards:

- General performance standards.

Task-Specific Standards:

- The final rod position must be nearly 90 degrees to the tape.
- The fly line and leader must land in a nearly straight line from the fly to the rod tip.
- The fly must reach nearly 40ft (12.2m) when slipping line.
- The fly must land within approximately 2ft (0.6m) of either side of the tape.
- The candidate may use the line hand for slipping line.

	Explanation Matched Demonstration	First Back Cast	Straight Fly Leg	Loop Size	Loop Size Similar Front and Back	<u>Loops Except Delivery Cast In-Plane</u>	No Ticking	Task Score P F B
No Slip								
Slip								

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Degree Principle

Overall Task Score: _____

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Task 5. Casting 40ft (12.2m), demonstrate a cast that produces a slack line presentation.

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The fly must land at about 20ft to 30ft (6.1m to 9.1m). Elliptical (Belgian/Gebetsroither) casts are allowed.

Required Performance Standards:

- General performance standards.

Task-Specific Standards:

- The leader does not have to be straight, but the fly must land ahead of the flyline.
- The slack line presentation must result exclusively from the cast.
- Mending is not allowed.

Explanation Matched Demonstration, if applicable	First Back Cast	Straight Fly Leg	Loop Size	No Ticking	Task Score
					P F B

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Task 6. Casting 40ft (12.2m), demonstrate an aerial mend that produces a presentation with a series of waves in the line.

Required Performance Standards:

- General performance standards.
- Task-Specific Standards:
 - Waves must be similar in size and shape, aligned in the direction of the cast, and evenly distributed throughout the fly line.
 - Waves must be a minimum of approximately 2ft (0.6m) wide from point to point and must have at least 3 points.
 - The leader must be reasonably straight.

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Explanation Matched Demonstration, if applicable	First Back Cast	Straight Fly Leg	Loop Size	Loop Size Similar Front and Back	No Ticking	Task Score
						P F B

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Task 7. Casting 40ft (12.2m), demonstrate a series of false casts beginning with the rod in the near vertical plane and progressing to the horizontal plane over a series of 6 to 8 false casts. The candidate must make at least two false casts at each plane.

The candidate may change the rod plane on either forward or back cast.

Required Performance Standards:

- General performance standards.

Explanation Matched Demonstration, if applicable	First Back Cast	Straight Fly Leg	Loop Size	Loop Size Similar Front and Back	<u>Loops In-Plane Except When Changing Rod Plane</u>	No Ticking	Task Score
							P F B

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Task 8. Casting 40ft (12.2m), demonstrate slow, medium and fast false casting.

The candidate must start false casting at slow line speed. After at least two false casts, the candidate will announce his or her intent to change to medium line speed, which must begin on the next forward cast and continue for at least two false casts. The candidate will then announce his or her intent to change to fast line speed, which must begin on the next forward cast and continue for at least two false casts.

Required Performance Standards:

- General performance standards.
- Candidate should be prepared to explain the changes in the five essentials relevant to this task.

Task-Specific Standards:

- There must be an obvious difference in line speed between slow, medium, and fast false casting.

Explanation Matched Demonstration, if applicable	First Back Cast	Straight Fly Leg	Loop Size	Loop Size Similar Front and Back	<u>Loops</u> <u>In-Plane</u>	No Ticking	Task Score
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Roll Casts

Time Started: _____

Task 9. Casting 40ft (12.2m), demonstrate narrow loop and wide loop roll casts.

The D-Loop must be formed slowly enough so that the line does not leave the surface and stops moving backwards prior to the forward cast. The D-Loop must not extend more than one arm plus one rod length behind the caster. Stepping forward or backward during formation of the D-Loop is not permitted.

Required Performance Standards:

- General performance standards.

Task-Specific Standards:

- The wide loop **may** have a convex fly leg
- The fly line and leader are not required to unroll completely **or** be relatively straight for the wide loop roll cast.
- The differences in size and shape of the narrow and wide loops must be sufficient to be obvious to a student.

