

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 708.14, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 708.14. Big Game License Tag Drawing System.

. . . [No changes to subsections (a) through (i)] . . .

(j) Any applicant who was drawn for the applicant's first deer tag choice in the big game drawing (becoming a tag holder) and ~~can not~~cannot hunt for any reason may return their unfilled tag and submit a written request to retain ~~the~~their accumulated preference point total and earn one preference point for deer for that license year. ~~Applicants shall return the tag to the department's License and Revenue Branch before the season starts for which the tag is valid for the department to consider the request. If the request is granted, the applicant~~ tag holder shall retain the preference point total the ~~applicant~~ tag holder accumulated prior to the big game drawing and earn one preference point for deer for that license year. The department shall not refund the fees paid for a resident deer tag application. ~~The department may refund the difference between the fee paid for a nonresident deer tag application and a resident deer tag application for any nonresident.~~ To be eligible for preference point reinstatement, tag holders must meet one of the criteria below:

(1) Before a season starts. The tag holder must return the unfilled tag with their written request to the department's License and Revenue Branch, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090, postmarked prior to the earliest date the tag is valid for hunting. For tags that are valid for both an archery season, and a general season pursuant to sections 360 and 361 of these regulations, the written request must be postmarked prior to the opening date of the earliest season. The department may refund the difference between the fee paid for a nonresident deer tag and a resident deer tag for any nonresident.

(2) After a season starts.

(A) For the 2021 hunting license year, a tag holder whose hunt zone was inaccessible for sixty-six percent (66%) or more of a hunt season (pursuant to sections 360 and 361 of these regulations) due to a public land closure caused by wildfire may return their unfilled tag with their written request for preference point reinstatement. For tags that are valid for both an archery season and a general season, only the general season shall be considered for the calculation of the percentage of hunt season lost. The tag holder must return their unfilled tag with their written request to the department's License and Revenue Branch, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090, postmarked prior to May 1, 2022. Requests postmarked on or after May 1, 2022 shall not be considered.

(B) Commencing with the 2022 hunting license year beginning July 1, 2022, a tag holder whose hunt zone was inaccessible for sixty-six percent (66%) or more of a hunt season (pursuant to sections 360 and 361 of these regulations) due to a public

land closure caused by wildfire may return their unfilled tag with their written request for preference point reinstatement. For tags that are valid for both an archery season and a general season, only the general season shall be considered for the calculation of the percentage of hunt season lost. The tag holder must return their unfilled deer tag with their written request to the department's License and Revenue Branch, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090, postmarked on or prior to February 28 of the current license year. Requests postmarked after this date shall not be considered.

(k) Any applicant who was awarded an elk, antelope, or ~~big-horn~~ bighorn sheep tag in the big game drawing (becoming a tag holder) and ~~can not~~ cannot hunt for any reason may return their unfilled tag and submit a written request to retain ~~the~~their accumulated preference point total, earn one preference point for elk, antelope or ~~big-horn~~bighorn sheep for that license year, and seek refund of the tag fee. ~~Applicants shall return the tag to the department's License and Revenue Branch before the season starts for which the tag is valid for the department to consider the request. The applicant tag holder shall submit pay the nonrefundable processing fee specified in Section 702 with the request. If the request is granted, the applicant tag holder shall retain the preference point total the applicant tag holder accumulated prior to the big game drawing and earn one preference point for elk, antelope or ~~big-horn~~ bighorn sheep. The department may refund the tag fee. To be eligible for preference point reinstatement and/or tag refund, tag holders must meet one of the criteria below:~~

(1) Before a season starts. The tag holder must return the unfilled tag with their written request to the department's License and Revenue Branch, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090, postmarked prior to the opening date of the season for which the tag is valid.

(2) After a season starts.

(A) For the 2021 hunting license year, a tag holder whose hunt area was inaccessible for sixty-six percent (66%) or more of the hunt season (pursuant to sections 362, 363 and 364 of these regulations) due to a public land closure caused by wildfire may return their unfilled tag with their written request for preference point reinstatement and/or tag refund. The tag holder must return their unfilled deer tag with their written request to the department's License and Revenue Branch, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090, postmarked prior to May 1, 2022. Requests postmarked on or after May 1, 2022 shall not be considered.

(B) Commencing with the 2022 hunting license year beginning July 1, 2022, a tag holder whose hunt zone was inaccessible for sixty-six percent (66%) or more of the hunt season (pursuant to sections 362, 363, and 364 of these regulations) due to a public land closure caused by wildfire may return their unfilled tag with their written request for preference point reinstatement and/or tag refund. The tag holder must return their unfilled tag with their written request to the department's License and Revenue Branch, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090, postmarked on or prior to February 28

of the current license year. Requests postmarked after this date shall not be considered.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 203, 219, 265, 270, 275, 331, 332, 1050, 1572, 4302 and 10502, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 110, 200, 201, 203, 203.1, 219, 255, 265, 270, 275, 331, 332, 713, 1050, 1570, 1571, 1572, 3950, 3951, 4302, 4330, 4331, 4332, 4333, 4336, 4340, 4341, 4902, 10500 and 10502, Fish and Game Code.