

Fly Casting Instructor Performance Test: Evaluation Form

Equipment: 9ft rod maximum

Line: 7wt maximum

Leader: 7 ½ ft. minimum with yarn fly

In all cases the candidate must demonstrate the good, relaxed form that would be expected of an FFF Certified Instructor, and which would instill confidence in students. The tasks should be accomplished quickly and easily. This is not a matter of requiring several attempts to accomplish a task. Indicate successful completion with a check mark.

Recommended scoring: P = Pass / B = Borderline / F = Fail

- **B (borderline) can be scored when a task performance is uncertain as a P (pass) or F (fail).**
- **Two B scores is the equivalent to one F (1B=1/2 F).**
- **To highlight a level of P (pass) performance for debriefing purpose, P+ or P- can be noted.**

CONTROL CASTS:

Loops-Using Rod Hand Only

_____ 1. Demonstrate a minimum of six false casts with controlled narrow loops on both the forward and back casts at 35-40'.

Expectations: Narrow, parallel loops, consistent in size and shape, front and back, no larger than approximately 3' in height. Slow to medium speed.

(____) tailing loops (____) loops too wide, more than 3' (____) loop legs out of parallel (____) loop size inconsistent (____) casting too fast (____) other

Comments: _____

_____ 2. Casting 35-40 feet, demonstrate very wide loops on the forward cast on command.

Expectations: On command the forward loops should exceed the width of the back loops by 3' or more. Forward and back loops should be in the same plane.

(____) tailing loops (____) wide loop too narrow (____) wide loop not cast on

command (____) other

Comments: _____

____ **3. Demonstrate a tailing loop on a forward cast.** After a series of false casts the candidate will announce his/her intent to form a tailing loop which will be formed on the next forward cast.

Expectations: The top leg of the loop clearly crosses the bottom leg and is easily seen. The cast is done at a slow to medium speed as would be done in a good teaching demonstration. The top leg must cross the bottom leg as a result of tip path as opposed to gravity. The tailing loop shall not be caused by a deliberate upward movement of the rod tip on the forward cast.

The examiner may ask a candidate to demonstrate a second manner of causing a tailing loop if the tailing loop was caused in a manner inconsistent with common casting faults.

(____) Did not tail when stated (____) Speed of cast was too fast (____) Top leg of the loop did not cross the bottom leg in an easily seen manner. (____) other

Comments: _____

Line Control

____ **4. Demonstrate two reach mends to the left.** The first reach mend will be made without slipping line. The second reach mend will be made with slipping line. The candidate may be asked to explain the uses of the casts with and without slipping/shooting line.

Expectations: The final rod position should be approximately 45 to 90 degrees to the direction of the cast. The line should land in a straight line from the fly to the rod tip. The fly should land in the direction of the cast.

(____) Final position of line and leader not straight (relatively straight is the expectation) (____) Line and leader dragged into position at completion of the cast (____) could not do the reach mend both ways (____) poor explanation (____) other

Comments: _____

____ **5. Demonstrate two reach mends to the right.** The first reach mend will be made without slipping line. The second reach mend will be made with slipping line. The candidate may be asked to explain the uses of the casts with and without slipping/shooting line.

Expectations: The final rod position should be approximately 45 to 90 degrees to the direction of the cast. The line should land in a straight line from the fly to the rod tip. The fly should land in the direction of the cast.

(____) Final position of line and leader not straight (relatively straight is the expectation) (____) Line and leader dragged into position at completion of the cast (____) could not do the reach mend both ways (____) poor explanation (____) other
Comments: _____

____ 6. Casting to a distance of 35-40 feet, make a series of casts beginning at the vertical and progressing to the horizontal over a series of 6 to 8 casts. Using rod hand only.

Expectations: Candidate should increase line speed from vertical to horizontal while maintaining good loops of a consistent size with no ticking.

(____) did not progress from vertical to horizontal (a 90 degree change) (____) line speed did not increase significantly as angle changed (____) loop size not consistent (____) ticked (either ground or water) (____) other

Comments: _____

____ 7. Make two slack line presentations with the fly landing at approximately 25-30'. One presentation is to be made as a slack line cast with no aerial mend. The second presentation is to be the result of an aerial mend(s).

Expectations: The slack would achieve a drag free drift and the fly and leader must land in front of the fly line.

(____) did not create slack that would result in a drag free drift (____) did not create slack in two different ways (____) fly did not land in front of the fly line and leader

Comments: _____

____ 8. Demonstrate slow, medium and fast false casting at 35-40 feet on command. Using rod hand only.

Expectations: The candidate must maintain consistency in loop size and shape as false casting speed changes. There must be a noticeable difference in speed between slow, medium and fast false casting.