	Explanation Matched Demonstration, if applicable	D-Loop Set-up <u>and</u> <u>Alignment</u>	<u>Anchor Placement and Alignment</u>	Line Stops Moving Backwards	Delivery Loop Size	<u>Delivery Loop In-Plane</u>	<u>Line and Leader Layout on Delivery</u>	Task Score
Narrow								P F B
Wide							(Not applicable)	

Overall Task Score: _____

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Task-Specific Standards: ¶

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Task 10. Casting 40ft (12.2m), demonstrate an off-side narrow loop roll cast.

The D-Loop must be formed slowly enough so that the line does not leave the surface and stops moving backwards prior to the forward cast. The D-Loop must not extend more than one arm plus one rod length behind the caster. Stepping forward or backward during formation of the D-Loop is not permitted. The definition of an off-side cast is on page 2.

Required Performance Standards:

- General performance standards.
- Task-Specific Standards:
 - The entire task must be performed off-side.

Explanation Matched Demonstration, if applicable	D-Loop Set-up and Alignment	Anchor Placement and Alignment	Line Stops Moving Backwards	Delivery Loop Size	Delivery Loop In-Plane	Line and Leader Layout on Delivery	Task Score P F B

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Task 11. Casting 40ft (12.2m), demonstrate a narrow loop roll cast pickup and delivery and explain when this cast might be used.

The D-Loop must be formed slowly enough so that the line does not leave the surface and stops moving backwards prior to the forward cast. The D-Loop must not extend more than one arm plus one rod length behind the caster. Stepping forward or backward during formation of the D-Loop is not permitted. The roll cast delivery loop must unroll above, and raise the fly from, the surface. The task must be completed by a subsequent back cast followed by delivering the fly on the next forward cast.

Required Performance Standards:

- General performance standards.

Explanation Matched Demonstration	D-Loop Set-up <u>and Alignment</u>	Anchor Placement and Alignment	Line Stops Moving Backwards	<u>Delivery</u> Loop Size	<u>Delivery</u> Loop In-Plane	Line and Leader Layout <u>on Delivery</u>	No Ticking	Task Score
								P F B

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Accuracy Casts

Time Started: _____

Task 12. Beginning with the fly in hand, present the fly to targets at 20, 30 and 45ft (6.1, 9.1, 13.7m) on-side.

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The candidate must begin with the line extended to 55ft (16.7m) and then strip in the line until only 4-5ft (1.2-1.5m) of fly line is beyond the rod tip. The line length must be adjusted during false casting between the targets. If the candidate misses the first target at 20ft (6.1m), the candidate must strip in the line until 4-5ft (1.2-1.5m) of fly line is beyond the rod tip and begin again with the fly in hand. If the candidate misses the second (30ft (9.1m)) or third (45ft (13.7m)) target, the candidate must strip in the line to the previous target. The candidate is allowed three attempts per target. Examiners will allow for adverse conditions.

Required Performance Standards:

- General performance standards.

Task-Specific Standards:

- The fly must land approximately 15in (38cm) or closer to the center of the target for the 20ft (6.1m) and 30ft (9.1m) targets and approximately 18in (46cm) or closer to the center of the target for the 45ft (13.7m) target.
- The candidate must demonstrate appropriate trajectory for the target distances.
- The fly line may **be held in** the line hand throughout the task, **and hauling is allowed.**
- Shooting line, including on the final delivery cast, is permitted.

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	Explanation Matched Demonstration, if applicable	First Back Cast	Straight Fly Leg	Loop Size	Loop Size Similar Front and Back	<u>Loops in-Plane</u>	No Ticking	Task Score P F B
20ft (6.1m)								
30ft (9.1m)								
45ft (13.7m)								

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Degree Principle

Overall Task Score: _____

Comments:

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Task 13. ~~Off-Side Accuracy: Demonstrate off-side accuracy casting to targets as described in Task 12,~~

The Required Performance Standards are as described in Task 12.

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The definition of an off-side cast is on page 2

	Explanation Matched Demonstration, if applicable	First Back Cast	Straight Fly Leg	Loop Size	Loop Size Similar Front and Back	Loops in-Plane	No Ticking	Task Score P F B
20ft (6.1m)								
30ft (9.1m)								
45ft (13.7m)								

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Overall Task Score: _____

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Distance Casts

Time Started: _____

Task 14. Casting 50ft (15.2m) throughout the task, demonstrate at least 4 consecutive false casts while double hauling, including on the pick-up and delivery casts.

