

TITLE 17: CONSERVATION  
CHAPTER I: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCHAPTER b: FISH AND WILDLIFE

PART 685  
YOUTH HUNTING SEASONS

Section	
685.10	Statewide Season for White-Tailed Deer Hunting
685.20	Statewide Deer Permit Requirements
685.30	Statewide Firearm Requirements for Hunting the Youth Deer Season
685.40	Statewide Deer Hunting Rules
685.50	Reporting Harvest of Deer
685.60	Rejection of Application/Revocation of Deer Permits
685.70	Regulations at Various Department-Owned or -Managed Sites
685.80	Youth White-Tailed Deer Hunt (Repealed)
685.90	Heritage Youth Wild Turkey Hunt – Spring Season (Repealed)
685.100	Youth Pheasant Hunting (Repealed)
685.110	Youth Waterfowl Hunting
685.120	Youth Dove Hunting (Repealed)

**AUTHORITY:** Implementing and authorized by Sections 1.3, 1.4, 2.24, 2.25, 2.26 and 3.36 of the Wildlife Code [520 ILCS 5/1.3, 1.4, 2.24, 2.25, 2.26 and 3.36].

**SOURCE:** Adopted at 20 Ill. Reg. 12452, effective August 30, 1996; amended at 21 Ill. Reg. 14548, effective October 24, 1997; amended at 25 Ill. Reg. 6904, effective May 21, 2001; amended at 26 Ill. Reg. 4418, effective March 11, 2002; amended at 26 Ill. Reg. 13828, effective September 5, 2002; amended at 27 Ill. Reg. 14332, effective August 25, 2003; amended at 29 Ill. Reg. 20469, effective December 2, 2005; amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 12222, effective June 28, 2006; emergency amendment at 31 Ill. Reg. 12096, effective August 1, 2007, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 31 Ill. Reg. 14829, effective October 18, 2007; amended at 32 Ill. Reg. 10115, effective June 30, 2008; amended at 33 Ill. Reg. 11609, effective July 27, 2009; amended at 34 Ill. Reg. 4863, effective March 19, 2010; amended at 35 Ill. Reg. 13228, effective July 26, 2011; amended at 37 Ill. Reg. 19277, effective November 14, 2013; amended at 38 Ill. Reg. 22772, effective November 18, 2014; amended at 39 Ill. Reg. 10932, effective July 27, 2015; amended at 39 Ill. Reg. 14574, effective October 20, 2015; amended at 40 Ill. Reg. 10612, effective July 20, 2016.

**Section 685.10 Statewide Season for White-Tailed Deer Hunting**

- a) Season: One-half hour before sunrise on Saturday of the State designated Columbus Day Holiday weekend to ½ hour after sunset on Sunday of that weekend. Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. A hunter with an unfilled, valid Youth Deer Permit may also hunt during the first

firearm deer season (the 3-day weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) immediately before Thanksgiving), subject to the following restrictions:

- 1) Unfilled Youth Deer Permits are not valid for hunting during the first firearm deer season on public land sites that limit the number of hunters during the firearm season via the use of a site permit quota (i.e., only public sites that allow unrestricted access may be hunted);
  - 2) the hunter must use only firearms allowed in Section 685.30; and
  - 3) hunters must abide by Section 650.60 when hunting on Department-owned or -managed sites.
- b) Open Counties: All counties except Cook, DuPage and Lake Counties, and that portion of Kane County east of State Route 47.
- c) Hunting outside the set season dates is a Class B misdemeanor (see 520 ILCS 5/2.24); and hunting prior to ½ hour before sunrise or after ½ hour after sunset is a Class A misdemeanor with a minimum \$500 fine and a maximum \$5,000 fine, in addition to other statutory penalties (see 520 ILCS 5/2.33(y)).

(Source: Amended at 39 Ill. Reg. 14574, effective October 20, 2015)

### **Section 685.20 Statewide Deer Permit Requirements**

- a) All eligible youth hunters must have a current, valid "Youth Deer Hunt Permit" (\$10). The Youth Deer Season is only open to hunters who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to the opening date of the season. Hunters must have an apprentice or youth hunting license, or they must have completed a State-approved Hunter Education course and have a hunting license, unless exempt. A permit is issued for one county or special hunt area and is valid only in the county or special hunt area stated on the permit.
- b) Youth Deer Permits will be available for sale over-the counter (OTC) from agents beginning the first Tuesday in August through the last day of the Youth Deer Season. Hunters may purchase only a single permit (either-sex) for one of the included counties.
- c) For the applicant to be eligible to receive a Youth Deer Season Permit (\$10), applicant must not have had his or her deer hunting privileges suspended or revoked in this State pursuant to Section 3.36 of the Wildlife Code [520 ILCS 5/3.36].
- d) Recipients of the Youth Deer Season Hunt Permit shall record their signature on

the permit and must carry it on their person while hunting.

