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The Casting Course at The Old Mill COURSE GUIDEBOOK

The Orvis Casting Course at The Old Mill is the only 18-hole golf-style casting course of its kind in North America. It was designed for fun, education, and as an opportunity to practice essential casting skills before going fishing. Have fun, and enjoy The Course!

www.orvis.com/bend • 541-312-8200

Casting Course Etiquette

The Old Mill District is a multi-use area. Please be aware of your surroundings and respect everyone who enjoys visiting The Old Mill.



Below are a few rules and guidelines to make this course more enjoyable for everyone:

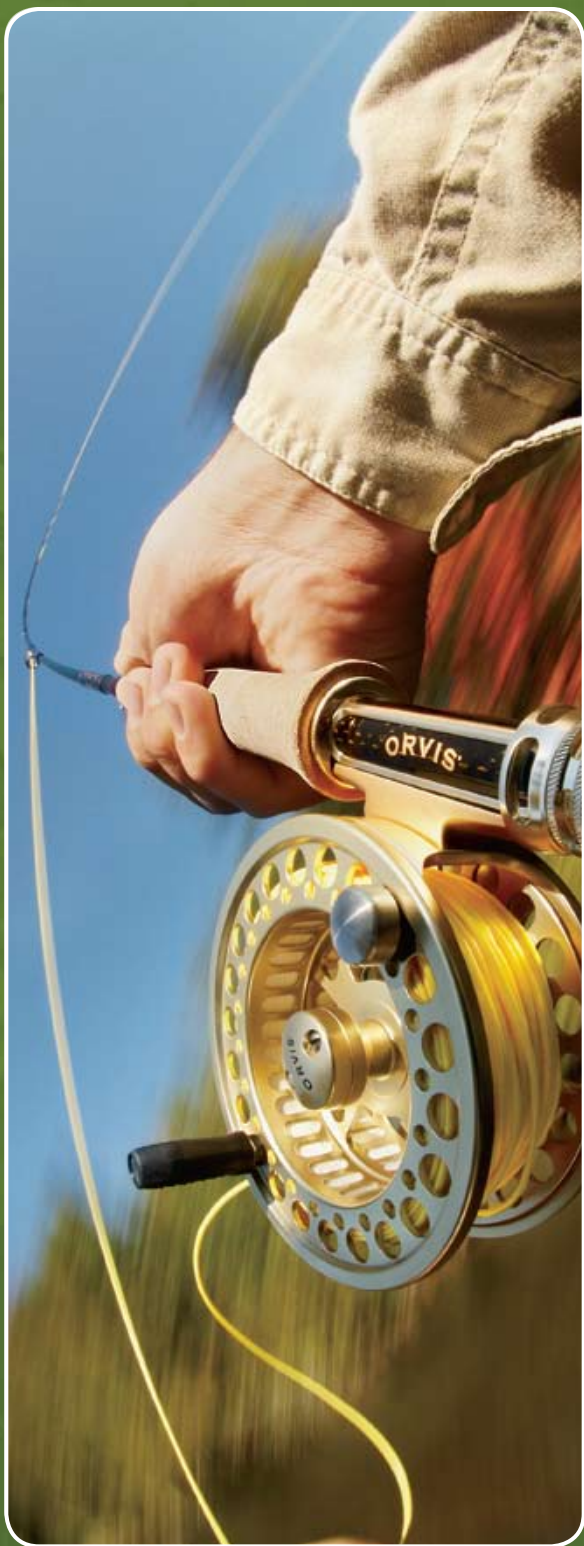
YARN is the only thing that can be used for casting to the targets or for practicing on the course. Flies and hooks are prohibited. Spin or bait casters may use only ACA regulation casting plugs.

WATCH YOUR BACK CAST— respect those around you. There will be walkers, bikers, skateboarders, picnickers, sunbathers, etc. Please be aware of your surroundings prior to casting.

BE KIND TO EVERYONE— If there are non-casters located within The Casting Course area, please be courteous and politely ask them if you can cast. If a non-caster is preventing you from casting, just skip that particular hole and come back to it. All we ask is for any angler to be courteous to anyone who is or is not participating on the casting course. Treat others as you would like to be treated.