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Required Performance Standards:

- General performance standards.

Task-Specific Standards:

- Haul length, timing, and force application must be appropriate for the length of line carried and must be consistent between forward and back casts.
- Line tension must be maintained between the line hand and the first rod guide.
- False casting must be relaxed and efficient.

Explanation Matched Demonstration, if applicable	First Back Cast	Straight Fly Leg	Loop Size	Loop Size Similar Front and Back	<u>Loops in-Plane</u>	No Ticking	Task Score
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Task 15. Demonstrate a cast to at least 75ft (22.9m).

The candidate must begin the task with the fly no farther than 50ft (15.2m). ~~Shooting line and hauling are permitted.~~ The candidate must make at least 2 false casts before the delivery cast.

Required Performance Standards:

- General performance standards.

Task-Specific Standards:

- The fly must land beyond the end of the fly line with the leader relatively straight.

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Explanation Matched Demonstration, if applicable	First Back Cast	Straight Fly Leg	Loops in-Plane	No Ticking	Task Score P F B

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Part Two: Teaching

Teaching must be clear, concise, organized and directed to the student level specified within each task. Candidates can assume that a beginner student knows nothing about fly casting and that an intermediate student is familiar with common fly casting terms and basic fly casting mechanics.

During the teaching section candidates are required to use each of the verbal, visual and kinesthetic teaching methods at least once. Candidates may use more than one teaching method on an individual teaching task if they consider it necessary. Candidates must use the 6-step method to diagnose and correct faults on Task 19 and may use an examiner as a student on tasks which do not require them to.

General Instructions and General Performance Standards apply to demonstrations by the candidate during the teaching tasks. Line length during the teaching tasks is at the candidate's discretion.

Task 16. Explain and demonstrate to a beginner caster how to form a casting loop and change its shape.

Time started: _____

Intent: To determine the candidate's ability to explain and demonstrate how a casting loop is formed and how a caster can change the shape of the casting loop.

Expectations:

- ____ A) The candidate must define a loop, describe its fly leg, rod leg and nose, and explain how a loop is formed.
- ____ B) The candidate must describe the rod tip path/loop shape relationship.
- ____ C) The candidate must demonstrate a narrow loop, a wide loop with a convex fly leg, and a tailing loop.

Clear Concise Organized	Student Level	Teaching Methods	Demo and Explanation	Task Score
P <u>B</u> F	P <u>B</u> F	P <u>B</u> F	P <u>B</u> F	<u> </u> P <u> </u> F

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Task 17. Teach a beginner caster the Pickup and Laydown Cast.

Time started: _____

Intent: To determine the candidate's ability to teach the Pickup and Laydown Cast at the level required for success with beginners. An Examiner must act as a student during this task.

Expectations:

___A) The candidate must address the purpose of the cast.

___B) The candidate must teach the Pickup and Laydown Cast in a stepwise manner.

___C) Initial and final line layouts must be addressed.

Clear Concise Organized	Student Level	Teaching Methods	Demo and Explanation	Task Score
P <u>B</u> F	P <u>B</u> F	P <u>B</u> F	P <u>B</u> F	<u> </u> P <u> </u> F

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 E) Examiners will defer fault corrections to Task 18.

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Task 18.

Teach a beginner caster to make a roll cast in which the fly line rolls out completely with the leader relatively straight.

Time started _____

Intent: To determine the candidate's ability to teach the roll cast at the level required for success with beginner casters. An Examiner must act as a student during this task.

Expectations: The candidate must teach the roll cast as if done on water. The candidate may choose to use a roll cast tool or other means to simulate water tension.

___ A) The candidate must address the purpose of the cast.

___ B) The candidate must teach the roll cast in a stepwise manner.

___ C) The candidate must describe an anchor a D-loop and their functions.

___ D) The candidate must address the 180 degree principle for anchored casts.

___ E) The candidate must address safety.

Clear Concise Organized	Student Level	Teaching Methods	Demo and Explanation	Task Score
P <u>B</u> F	P <u>B</u> F	P <u>B</u> F	P <u>B</u> F	P F

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Intent: To determine the candidate's ability to identify and correct faults common to

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→F) The candidate must discuss the influence of casting arc on the shape of the roll cast loop. ¶

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→G) Line must unroll above the surface. ¶

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→H) The candidate must use only the rod hand to cast.

