



## **Camp Pendleton Waterfowl Hunting Rules**

*These rules are in addition to the General Hunting Rules and offer **Waterfowl** specific information.*

*These rules augment and do not replace relevant California Fish and Game Code.*

### **Waterfowl Hunt License Requirements.**

- **2026–2027 Hunting License**

- All hunters are required to possess a valid California Hunting License. California Hunting Licenses are valid from 1 July through 30 June each year. The hunting license must be in the hunter's immediate possession while hunting, either physical or digital on the CDFW app.

- **California Duck Validation (Stamp)**

- Any person, except a person hunting under the authority of a Junior Hunting License, who takes ducks, geese, or brant is required to possess a valid California Duck Validation.

- **Federal Duck Stamp**

- Any hunter 16 years of age or older is required to possess a valid Federal Duck Stamp to take ducks, geese, or brant. The physical version of the Federal Duck Stamp must be signed across the face to be valid and may be affixed to the back of the hunter's California Hunting License, carried separately, or have access to the digital version.

- **Harvest Information Program (HIP)**

- Any person who hunts migratory game birds during the 2026–2027 season, including ducks, geese, coots, dove, band-tailed pigeon, snipe, gallinules, or black brant, is required to complete the Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey.
- Hunters must request HIP validation through a CDFW license sales office, license agent, or online. There is no charge for the HIP validation.
- Hunters may be cited for hunting migratory game birds without a valid HIP validation in their immediate possession.



## **To Enter the Lottery for Waterfowl**

- Hunters will enter the lottery using “Acquire Permit(s)” on iSportsman from **Sunday** through **Wednesday** prior to the following weekend’s hunt.
- Remember to **add to cart**, then **Confirm Checkout** to fully enter the lottery.
- You will **receive** an email stating you have entered the lottery.
- To improve the odds of being drawn for the lottery, hunters should apply as individuals.
- 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.

## **Reservations**

- Waterfowl lottery winners may reserve an area at **0535, one day in advance**.
- 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.

## **Shooting Hours**

- Waterfowl may be taken only during authorized shooting hours. Legal shooting hours for waterfowl is **Thirty (30)** minutes before **sunrise** until **sunset**.
- Shooting outside of legal shooting hours is prohibited.
- Hunters are responsible for knowing and complying with daily sunrise and sunset times for the specific hunt location.

## **Decoys**

- The use of artificial decoys, including floating or stationary decoys, is **permitted** when taking waterfowl in accordance with California Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations.
- The use or possession of live birds as decoys, electronically powered decoys that produce sound, or any electronic calling or sound-producing device while taking waterfowl is **prohibited**.
- Decoys may not be used in a manner that interferes with, obstructs, or creates a safety hazard to other hunters or waterway users.
- All decoys **MUST** be removed from the field at the conclusion of each hunt. Abandoned decoys may be considered litter and subject to citation.



## Use of Dogs

- Hunting Dogs may not enter the hunting areas between **1 February and 30 June**.
- Dogs shall be trained before waterfowl season.
- Dogs may be used to assist in the hunting and retrieval of waterfowl in accordance with California Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations.
- Dogs may be used to locate and retrieve lawfully taken or wounded waterfowl.
- All dogs must be under the immediate control of the handler. Dogs may not be allowed to range freely, interfere with other hunters, or enter closed or restricted areas.
- Handlers are responsible for ensuring dogs do not trespass onto private property, enter safety zones, or create unsafe conditions.
- The use of dogs does not relieve the hunter of the responsibility to make a reasonable effort to retrieve all downed birds.

## Shotgun Shells

- Failure to remove spent shotgun shells may be considered littering and may result in citation or removal from the hunt.

## Blinds and Grids

- Waterfowl blinds are identified and assigned by grid designation through the iSportsman system.
- Hunters found occupying an incorrect blind must immediately remove themselves and relocate to their assigned blind. Any disputes, please contact the Game Wardens.
- A maximum of **three (3) hunters** may occupy a single waterfowl blind. The reservation holder plus 2 other participants.
- Failure to comply with blind and grid assignments may result in removal from the hunt by the Game Wardens.
- Waterfowl hunters are permitted to leave the blind for up to **one (1) hour** to obtain food. Blinds left unoccupied for longer than one (1) hour will be administratively checked out by the Game Wardens.

## Jump shoots

- Jump shooting is permitted in designated areas only.
- Hunters conducting jump shooting shall maintain a minimum distance of **one hundred (100) yards** from other hunters, unless they are part of the same hunting group.



- **Sponsored hunters** shall always remain within **twenty (20) yards** of their sponsor while jump shooting.

## **Parking**

- Hunters shall park vehicles in a manner that does not block roadways, trails, gates, or any designated egress or access routes.
- Vehicles **must** be parked off the roadway in a manner that allows other vehicles and emergency responders to pass safely at all times.
- Hunters shall park vehicles a safe distance away from waterfowl blinds to prevent vehicles from being struck by falling shot (*BBs*).

## **Loading and Unloading**

- Hunters are permitted to **unload gear and equipment** from their vehicles next to their assigned blind after they have checked into the area and after 0445.
- Once unloaded, vehicles **must be moved to a designated parking area** and may **not remain behind the blind or adjacent to other blinds**.
- Vehicles must be positioned at a **safe distance** from the blind to prevent damage from falling or stray shots.

## **Youth Hunt**

- During youth waterfowl hunts, **only the designated youth hunter may have possession of the shotgun** while hunting.
- Adult mentors or sponsors may assist with safety, guidance, and retrieving harvested birds, but may **not handle, load, or carry the firearm** for the youth hunter.
- All youth hunters must comply with state and federal hunting regulations, including age requirements, license, and bag limits.

## **Veteran's Hunt**

- Although designated as a Veterans Hunt, on Camp Pendleton this hunt is open exclusively to Active Duty, Retired Military, and DoW Employees who are military veterans.



## **Safety Note from the Game Wardens:**

- **Know your target and what lies beyond it.** Always be certain of your target before shooting.
- **Track harvested birds properly.** Follow blood or marking trails carefully to recover game safely and efficiently.
- **Know your personal and equipment limitations.** Understand your own skill level and the effective range and capabilities of your weapon system.



*[Updated February 2026]*