- e) Permits are not transferable. Refunds shall not be granted unless the Department has erroneously issued the permit.
- f) A \$3 service fee shall be charged for replacement permits issued by the Department, except when permits are lost in the mail there will be no charge. Monies derived from this source will be deposited in the Wildlife and Fish Fund.
- g) Permits issued for the Youth Deer Hunt season will not be counted in the number of gun permits a person can receive for the Firearm and Muzzleloader-Only Deer Season.
- h) Hunting without a valid permit is a Class B misdemeanor (see 520 ILCS 5/2.24).

(Source: Amended at 40 Ill. Reg. 10612, effective July 20, 2016)

### **Section 685.30 Statewide Firearm Requirements for Hunting the Youth Deer Season**

- a) Specifications of legal firearms and their respective legal ammunition for the Youth Deer Hunt are:
  - 1) Shotgun, loaded with slugs only, of not larger than 10 nor smaller than 20 gauge, not capable of firing more than 3 consecutive slugs;
  - 2) A single or double barreled muzzleloading firearm of at least .45 caliber shooting a single projectile through a barrel of at least sixteen inches in length;
  - 3) The minimum size of the firearm projectile shall be .44 caliber. A wad or sleeve is not considered a projectile or part of the projectile. Non-expanding, military-style full metal jacket bullets cannot be used to harvest white-tailed deer; only soft point or expanding bullets (including copper/copper alloy rounds designed for hunting) are legal ammunition.
- b) The standards and specifications for use of such muzzleloading firearms are as follows:
  - 1) A muzzleloading firearm is defined as a firearm that is incapable of being loaded from the breech end.
  - 2) Only black powder or a black powder substitute such as Pyrodex may be used. Modern smokeless powders (nitrocellulose-based) are an approved blackpowder substitute only in muzzleloading firearms that are

specifically designed for their use.

- 3) Percussion caps, wheellock, matchlock or flint type ignition only may be used, except the Connecticut Valley Arms (CVA) electronic ignition shall be legal to use.
  - 4) Removal of percussion cap, or removal of prime powder from frizzen pan with frizzen open and hammer all the way down, or removal of prime powder from flashpan and wheel un-wound, or removal of prime powder and match with match not lit, or removal of the battery from the CVA electronic ignition muzzleloader, shall constitute an unloaded muzzleloading firearm.
- c) It shall be a Class B misdemeanor (see 520 ILCS 5/2.24) to use or possess any type of firearm or ammunition in the field other than those specifically authorized by this rule while hunting white-tailed deer during the Youth Deer Hunting Season, but archery deer hunters in possession of a valid archery deer permit may hunt during this season provided that, in counties open to youth deer hunting, they wear the orange garments required of gun deer hunters. The otherwise lawful possession of firearms to take furbearing mammals and game mammals other than deer by persons other than youth deer hunters or their supervisors shall not be prohibited during the Youth Deer Hunting Season as set in Section 685.10.

(Source: Amended at 33 Ill. Reg. 11609, effective July 27, 2009)

#### **Section 685.40 Statewide Deer Hunting Rules**

- a) Bag limits: One deer per legally authorized permit. All either-sex permits are subject to the following restrictions: no hunter, regardless of the quantity or type of permits in his/her possession, may harvest more than 2 antlered deer during a year, including the youth, archery, muzzleloader and firearm seasons. For purposes of this Section, deer seasons are considered to be in the same year if their opening dates fall within the same 12-month period that begins on July 1.
- b) Each hunter participating in the Youth Deer Hunting Season while using an Apprentice Hunter License or a Youth Hunting License must be accompanied by a non-hunting, validly-licensed (Illinois hunting license) parent, guardian or grandparent. All other hunters participating in the Youth Deer Hunting Season must each be accompanied by a non-hunting supervisor (parent, guardian or responsible adult) who has a valid Illinois hunting license or who has in his or her possession a valid Firearm Owners Identification (FOID) Card. The non-hunting supervisor must wear the orange garments required of gun deer hunters, and must remain with the hunting youth so as to have the youth under immediate control. Youths participating in the first firearm deer season using only an unfilled Youth

Deer Permit (i.e., youths without a firearm deer season permit for that county) must be accompanied by a supervisor as described in this subsection, but, during the firearm deer season, that supervisor may also hunt so long as he/she has the appropriate licenses and permits. Each supervisor may only accompany a single youth at any given time during the hunt. The supervising adult shall be criminally liable for the actions of the youth in the hunting party, and be subject to the criminal penalties provided by law.

