



Camp Pendleton 2026-2027 General Hunting Rules

Authorized Personnel and Restrictions

The following categories may hunt on base:

- Active Duty and Retired Military.
- Department of War Civilian Employees.
- Drilling Reservists.
- One family member from the following relationships can be sponsored by the above categories for deer hunting and two may be sponsored for small game, upland bird and waterfowl:
 - *Grandmother, Grandfather, Parent, Sibling, Adult Son, Daughter, or Grandchild.*
- Dependents with an ID card are authorized to hunt but may **not** sponsor other participants.
- Minimum hunting age: **12 years old** and all hunters under 18 years old must have an accompanying adult.
- All hunters must have a California Hunting License and appropriate stamps and tags.
- Conservation Law Enforcement Officers (Game Wardens) will enforce these rules through systematic checks and random inspections.
- Violations will result in a suspension or permanent cancellation of the base hunting privilege in addition to any relevant state or federal citations.
- Hunters must submit to Game Warden compliance checks.
- Hunting Area access is controlled by the procedures utilized in iSportsman

NOTE:

- **Disabled American Veteran (DAV)** permit holders, regardless of disability rating, are **not** authorized to hunt on Camp Pendleton.

Reservations.

- Archery Deer and Waterfowl lottery winners may reserve an area one day in advance.
- Archery deer or waterfowl hunters that did not enter or did not win the lottery may still hunt by checking into an unreserved area at **0445** and again at **0530** on the day of the hunt.
- **Deer Archery and Waterfowl lottery entry period is Sunday through Wednesday** for the following 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.
- **No lottery and reservation process for small game. First come first served check-ins only.**



Check-in and Check-out Procedures.

- All hunters must check in and out utilizing iSportsman. Hunters may change areas through iSportsman based on availability.
- Hunters should use the most direct route to/from the paved road and their hunting area. When a hunter recognizes the inability to meet the required check out time, they should contact the Game Warden office as soon as the delay is recognized in order to avoid a suspension.
- **Hunters must check out when they leave the hunting area.**
- **0445-0529:** Hunter's check in (unreserved areas can be claimed at this time)
- **0530:** Unused reservations become available to other hunters
- Hunters must be checked out of hunting areas or have contacted the Game Warden no later than 1 hour after legal shooting hours end.

Area Availability.

- Game Warden personnel reserve hunting areas through Range Scheduling. The hunting areas are posted on the iSportsman website on Thursdays.
- Camp Pendleton hunting occurs on **weekends and holiday weekends** in areas not used by military training.
- Fires and road conditions can limit hunting opportunities.
- Please note Military training takes priority over hunting.

Area Boundaries.

- The hunter is responsible for knowing the boundaries of and remaining in their chosen hunting area. Maps are available on the iSportsman home page, through the Avenza app, or with an OnX subscription. There is a layer in OnX for Camp Pendleton Hunt areas. (Please refer to Maps in iSportsman for details).

Violations/Suspensions/Seizures.

- A violation of a federal, state, base or Game Warden regulation may result in a temporary or permanent loss of base hunting privileges. Game Warden personnel may seize any equipment, game, and permits that relate to specific violations as part of their official duties.



Scouting.

- Hunters may check out to scout an area and will follow the same procedures as hunting.
- Hunters shall not enter, access, or remain in any training area that is not officially open to hunting. Entry into closed training areas is strictly **prohibited** due to the potential for active or emergency military training operations.

Hunter Helpers.

- Guests will be added to the hunter's check-in on iSportsman. Guests are a non-hunting individual from the list of authorized personnel listed in these regulations. The guest must accompany the hunter without handling a firearm. The guest must always be no more than 20 yards from the hunter and cannot flush nor push game for the hunter. The guest may help carry or drag game from the field.

Displaying of Vehicle Pass.

- Each hunter checked into an area **must** place their permit on the **dashboard** of the vehicle used to get to the hunting area. The permit printed from iSportsman is to be utilized as a parking pass.

Weapons

- **Deer:**
 - Rifle minimum caliber **.223**
 - Centerfire pistol or revolver, shotgun slug, muzzleloader minimum of **.40 caliber**
 - Crossbow with minimum draw weight of **125 lbs.** or Archery Equipment with minimum draw weight of **30 lbs.**
- **Coyote:**
 - **.17** caliber or greater center fire rifle, pistol, muzzle loader, shotgun, crossbow or archery equipment.
- **Rabbit/squirrel:**
 - **.17** caliber or greater rifles or air rifles powered by compressed air or gas, pistols, archery equipment, or crossbows.
- **Shotguns** must have a **plug** which prohibits more than 2 shotshells in the magazine tube.



- All weapons must meet California DFW and DOJ standards. Use of archery equipment for deer, requires completion of the archery proficiency test normally scheduled August. (see iSportsman for scheduled test dates).
- Use of black powder rifles and type of propellant determined by the Fire Danger Rating.

Note:

- In order to use a crossbow in archery season, the hunter must possess a **Disabled Archer Permit** issued by the **State of California and may hunt in rifle areas only**.
- Hunters are allowed to use crossbow during **rifle season in rifle areas**.

Ammunition

- All ammo must be lead free.