TIME— We encourage anglers to practice any time they want. If you are spending quite a bit of time on a specific Hole, please yield to other casters trying to “Play Through.” If you are playing a complete round through all of the Holes and someone is slower than you, please ask them if you may “Play Through.”

HOLE CLOSURES— During summer concerts and other special events, please be aware that the entire course may not be open; Holes 10-14 in particular may be subject to closure. Please respect any closures during those times and enjoy the rest of the course.



Glossary of Terms

Curve Casting: Your fly/leader and the tip of your fly line move at a 90 degree angle from the rest of your fly line. This is good for casting on the back side of rocks or to avoid over-hanging trees. It can also be used to place your fly and leader into current upstream by keeping the fly line off to the side and out of sight of fish.

Double-Haul: A double-haul is performed with the line hand pulling away (the haul) from the rod hand while the rod hand makes a back cast. At the finish of the back cast, the line hand comes up to re-join the rod hand. As the rod hand starts to move forward to create a forward cast, the line hand again pulls away or “hauls” from the rod hand to again increase the bend/load in the rod.

False Cast: This is performed for several reasons. One: To dry your fly. Two: To increase the accuracy of your presentation. Three: To increase (or decrease) your distance. Four: To change directions.

Full False Cast: A back cast and a forward cast with no presentation. For example; if you pick up your line off the water to form a back cast and then you make a forward cast without letting your line/leader/fly lay on the water, you have made a full false cast.

Over Hand Casting: Casting the line/leader and fly back and forth while keeping it in the air above (or off to the side) of your rod tip, and above the surface of which you are casting.

Over The Opposite Shoulder: While casting back and forth, the tip of the rod is traveling over the opposite shoulder from the shoulder of your casting hand. If you normally cast with your right hand, the tip of the rod would be traveling back and forth over your left shoulder.

Presentation Cast: This is a cast that allows your line/leader and fly to come to rest on the water (or ground) in the desired direction in which you are casting.

Reach Cast: When the rod comes to a stop on your final presentation cast, BUT before the line/leader and fly hit the water, the rod is immediately pointed 90 degrees off to the caster’s right or left side, with the tip of the rod pointed toward the ground

Glossary of Terms

or water. When performed correctly, the fly line and leader should be in a straight line between the fly and the tip of the rod.

Roll Cast or Roll Casting: This is a cast in which the line/leader and fly do not leave the surface of the water and 95%+ of the line/leader and fly are in front of you. To make a roll cast; with some line/leader and the fly laid out in front of you on the surface of the water, slowly bring the tip of the rod up, slightly behind and off to the side of your casting arm and come to a stop. Deliver the line/leader/fly forward by abruptly forcing the tip of the rod in the direction of the targeted area, coming to an abrupt stop with the rod slightly above and parallel to the water.

Single Haul: To increase line speed or to beat windy conditions, you will want to create a greater bend (or load) in the rod for added distance. Adding a haul can help to increase the bend in the rod. A single haul is performed with the line hand pulling away from the rod hand while the rod hand is making either a back cast or a forward cast.

Tight Casting Loops: These are made while casting overhand. The straighter the path of the rod tip as you move the line back and forth will result in smaller-sized casting loop shapes that resemble elongated candy canes. If the path of your rod tip looks like it is making the same shape as the wind shield wiper on your car, then you will probably end up with larger, more wide open casting loops.

“Working Out” Your Line: Used to create slack line outside of the tip of the rod. If the path of your rod tip looks like it is making the same shape as the wind shield wiper on your car, then you will probably end up with larger, more wide open casting loops.

Using the Opposite Hand: Casting while using your non-dominant hand. If you usually cast with your right hand, using your left hand to cast would be using your “opposite hand.”

Hole Tips & Suggestions

These tips and hints are here only to help— they are not the only way to be successful on the course. Be open-minded and creative and search for ways to achieve your goals and your level pars. Here is the first suggestion for all levels playing all 18 Holes; give consideration to bringing different weight rods and lines (we recommended you use a 7.5ft, 2X leader while casting on the course.) Remember, if you play golf, you wouldn't play an 18-hole golf course with just a driver or a putter.

Advancement Levels

There are three levels of difficulty on the casting course, the third level being the most difficult. Choose the skill level most appropriate for you before starting to play the course.