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Task 19. Identify and correct three casting faults commonly made by beginner casters while learning the overhead cast and roll cast.

Time started:

Intent: To determine the candidate's ability to identify and correct faults common to beginner casters. The candidate should use the 6-Step Method and at least one appropriate teaching method of their choice to identify and correct casting faults.

Expectations:

- A) An examiner, acting as a student, will select and perform the casting faults. The examiner will repeat the casting fault if asked by the candidate.
- B) The candidate must first identify the fault as performed by the examiner.
- C) The candidate must then correct the fault, using the examiner as a student
- D) The faults selected by the examiner will be three of the following, one of which must be a roll cast fault

Overhead Casts

- 1) Over-bending the wrist
- 2) Poor application of force
- 3) Failure to remove slack
- 4) Poor tracking
- 5) Poor timing

Roll Casts

- 1) Forward stop that is too low
- 2) D-loop is placed directly behind the caster (hooking)
- 3) Delivery cast crosses the anchor causing a collision

Clear Concise Organized	Student Level	Teaching Methods	Demo and Explanation	Task Score
<u>P B F</u>	<u>P B F</u>	<u>P B F</u>	<u>P B F</u>	<u>P F</u>

Comments:

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Task 20. Teach an intermediate caster the cause and correction of tailing loops.

Time started: _____

Intent: To determine the candidate's understanding of tailing loops and his or her ability to teach their cause and correction at the level required for success with intermediate casters.

Expectations:

- ____ A) The candidate must describe a tailing loop and its effects on casting.
- ____ B) The candidate must describe the rod tip path/tailing loop relationship.
- ____ C) The candidate must explain two common actions of a caster that result in tailing loops (inappropriate force application and a too narrow casting arc) and describe how to correct them.
- ____ D) Candidates should explain how creep might contribute to a tailing loop.

Clear Concise Organized	Student Level	Teaching Methods	Demo and Explanation	Task Score
P <u>B</u> F	P <u>B</u> F	P <u>B</u> F	P <u>B</u> F	<u>P</u> <u>F</u>

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Task 21. Teach an intermediate caster the adjustments needed to maintain consistent narrow loops while false casting to change distance from 30ft (9.1m) to 50ft (15.2m), and the reasons for those adjustments.

Time started: _____

Intent: To determine the candidate's understanding of, and ability to teach, the adjustments of the Gammels' Essentials of Fly Casting needed to cast to different distances while maintaining consistent narrow loops at the level required for success with intermediate casters.

Expectations:

The candidate must convey to a student his or her understanding of how the Gammels' Essentials of Fly Casting contribute to creating and maintaining a narrow loop with a straight fly leg throughout the task:

___A) Pause.

___B) Slack.

___C) Path of the rod tip during the casting stroke.

___D) Variable casting arc.

___E) Application of force.

▼ The candidate may use the line hand, and hauling is permitted.

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Clear Concise Organized	Student Level	Teaching Methods	Demo and Explanation	Task Score
P <u>B</u> F	P <u>B</u> F	P <u>B</u> F	P <u>B</u> F	P F

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Task 22. Teach an intermediate caster how to cast safely with a head wind, a tail wind, and then teach three methods of casting safely with the wind blowing onto the casting arm side. For a light wind, teach a method keeping the line on the upwind side of the caster for all or part of the cast. For stronger winds, teach two methods keeping the line on the downwind side of the caster throughout the cast.

Time started: _____

Intent: To determine the candidate's ability to teach how to cast safely with wind blowing from three directions at the level required for success with intermediate casters.

Expectations:

- ___A) The candidate must explain the casting problem presented by each wind direction.
- ___B) Explanations must describe how each demonstrated cast solves the problem(s) presented by each wind direction.
- ___C) Hauling is permitted.
- ___D) Elliptical (or Belgian/Gebetsroither), Barnegat Bay, and Galway casts are allowed.

