

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS  
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

**Title 40: Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks**

**Part 2: Wildlife**

**Part 2, Chapter 3: Turkey**

*RULE 3.1 WILD TURKEY SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS.*

A. Spring Season: March 15 - May 1, unless March 15 falls on a Sunday and the season shall be March 14 – May 1.

B. Non-Resident Draw Hunt

1. All non-residents must be drawn to hunt open public lands from March 15 – March 28.

2. Open public lands include National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, Corps of Engineers lands, etc., that have statewide seasons without special regulations. This includes MDWFP-operated Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) that are open with no special season or draw hunts during this time.

C. BAG LIMIT: 1 adult gobbler or 1 gobbler with a 6 inch or longer beard per day, 3 per spring season.

1. EXCEPTION: HUNTERS 15 YEARS OF AGE AND YOUNGER, may harvest 1 gobbler of choice (any age) per day, 3 per spring season.

2. An adult gobbler is defined as a gobbler with at least one of the following characteristics:

a. A tail fan that has an unbroken, rounded contour to the outer perimeter of the tail feathers;

b. Spurs at least 1/2 inch long,

c. A beard at least 6 inches long, or

d. 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> primary wing feathers with white barring extending to the outer tips of the feathers.

D. Youth Turkey Hunt

1. March 8 - 14, unless March 8 fall on a Sunday and the season shall be March 7 – 13, on private lands and authorized state and federal lands only in those areas open for turkey hunting.

2. BAG LIMIT: See Spring Season bag limit.

3. Authorized state and federal lands include Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U. S. Corps of Engineers managed lands which designate the youth turkey season in their regulations and open U. S. Forest Service National Forest lands.

4. Persons eligible to participate in this special hunt are:

a. Those who are fifteen (15) years of age or younger.

b. A child at least twelve (12) years of age and under sixteen (16) years of age must have a certificate of satisfactory completion of a hunter education course approved by the department before hunting alone in this state; otherwise they must be in the presence and under the direct supervision of a licensed or exempt hunter at least twenty-one (21) years of age when hunting.

c. A child under the age of twelve (12) must be in the presence and under the direct supervision of a licensed or exempt hunter at least twenty-one (21) years of age when the child is hunting.

d. A licensed hunter supervising a child as provided in this section must hold a valid Mississippi license for the species being hunted.

E. Fall Turkey Hunting Seasons:

1. Season Dates: October 15 - November 15

2. Open Areas: In the following counties or portion of counties, on private lands where the landowner/leaseholder completes a fall turkey hunting application and provides a copy of the property deed or lease agreement at an MDWFP regional office or the Jackson office.

a. Delta Zone:

i. Bolivar County - west of the main Mississippi River levee and those lands east of the main Mississippi River levee known as 27 Break Hunting Club.

ii. Coahoma, Desoto, Issaquena, Tunica, and Washington Counties - west of the main Mississippi River levee.

b. North-Central Zone: Benton, Lafayette, Marshall, Panola, Tippah, and Union Counties.

c. Southwestern Zone: Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Copiah, Hinds, Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison, Warren, Wilkinson, and Yazoo Counties.

3. Tags:

a. Fall either-sex turkey tags will be issued at a rate of one tag per 500 acres or part thereof. Tags are issued to a specific property and can only be used on that property.

b. Tags must be attached immediately following harvest, prior to moving the turkey. Tags should remain attached to the turkey until it is processed.

4. Bag Limit: Two turkeys of either sex.

5. Legal Weapons: Archery, crossbows, and shotguns with shot no larger than number two.

6. Harvest Reporting: The contact person listed on the fall turkey hunting application must complete and submit a harvest report provided by the MDWFP by January 1. Failure to comply may result in denial of application for fall turkey hunting in future years.

F. Whenever the opening date set above falls on a Sunday, the season shall begin on the preceding Saturday.

History: Updated July 2021.

Source: MISS. CODE ANN. §§49-1-29, 49-4-4, and 49-7-31.2.

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