(____) inconsistent loop size(____) not enough change in casting speed between slow, medium and fast false casting (____) other

Comments: _____

Roll Casts-Rod Hand Only

____ 9. Demonstrate a roll cast at 40' with the leader straightening.

Expectations: The D loop (the back loop) should be established by slowly dragging

the line into position without the fly leaving the water (surface); D loop must be positioned behind the caster, the anchor point should be even with or slightly ahead of the caster; the D loop should be static before the forward cast; the roll cast loop should be elliptical and unroll above the water or surface.

(____) did not reach the required distance (____) leader did not straighten (relatively straight is expectation) (____) D loop and/or anchor not properly positioned (____) roll cast loop was not elliptical and/or failed to unroll above the water or surface (____) rod hand did not pause before forward cast (____) other

Comments: _____

____ 10. Demonstrate a roll cast at 40' over the opposite shoulder with the leader straightening.

Expectations: The D loop (the back loop) should be established by slowly dragging the line into position without the fly leaving the water (surface); D loop must be positioned behind the caster, the anchor point should be even with or slightly ahead of the caster; the D loop should be static before the forward cast; the roll cast loop should be elliptical and unroll above the water or surface and the rod's tip path must begin and finish over the opposite side of the caster's body.

(____) did not reach the required distance (____) leader did not straighten (relatively straight is expectation) (____) D loop and/or anchor not properly positioned (____) roll cast loop was not elliptical and/or failed to unroll above the water or surface (____) rod hand did not pause before forward cast (____) on forward cast rod tip path did not remain on opposite side of caster's body (____) other

Comments: _____

____ 11. Explain and demonstrate wide and narrow loop roll casts at 40'.

Expectations: There should be a distinct difference in the sizes of the narrow and wide loops which would be easily seen by a student. The narrow loop should be elliptical in shape. Explanations should include the method of forming these loops including tip path required to make each loop size.

(____) did not reach the required distance (____) leader did not straighten (relatively straight is expectation) (____) D loop and/or anchor not properly positioned (____) roll cast loop was not elliptical and/or failed to unroll above the water or surface (____) rod hand did not pause before forward cast (____) narrow loop was not elliptical and/or failed to unroll above the water or surface (____) wide loop was not distinctly different in size (____) explanation was not adequate (____) other

Comments: _____

___ 12. Demonstrate a roll cast pick-up at 35-40'. Explain when this cast may be used.

Expectations: This cast should begin with the fly approximately 35-40' from the candidate; the roll cast should raise the fly from the water/ground; the fly should remain airborne (no ticking) until completion of the delivery cast.

(___) roll cast did not raise the fly from the water/ground (___) fly did not remain airborne (___) explanation was deficient (___) other

Comments: _____

ACCURACY CASTS-ROD HAND ONLY

___ 13. Beginning with the fly in hand, present the fly to targets at 20, 30 and 45 feet. The candidate shall begin this task with the line extended to 55 feet and then strip in the line until only 4 to 5 feet of fly line is beyond the tip. The line shall be adjusted during false casting between the targets. Once the desired amount of line is established the line hand shall cease being used (rod hand only). If the candidate misses the first target (at 20') the candidate will strip in the line until 4 to 5 feet of fly line is beyond the tip again and begin again with the fly in hand. If the candidate misses the second or third target the candidate will strip in the line to the previous target. A candidate is allowed three attempts per target. Allowances should be made for adverse conditions.

Expectations: The fly shall land within a 30" ring or within 15" of the center of a target; loop trajectory should be adjusted as target distance increases; there should be no ticking of the fly before the presentation; the back casts should be approximately 180 degrees from the target.

(___) Fly did not land in the target (___) did not adjust loop trajectory as distance increased (___) fly ticked while false casting (___) back casts not properly aligned (approximately 180 degrees from target) (___) tailing loops (___) open or non-loops (___) other

___ 14. Same as above except over opposite shoulder.

(___) Fly did not land in the target (___) did not adjust loop trajectory as distance increased (___) fly ticked while false casting (___) back casts not properly aligned (approximately 180 degrees from target) (___) tailing loops (___) open or non-loops (___) other

___ 15. Roll cast to a target at 45-50'. (Must land close within 3 roll casts. This task must be performed with no hauling but the candidate may shoot line. (Candidate has the option of using rod hand only.)

