



Two-Handed Casting Instructor Performance Test

The FFF Two-Handed Casting Instructor Performance Test will be conducted on moving or still water. Tasks noted as left bank or right bank will be performed as if from that bank. Casts will be performed from the left and right shoulders; an off-shoulder (*cack-handed*) cast may be substituted. All other tasks not specifically noted as right or left casts, may be caster's choice of bank or rod hand.

The rod will not exceed 15 feet (4.57 m) in length, and 10 wt. (9/10) in size. The floating line weight will be no greater than an AFFTA rated 10wt. line {680 gr (44 g) at 55 ft (16.8 m) for short belly lines; 720 gr (46.7 g) at 65 ft (19.8 m) for mid length belly lines; 860 gr (55.7 g) at 75 ft (22.9 m) for long belly lines}.

The candidate is required to perform all the 70 ft, 80 ft and 100 ft (21.3 m, 24.4 m and 30.5 m) floating line tasks with one rod.
NOTE: A separate rod may be used for the sink-tip tasks and the Underhand Cast, explain and demonstrate task.

Lines are required:

- A floating line of the casters choice, providing it will qualify as required at 80 feet (24.4 m).
- For the Sunk Line tasks, the candidate may choose to use either a full sinking type (class) 2 line, or a sink-tip line that has a minimum of 15 feet (4.57 m) of sinking tip that weighs 150 grains (9.7 g) or more, and is rated type (class) 6 or greater.
- Optional: A Scandinavian Shooting Head system may be used for the Underhand Cast explain and demonstrate task.

The floating line will have a leader no shorter than 10 feet (3.05 m) and no longer than 15 feet (4.57 m). The sink-tip line has no leader restriction.

The candidate must perform all of the casts with ease and proficiency. The casts are expected to be formed smoothly with well-formed D-loops (*or V-loops*), straight anchor placements and have well-formed narrow forward loops that unroll completely, straightening the leader unless otherwise asked for. Narrow loops are defined as being 3 feet (.91 m) or less between the top and bottom legs, measured approximately 6-10 feet (1.83-3.05 m) back from the leading edge of the loop. Verbal descriptions are to be clear and simple, providing concise instruction and or information as needed. The candidate has up to three attempts for each performance task. If the candidate fails 6 or more tasks during the performance test, or fails more than 2 tasks within any required cast, the test is failed.

To accommodate an extreme situation or adverse conditions, the THCI-examiner may grant a 10% reduction in the performance criteria.

The candidate's floating line is to be qualified to a distance of 80 feet (24.4 m) prior to the start of the test. Distances will be measured from the casters foot to where the fly lands/rests. Shooting the line to reach 80 feet is not permitted. It is expected that a candidate be able to qualify his or her line in 5 or less casts; if the line fails to reach this requirement after repeated attempts, it will be disallowed and the test terminated. Upon successfully qualifying the line at 80 feet, a holding mark will be approved at this length. It is recommended that the candidate have a known visible holding mark established at the 80 foot qualifying distance prior to the test for their reference. In order to assure a line has ample length to qualify, it is suggested to use a head length (*the working line from rod tip to leader*) of 60 feet (18.3 m) or longer.

Distance equivalences: 70 feet = 21.3 meters, 80 feet = 24.4 meters, 100 feet = 30.5 meters

Abbreviations: ft =feet; m = meters; gr = grains; g = grams;

Candidate's Rod length: _____, Rod weight: _____, Line size: _____, Leader length: _____.

Overhead Casts (*must be performed over water*)

Expectations for the overhead casts: Parallel narrow loops equal in size front and back; good timing; no tailing loops unless asked for; no ticking or the fly hitting the water; first back cast needs to have a good loop size and shape. Wide loops must be 6 feet (183 cm) or greater in width. Demonstration must match explanation.