Equipment

- No drones are allowed.
- No baiting (food, salt, or other attractants).
- Coyote hunters may use electronic calls.
- Coyote, Dove and Waterfowl hunters may use decoys.
- Waterfowl hunters may use mechanical decoys after 30 November.

Weapons Restricted Areas (*Shotgun/Archery Only*)

- J, L, M, N, SMR-1, SMR-2, T and parts of O-1 and O-2.
 - *See PDF hunting maps for details*

Vehicles/Roads/Travel

- Only registered and insured pickup trucks, SUVs, Jeeps and Crossovers with 4x4 capability are authorized in the hunting areas. **NO SEDANS!**
- Only drive on maintained roads.
 - **Maintained roads are paved, graveled, or graded.**
- No use of ATVs, motorcycles, bicycles, e-bikes, or horses.
- Park within your hunting area without crushing vegetation or blocking the road.
- Emergency vehicles must be able to pass your vehicle.
- Park over bare ground at road intersections, the bottom of firebreaks, or wide spots in the road.



Do Not Shoot From Or Across Maintained Roads!

Impact Areas

- Never enter the Zulu, Quebec or Whiskey impact areas. Non-Dud producing impact areas may be available to hunters through iSportsman when approved by Range Control.

Dogs Use:

- Hunting Dogs must always be under the control of the hunter.
- Dogs may be used to pursue rabbits and Quail.
- Dogs may be used to retrieve Dove and waterfowl.

Dog Training restrictions

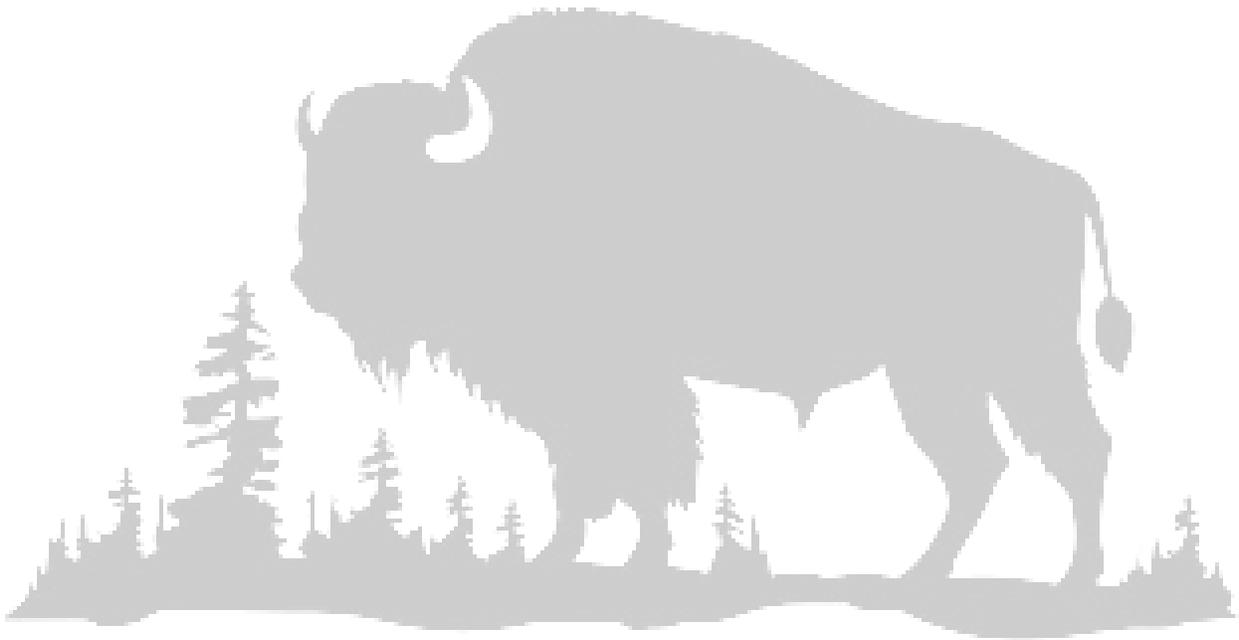
- Trainer must wear hunter orange.
- No dog training between **1 February and 30 June**.
- Do not release live birds to train dogs.
- No live ammo may be used to train dogs.
- If blanks or starter pistol is to be used for training, contact the Game Warden for approval.
- Upland dog training may be conducted in any hunting area made available in iSportsman.
- Please contact Game Warden for use of lake or pond for retriever training.

Safety.

- Hunters and guests must wear either a hunter orange hat, vest, shirt, or jacket, which must be clearly visible to other hunters at **360 degrees**.
- Waterfowl and archery hunters do not have to wear hunter orange while hunting in areas **designated** for waterfowl and/or archery activities.
- Archery hunters must wear hunter orange if they chose to hunt in **co-use** areas.
- Carry binoculars and **never** use a rifle scope to glass an area.
- No target practice in the hunting areas.
- Do not touch UXO, record the location and pass information to Game Warden personnel.



- NO FIRES!
- Do not park where vegetation contacts the hot underside of the vehicle.
- Do not shoot within 150 yards of a **building**.
- Always store firearms and ammunition in **separate** compartments of your vehicle while driving to and from hunting areas.



[Updated: February 2026]