Starting On Each Hole

When starting on each hole you will want to do four things:

- 1. Use a 7.5 foot, 2X leader or heavier.*
- 2. Keep one foot on the designated foot marker at all times while casting.*
- 3. Start with your yarn in hand and with up to one rod length of fly line outside of the tip of your rod.*
- 4. Look around you to make sure your casting area is clear*

Hole 1: Allingham

Tip – Keep your casting stroke length short with enough power to hit your level target.

Recommended rods and lines:

Levels I-III: 4-6 weight trout rods.

Hole 2: Deer Lake

Tip – The most common roll casting mistake is dropping the rod tip too close to the surface of the water at the end of the cast. If your rod tip drops too low, it will cause your line to collapse and not extend to your target. When coming to a stop on your roll cast, keep the tip of your rod parallel to the surface of the water, and your line will extend nicely before settling.

Recommended rods and lines:

Level I: 4-6 weight trout rods

Level II: 5-6 weight trout rods

Level III: 6-7 weight rods with a longer belly line such as a Salmon/Steelhead line.



Hole Tips & Suggestions

Hole 3: Dearborn Island Right

Tip – The most common roll casting mistake is dropping the rod tip too close to the surface of the water at the end of the cast. If your rod tip drops too low, it will cause your line to collapse and not extend to your target. Keep your tip well above the surface of the water when finishing the cast and your line will extend nicely before settling. Levels II and III – to hit the targets under the bridge, adjust your body and rod position low enough so that when you cast your line it doesn't hit the bridge.

Recommended rods and lines:

Level I: 4-6 weight trout rods

Level II: 5-6 weight trout rods

Level III: 6-7 weight rods with a longer belly line such as a Salmon/Steelhead line.

Hole 4: Dearborn Island Left

Tip – The most common roll casting mistake is dropping the rod tip too close to the surface of the water at the end of the cast. If your rod tip drops too low, it will cause your line to collapse and not extend to your target. Keep your tip well above the surface of the water when finishing the cast and your line will extend nicely before settling. Levels II and III – to hit the targets under the bridge, adjust your body and rod position low enough so that when you cast your line doesn't hit the bridge.

Recommended rods and lines:

Level I: 4-6 weight trout rods

Level II: 5-6 weight trout rods

Level III: 6-7 weight rods with a longer belly line such as a Salmon/Steelhead line.

Hole 5: The Mecca Hole

Tip – Tight loops are helpful for increasing accuracy and while casting into the wind. While false casting, keep your rod tip moving in a straight line to keep a tighter casting loop during your presentation.

Recommended rods and lines:

All Levels: 4-7 weight rods.



Hole Tips & Suggestions

Hole 6: The Canyon

Tip – Positioning the rod in a lower casting position off to the side will help you avoid overhanging branches. Level III, to reach the targets behind the tree, a curve cast is your best option.

Recommended rods and lines:

Levels I and II: 4-7 weight single-handed rods.

Level III: 6-8 weight single-handed or switch rods with weight forward or double taper lines.

Hole 7: South Junction

Tip – All Levels, watch out for the grasses and branches along the shore line. Level I, look in the direction of where you want your line/leader/fly to land and aim your roll cast to the middle or left of middle of your target zones. Level II, roll casting may not be enough to get you into all of your zones; you may want to try a double spey cast if you are right handed or a circle cast/snap T cast if you are left handed. Level III may need to use either a double spey or snake roll cast.

Recommended rods and lines:

Level I: 4-6 weight single-handed rods with floating weight forward or double taper fly lines.

Level II and III: 6-8 weight single-handed, switch, or spey rods with floating longer belly lines.

Hole 8: Hosmer Lake

Tip – Tight loops are essential for accurate casting. A shorter casting stroke combined with tighter casting loops will help you more easily hit the targets. Level III, being able to lengthen your line on the back cast will help you hit the long target.

Recommended rods and lines:

All Levels: 4-6 weight trout rods with weight forward lines.



Hole Tips & Suggestions

Hole 9: Black Butte Pond

Tip – All Levels, watch out for the tree branches above you. Line up your rod with your dominant eye as if you were taking aim. Learn to measure out the proper amount of line for the distance needed to hit the target. Level I, try getting down on one knee to bring the tip of your rod lower to the water.