___ 1. Demonstrate 3-4 false casts at 70 ft, with narrow loops forward and back. Right hand up or off-shoulder.

Overhead Casts Continued:

- ___ 2. Demonstrate 3-4 false casts at 70 ft, with narrow loops forward and back. Left hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 3. Explain and demonstrate loop size. Demonstrate wide loops followed by narrow loops in 3-4 false casts at 70 ft.
- ___ 4. Demonstrate a tailing loop on command. Explain more than one way a tailing loop can be formed.
- ___ 5. Without false casting, demonstrate an Overhead Change of Direction Cast (*30 degrees or greater*) at 70 ft.
- ___ 6. After one or more false casts, demonstrate an Overhead Cast shooting line to 100 ft.

Roll Casts (*may be performed from left or right bank*)

Expectations for the dead line roll casts: Narrow loops that roll out above the water with the line and leader straightening out completely; no open or non-loops. The D-loop should be dragged into position slowly and come to a complete stop; not done as a switch cast with a dynamic, thrown D-loop.

- ___ 1. Demonstrate a dead line Roll Cast at 70 ft. Right hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 2. Demonstrate a dead line Roll Cast at 70 ft. Left hand up or off-shoulder.

Switch Casts (*may be performed from left or right bank*)

Expectations for the switch casts: Narrow loops that roll out above the water with the line and leader straightening out completely; casts are to be performed with good timing and smooth, correctly placed anchors. No tailing, open or non-loops. Demonstration must match explanation.

- ___ 1. Explain and demonstrate a Switch Cast at 80 ft without shooting line, with D-loops. Right hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 2. Explain and demonstrate a Switch Cast at 80 ft without shooting line, with V-loops. Right hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 3. Demonstrate a Switch Cast at 80 ft without shooting line with D-loops. Left hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 4. Demonstrate a Switch Cast at 80 ft without shooting line with V-loops. Left hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 5. Explain and demonstrate a slack anchor point with the piled anchor
- ___ 6. Explain and demonstrate the relationship between length of line carried and casting stroke length.

Single Spey

Expectations for the Single Spey Cast: Narrow loops that roll out above the water with the line and leader straightening out completely; casts are to be performed smoothly with good timing. The anchor point should align with the forward cast, not anchoring behind the caster. No tailing, open or non-loops. Demonstration must match explanation. To be performed from the bank noted.

- ___ 1. Demonstrate a Single Spey at 80 ft without shooting line, with a change of direction of 45 degrees from the left bank, right hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 2. Demonstrate a Single Spey with a change of direction of 45 degrees, shooting line to 100 ft from the left bank, right hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 3. Demonstrate a Single Spey at 80 ft without shooting line, with a change of direction of 45 degrees from the right bank, left hand up or off-shoulder.

Single Spey Continued:

- ___ 4. Demonstrate a Single Spey with a change of direction of 45 degrees, shooting line to 100 ft from the right bank, left hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 5. Demonstrate a Single Spey at 80 ft without shooting line, with a direction change of 90 degrees or more.
- ___ 6. Explain and demonstrate the fly anchoring incorrectly on the downstream side of the forward cast.
- ___ 7. Explain and demonstrate an anchor point that is too far upstream for the intended forward cast.
- ___ 8. Explain and demonstrate an improper anchor point with a bloody L.

Double Spey

Expectations for the Double Spey Cast: Narrow loops that roll out above the water with the line and leader straightening out completely; casts are to be performed smoothly with good timing. The anchor point should align with the forward cast, not anchoring behind the caster. No tailing, open or non-loops. Demonstration must match explanation. To be performed from the bank noted.

- ___ 1. Demonstrate a Double Spey at 80 ft without shooting line, with a change of direction of 90 degrees, from the left bank, left hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 2. Demonstrate a Double Spey with a change of direction of 90 degrees, shooting line to 100 ft from the left bank, left hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 3. Demonstrate a Double Spey at 80 ft without shooting line, with a change of direction of 90 degrees, from the right bank, right hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 4. Demonstrate a Double Spey with a change of direction of 90 degrees, shooting line to 100 ft from the right bank, right hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 5. Demonstrate a Double Spey at 80 ft without shooting line, with a direction change of 45 degrees or less.
- ___ 6. Explain and demonstrate where the anchor point is to be positioned when the lift is completed.
- ___ 7. Explain and demonstrate an improper anchor point with a bloody L.
- ___ 8. Explain and demonstrate casting within a minimum backspace (6 feet or 1.8 meters).