Expectations: The D loop (the back loop) should be established by slowly dragging the line into position without the fly leaving the water (surface); the D loop should be positioned behind the candidate and be static before the forward cast; the fly and

leader should be ahead of the caster; the roll cast loop should be elliptical and unroll above the water (surface).

(____) did not land close to target (____) leader did not straighten (relatively straight is expectation)

(____) D loop not properly positioned/ or leader or fly not positioned in front of caster (____) roll cast loop was not elliptical and/or failed to unroll above the water or surface (____) D loop not static before forward cast (____) other

DISTANCE CASTS

 16. Demonstrate continuous double haul casting. Make 6-8 false casts at 45-50'.

Expectations: The hauls should be smooth and have an overall consistency in length and timing. The hauls should not create slack. The loops should be well formed and not exceed three feet in width. Forward and back casts should be in the same plane.

(____) hauling was not smooth (____) hauling created slack (____) haul timing is inconsistent (____) loops exceed three feet in width (____) forward and back cast trajectory are not on the same plane (____) tailing loops

Comments: _____

 17. Demonstrate a distance cast to a minimum of 75'.

Expectations: Hauls are smooth and have an overall consistency in length and timing. The hauls do not create slack. False casting and shooting of the line are accomplished in a relaxed manner without overpowering. Distance is achieved with the fly landing ahead of the fly line.

(____) Tailing loop(s) (____) did not reach distance (____) distance achieved but cast was overpowered (____) hauling ineffective (lacked smoothness, consistency or created slack (____) fly did not land ahead of fly line (____) other

INSTRUCTING ABILITY:

 18. Explain and demonstrate how to cast narrow to wide loops.

Comments: (communication effectiveness, straight path of rod tip, teaching fundamentals, cause of changes in loop size analogies, student involvement, line, rod, body)

 19. Explain and demonstrate the cause and correction of tailing

loops. Comments: (communication effectiveness, cause, correction, teaching, fundamentals, loop size, analogies, student involvement, line, rod, body, concave, path of rod tip, ways achieved)

____ **20. Explain rod-loading.** Comments: (communication effectiveness, error recognition, teaching fundamentals, analogies, student involvement, line weight, air/water resistance, bending of rod)

____ **21. Explain and demonstrate the casting stroke as it relates to changes in distance.** Comments: (communication effectiveness, movement analysis, changes in stroke, error recognition, teaching fundamentals, loop size, casting angle, analogies, student involvement, line, rod, body, stroke length to line length)

____ **22. Explain and demonstrate good timing when false casting.** Comments: (communication effectiveness, error recognition, teaching fundamentals, loop size, analogies, student involvement, line, rod, body, long verses short stroke)

____ **23. Explain and demonstrate casting into a head wind.** Comments: (communication effectiveness, analysis, error recognition, teaching fundamentals, loop size, line speed, power, analogies, student involvement, line, rod, body, double haul, rod position other casts, casting angle)

____ **24. Explain and demonstrate casting with a crosswind blowing into the casting side.** Comments: (communication effectiveness, analysis, error recognition, teaching fundamentals, loop size, analogies, student involvement, line, rod, body, other casts, casting angle)

Notes

The candidate must demonstrate the high standard of performance expected of a Certified Casting Instructor (CCI), which would create confidence in students and other instructors. The candidate must attempt all tasks. In order to pass, a candidate must pass all of the Instructing Ability tasks (18-24) and fail no more than two of the first 17 tasks.

Candidates should accomplish most tasks quickly and easily on the first attempt, accompanied by good demonstrations and, when requested, clear, concise explanations. Demonstrations must match explanations. Candidates may be requested to explain and demonstrate how they would teach any of the casts included in this performance test. Examiners have the right to ask candidates to expand or give greater detail on any task in order to confirm knowledge or skills.

Loops are expected to have reasonably parallel legs and be approximately 3 to 4 feet in width unless otherwise requested within a task. Tailing loops are not acceptable at any time except when requested within a task.

It is recommended that the roll casting tasks take place on water. Candidates are expected to perform all roll casts with a technique suitable for casting on water, regardless of the actual testing surface. When testing is not on water, examiners will make allowances for such things as a leader not straightening or not reaching the required distance. If water is unavailable a tool may be used to simulate water tension.

All tasks must be performed with the same rod and line. In the event of equipment failure, replacement equipment must meet the test requirements. When there is a wind, the casting direction will be at the discretion of the candidate. Lengths of line to be cast when specified are measured from the caster to the fly. Marking the fly line to indicate specific distances required in the accuracy tasks is prohibited. Hitting a target while executing a task is required only when specifically requested in the task.