Recommended rods and lines:

All Levels: 4-7 weight with weight forward and/or double taper lines.

Hole 10: Wagonblast

Tip – All levels, watch out for the grasses and branches along the shore line. Level I, look in the direction of where you want your line/leader/fly to land and aim your roll cast to the middle or right of middle of your target zones. Level II, roll casting may not be enough to get you into all of your zones— you may want to start experimenting with a circle cast/snap T cast if you are right handed or snake roll cast if you are left handed. Level III, you may need to use either a modified snap T or switch hands and use a double spey.

Recommended rods and lines:

Level I: 4-6 weight single handed rods with floating weight forward or double taper fly lines.

Level II and III: 6-8 weight single handed, switch, or spey rods with floating longer belly lines.

Hole 11: Lake Billy C

Tip – All Levels, once you close in on your level target, think about your approach to getting your yarn in the target. Consider using heavier weight and longer rods for distance and lighter weight rods for accuracy. Levels II and III, using single and double hauls can help you get to the target in fewer casts.

Recommended rods and lines:

All Levels: 6-9 weight, single-handed, switch and spey rods with floating, longer belly lines.



Hole Tips & Suggestions

Hole 12: Bonefish Flats

Tip – All Levels, while casting back and forth, making the tip of your rod follow a straight line will help form smaller and more accurate casting loops. Learning how to measure out 10ft of line after making your first level target will be very helpful. Levels II and III, using single and double hauls can help get your line out faster and within the prescribed false casts for your challenge.

Recommended rods and lines:

Level I: 5-7 weight rods with weight forward lines.

Levels II and III: 6-8 weight rods with weight forward lines.

Hole 13: River of The Falls

Tip – All Levels, watch out for the cattails and grasses behind you and keep your back cast up. Level III, on both of your longer targets be aware of the overhanging branches above the targets. A slight curve cast may be beneficial.

Recommended rods and lines:

Levels I and II: 4 and 5 weight rods with weight forward lines.

Level III: 3-6 weight rods with weight forward lines.

Hole 14: Puget Sound Beach

Tip – All Levels, using heavier line weight rods for distance and lighter weight trout rods for accuracy is beneficial. Using smaller, tighter loops should help increase overall distance. Level II and III, using single and double hauls will help increase your distance casts.

Recommended rods and lines:

Level I: 5-7 weight single and switch rods with weight forward lines.

Levels II and III: use 5-9 weight single, switch and double handed rods and consider using weight forward, spey and shooting head lines.



Hole Tips & Suggestions

Hole 15: Warm Springs

Tip – All Levels, take the time to set up your roll cast so you can aim toward your targets as much as possible. Learn how to measure out 5ft of line in between targets. As in overhead casting, moving rod in a straight line as possible will help with distance and accuracy.

Recommended rods and lines:

Level I: 4-6 weight rods with floating weight forward lines.

Level II: 4-7 weight rods with floating weight forward lines.

Level III: 6-8 weight single handed and switch rods with longer belly lines and/or double taper fly lines.

Hole 16: The Beast From The East

Tip – All Levels, learn how to measure 10ft between your targets. Forming smaller tighter loops will help with accuracy.

Recommended rods and lines:

Level I: 4-6 weight rods with floating weight forward lines.

Level II: 4-7 weight rods with floating weight forward lines.

Level III: 6-8 weight single-handed and switch rods with longer belly lines.

Hole 17: Davis Hole

Tip – All Levels, don't be fooled by the shorter distance.

Recommended rods and lines:

For all levels, 3-5 weight rods in a little shorter lengths of 7ft up to 8.5ft may be considered.

Hole 18: Oak Springs

Tip – All Levels, on your presentation cast make sure you come to an absolute stop with the rod tip, before moving the rod 90 degrees off to either side of your body. Your choice to either slip line or not.

Recommended rods and lines:

For all Levels: 4-6 weight rods with weight forward lines.





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Casting Course Awards

Successfully complete the first nine holes of the course at your casting level, and you'll get your name on the casting course awards board inside the store! You will also receive a complimentary certificate recognizing your achievement.

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