Snake Roll

Expectations for the Snake Roll Cast: Narrow loops that roll out above the water with the line and leader straightening out completely, Casts are to be performed smoothly with good timing. The anchor point should align with the forward cast, not anchoring behind the caster. No tailing, open or non-loops. Demonstration must match explanation. To be performed from the bank noted.

- ___ 1. Demonstrate a Snake Roll at 80 ft without shooting line, with a change of direction of 90 degrees from the left bank, left hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 2. Demonstrate a Snake Roll with a change of direction of 90 degrees, shooting line to 100 ft from the left bank, left hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 3. Demonstrate a Snake Roll at 80 ft without shooting line, with a change of direction of 90 degrees from the right bank, right hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 4. Demonstrate a Snake Roll with a change of direction of 90 degrees, shooting line to 100 ft from the right bank, right hand up or off-shoulder.

Snake Roll Continued:

- ___ 5. Demonstrate a Snake Roll at 80 ft without shooting line, with a direction change of 45 degrees or less.
- ___ 6. Explain and demonstrate a poorly timed forward cast; timing too fast, timing too slow.
- ___ 7. Explain and demonstrate a curved anchor placement resulting from an improper alignment of the “e” or oval during the cast formation.

Snap T (*Candidate may choose to use a Snap C, after first demonstrating a Snap T.*)

Expectations for the Snap T: Narrow loops that roll out above the water with the line and leader straightening out completely casts are to be performed smoothly with good timing. The anchor point should align with the forward cast, not anchoring behind the caster, with no “bloody L”. No tailing, open or non-loops. Demonstration must match explanation. To be performed from the bank noted.

- ___ 1. Demonstrate a cast at 80 ft without shooting line, with a change of direction of 90 degrees from the left bank, right hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 2. Demonstrate a cast with a change of direction of 90 degrees, shooting line to 100 ft from the left bank, right hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 3. Demonstrate a cast at 80 ft without shooting line, with a change of direction of 90 degrees from the right bank, left hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 4. Demonstrate a cast with a change of direction of 90 degrees, shooting line to 100 ft from the right bank, left hand up or off-shoulder.
- ___ 5. Demonstrate a cast at 80 ft without shooting line, with a direction change of 45 degrees or less.

Underhand Cast (A Scandinavian technique that emphasizes the use of the bottom hand)

Expectations for the Underhand Cast: The cast will have narrow loops that roll out above the water with the line and leader straightening out completely. Casts are to be performed smoothly with good timing and correctly placed anchors. No tailing, open or non-loops. Demonstration must match explanation.

Note: The length of line used for this task may be shortened to facilitate the demonstration or, the candidate may use a separate rod specifically setup for the Scandinavian technique.

- ___ 1. Explain and demonstrate the Underhand Cast with a 45-degree change of direction. Describe the choice of rod, line, leader and their role in the cast.

Line Management

- ___ 1. Explain and demonstrate shooting line. When is the proper time to release the line?
- ___ 2. Explain and demonstrate line control mends, mending upriver and downriver.

Sunk line

The candidate must use either a full sinking type (class) 2 line, or a sink-tip line that has a minimum of 15 feet (4.57 m) of sinking tip that weighs 150 grains (9.7 g) or more, and is rated type (class) 6 or greater for the following.

Note: The candidate may use a separate rod set up specifically for the Sunk Line tasks.

- ___ 1. Explain and demonstrate what is needed to get a sinking line (*or sink tip*) up to the surface in order to perform a successful cast.

Sunk Line Continued:

- ___ 2. Demonstrate a Single Spey, shooting line to 80 ft with a sinking line or sink-tip.
- ___ 3. Demonstrate a Double Spey, shooting line to 80 ft with a sinking line or sink-tip.

Teaching Skills/ Fault Correction/Other Two Hand Casting Knowledge

Expectations: Candidate must be proficient in:

- Teaching or instructing students in various scenarios in a clear and organized manner.
- Readily identifying casting faults and their appropriate correction.
- Knowledgeable on various casting styles, casting mechanics, and various tackle and line systems in use.