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___D)

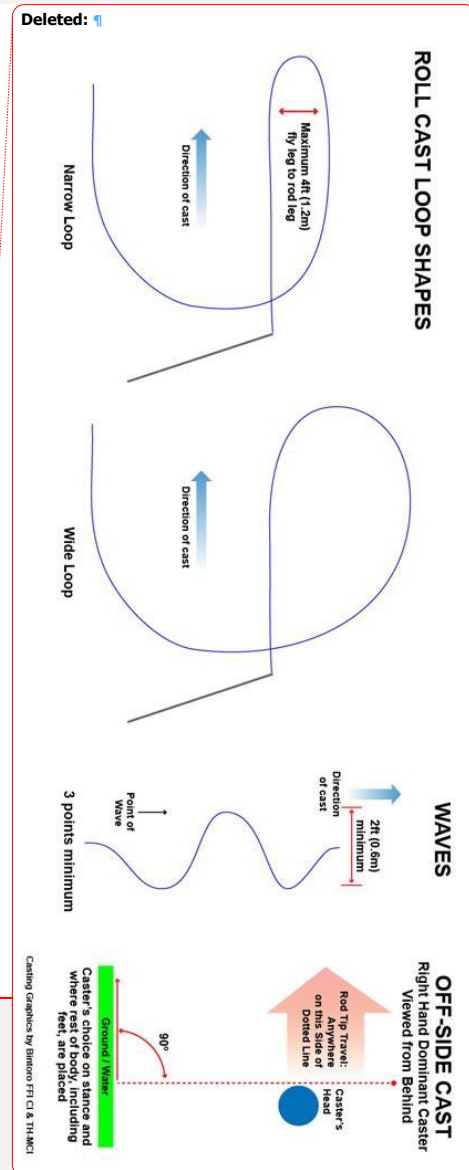
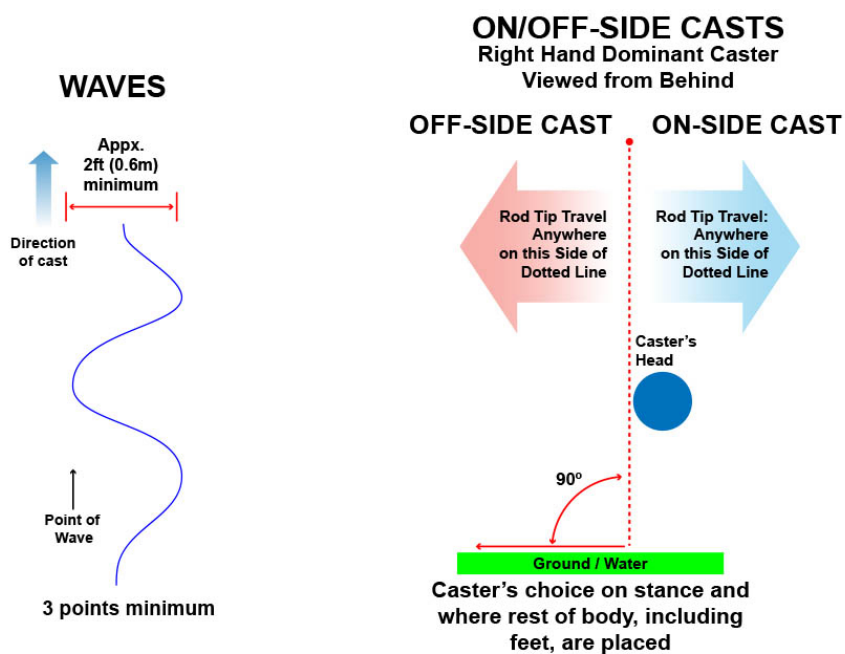
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Clear Concise Organized	Student Level	Teaching Methods	Demo and Explanation	Task Score
P <u>B</u> F	P <u>B</u> F	P <u>B</u> F	P <u>B</u> F	P F

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- Diagrams are representative in nature and do not necessarily show how all presentations may be made.
- Diagrams are for examiners and candidates to understand the general profile of certain presentations and casts.



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