



## **Camp Pendleton 2025 Deer Hunting Rules**

These rules are in addition to the General Hunting Rules and offer deer specific information. These rules augment and do not replace relevant California Fish and Game Code.

### **AO Tags:**

- Archers may use the California Archery Only (AO) tag on base, which is available over the counter. Archers must pass an annual proficiency test which will be held on **Saturdays in August**.
  - If you hunt with archery equipment only, you do NOT need to enter the G10 Lottery.
  - If you are not selected for a G10 Tag, you may purchase an AO Tag and hunt with archery equipment only.
  - To enter the lottery for Deer Archery Only, applications will be accepted from **Sunday through Wednesday** prior to the weekend hunt. The Game Wardens will conduct the lottery on **Thursday** (or on Wednesday if it is a holiday weekend), and winners will be notified via email.

### **New validation Process for Firearms Deer Hunters!!!**

- **DOD ID Card Validations and G-10 lottery Entry will be 1 to 30 April.** If you wish to enter the G10 Tag lottery, send a photo of your DOD ID Card to:  
[PNDL\\_ENV\\_Hunter\\_Validation@usmc.mil](mailto:PNDL_ENV_Hunter_Validation@usmc.mil)
  - This validation will be completed prior to the 2025 hunting licenses becoming available. This allows us to conduct the G10 lottery prior to the deadline for the state's lottery entry period so that non-winners can apply for other tags in the state and eliminate the requirement to buy a license for those who only hunt on Camp Pendleton in the event they do not win.
- Once the 2025-2026 CALIFORNIA Hunting License becomes available in **June**, hunters **MUST** submit their current year hunting license and DoD ID card again. Once validated the second time, you will have access to the 2025-2026 Hunting Permit. **DEER hunters are required to be validated twice under this new process.**

### **The Camp Pendleton Firearms Hunt requires the G10 Deer Tag, a D15 Tag is NOT valid on base.**

- The G10 Tag allows a hunter to harvest a deer with a firearm or archery equipment.



- If you possess both an AO and a G10 tag, you must utilize your G10 Tag when hunting on base regardless of weapon system.
- Once validated, hunters may enter the G10 deer tag lottery through iSportsman by utilizing the “G10 Lottery Entry Permit” from **1 to 30 April**.
- No more than two (2) hunters per family may enter the lottery.
- To improve your odds of winning a G10 tag, all hunters will enter **one** (1) lottery. **A-Tag** winners will be the first 100 Winners, and the B-Tag Winners will be the second 100 winners.
  - **A-Tag** dates are: **October 25, 26; November 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 11**
  - **B-Tag** dates are: **November 15, 16, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30**
- G10 tag holders will have an opportunity hunt all 6 weekends of the deer season but will only be able to make a reservation during their assigned A or B tag period.
- Winners will be notified via the email provided in their iSportsman account during the first week of **May**. Ensure the email in iSportsman is the one you check.
- Winners may begin purchasing their G10 deer tag in August at the *STAR* Card counter at the Pacific Views Exchange (Main MCX).
  - There is no deadline to purchase your tag prior to season but must be purchased prior to your hunt.

### **Deer Limit:**

- Each Hunter may harvest one deer on Camp Pendleton regardless of method.

### **Typical Hunt Schedule:**

**0535 the day prior to the hunt:** Hunters with the appropriate tag (A or B depending on date) may make a reservation for the following day.

### **0445-0529:**

- Reservation holders may check into their reserved areas.
- Other tag holders can check for availability on a first come first served bases.

### **0530:**

- Unused reservations become available to all hunters.

### **60 minutes after last shot:**

- All hunters must be checked out of areas or have contacted the Game Warden to avoid suspension.



### After the Harvest:

- You may NOT enter a different hunting area to track a wounded or dead deer without prior coordination with the Game Warden's Office.
- The hunter must first fill out the tag (always bring a pen/marker with you) prior to field dressing the deer.
- Field Dress the deer in the field. Do not leave the gut pile on a road, within 150 feet water, or in a conspicuous place that could affect military training.
- Bring the carcass or eatable portions back to the Game Warden's office with the tag attached to the **ear of a doe** or the **antler of a buck**. If you bring the head and eatable portions you will be asked to produce the **Head**, the **Two Hind Quarters**, the **Two Front Quarters** and the **Back Straps**.
- Call the Game Wardens office to ensure someone will be there to meet you and counter sign your tag.
- Game Warden personnel will collect data on the deer and validate your tag. The hunter will submit the tag data to the state by mail or online by following the instructions on the tag.
- Hunters may utilize the game processing station and discard animal parts in the "gut cans"; do not throw regular trash in the "gut cans."
- Deer must be removed from the cooler No Later Than (NLT) Close of Business (COB) Wednesday, so we can clean the refrigerator for the next weekend. Call to the Game Wardens to make sure someone will meet you at the cooler.

### Guzzlers:

- These artificial water sources provide valuable water to thousands of animals each day during the dry season, which coincides with the deer hunting season. Hunting over a guzzler is not an ethical hunting practice as it discourages wildlife from visiting the guzzler. The hunter may be suspended for hunting over a guzzler. Remember, you can bring water with you, the wildlife cannot.

### Deer Hunting Activities:

- While checked in to hunt deer, you may only hunt deer and shoot coyotes as a target of opportunity. No predator calling nor small game hunting may be conducted while deer hunting.

### Etiquette:

- Deer hunting on Camp Pendleton is the base's most popular hunting activity. Hunters from all over the country participate. Some are hunting on base for the first time, some



are hunting deer for the first time. Each hunter brings different levels of experience and different traditions from their home state.

- Here are a few etiquette notes to reduce angst in the field:
  - If another hunter is in “your spot”, go somewhere else. Have a plan B and C.
  - Give other hunters space, buffer with a large terrain feature or distance suitable for your firearm.
  - Avoid walking through areas being glassed by other hunters. This may not always be possible since hunters try to remain hidden from their quarry, so assume that another hunter walking through an area you are glassing simply did not see you.
  - Parked vehicles are clues that other hunters are in the area, maybe go somewhere else.
  - Area quotas give each hunter about 1 square kilometer (more than 1/2 of a mile) to spread out, please use the space.
  - Know your effective range and your weapon's effective range, these are not the same. Taking shots outside your practiced ranges or outside the effective range of your weapon and cartridge, will likely result in a wounded animal.