- c) The temporary harvest tag must be attached and properly sealed immediately upon kill and before the deer is moved, transported or field dressed. No person shall leave any deer that has been killed without properly attaching the temporary harvest tag to the deer in the manner prescribed in Section 685.50 and on the permit.
- d) Hunters shall not have in their possession, while in the field during the Youth Deer Season, any deer permit issued to another person (permits are non-transferrable). Violation is a Class B misdemeanor (see 520 ILCS 5/2.24).
- e) Permits shall not be re-issued in cases involving deer taken which are found to be diseased or spoiled due to previous injury. Disposal of unfit deer taken shall be the responsibility of the hunter.

(Source: Amended at 39 Ill. Reg. 14574, effective October 20, 2015)

### **Section 685.50 Reporting Harvest of Deer**

- a) Successful hunters must register their harvest by 10:00 p.m. on the same calendar day the deer was taken by calling the toll-free telephone check-in system at 1-866-ILCHECK or by accessing the on-line check-in system at [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov). They will be provided with a confirmation number to verify that they checked in their harvest. This number must be written by the hunter on the temporary harvest tag (leg tag). If the condition of the tag precludes writing on the tag in the appropriate space (i.e., bloody, etc.), the confirmation number shall be written elsewhere on the tag, or onto a piece of paper and attached to the deer along with the temporary harvest tag. The deer must remain whole (or field dressed) until it has been checked in. In instances where deer are checked in while the hunter is still afield, the deer may not be dismembered while afield beyond quartering the animal. If quartered, all parts of the carcass (except the entrails removed during field dressing) must be transported together and evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to one quarter. Evidence of sex is:
  - 1) For a buck: head with antlers attached to carcass or attached testicle, scrotum, or penis.

- 2) For a doe: head attached to carcass or attached udder (mammary) or vulva.
- b) The harvest tag (leg tag) and confirmation number must remain attached to the deer until it is at the legal residence of the person who legally took or possessed the deer and final processing is completed. If the head/antlers are delivered to a taxidermist for processing, the confirmation number must be recorded on the "head tag" portion of the permit and both must remain with the deer while at the taxidermist's. If the carcass is taken to a meat processor, the harvest tag (leg tag) with confirmation number must remain with the deer while it is processed and until it is at the legal residence of the person who legally took or possessed the deer. Persons delivering deer/parts of deer to a tanner for processing must supply the tanner with either their deer permit number, their confirmation number, or a written certification by the person from whom the deer was received that the specimen was legally taken or obtained.
- c) In counties where Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance is occurring during the firearm deer season (see 17 Ill. Adm. Code 650.45(a)), successful hunters using their Youth Deer Permits during the first weekend of the firearm season may, at their option, register their harvest at a designated firearm deer check station by 8:00 p.m. on the day the deer was killed. In this situation, the "head tag" portion of the permit will be retained at the check station and a permanent harvest tag will be attached to the deer upon registration. Tagging requirements for deer delivered to taxidermists, meat processors and tanners are described in 17 Ill. Adm. Code 650.45(a). Youth hunters required to report under this subsection (c), but who are unable to locate a harvested deer in sufficient time to report the harvest by 8:00 p.m., must report the harvest as described in subsection (a).
- d) Site specific reporting requirements must be followed in addition to this Section.
- e) Violation is a Class B misdemeanor (see 520 ILCS 5/2.24).

(Source: Amended at 40 Ill. Reg. 10612, effective July 20, 2016)

### **Section 685.60 Rejection of Application/Revocation of Deer Permits**

- a) In the event that the purchaser of a Youth Deer Permit is in violation of either subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2), the permit will be revoked in addition to any other penalties. The purchaser may request a hearing on this decision pursuant to 17 Ill. Adm. Code 2530.
  - 1) Providing false and/or deceptive information on the deer permit form, which is a Class A misdemeanor (see 520 ILCS 5/2.38).

- 2) Purchasing a Youth Deer Permit when the purchaser has a license or permit currently revoked pursuant to Section 3.36 of the Wildlife Code, which is a Class A misdemeanor (see 520 ILCS 5/3.36).
- b) Any violation of the Wildlife Code, in addition to other penalties, may result in revocation of hunting licenses and permits as per 17 Ill. Adm. Code 2530.

(Source: Amended at 33 Ill. Reg. 11609, effective July 27, 2009)

### **Section 685.70 Regulations at Various Department-Owned or -Managed Sites**

Sites will be opened to youth deer hunting at the discretion of the Department; open sites will be announced via public announcement. Open sites that require the use of windshield cards by hunters as specified in 17 Ill. Adm. Code 510.10 will be noted in the public announcement.

(Source: Amended at 37 Ill. Reg. 19277, effective November 14, 2013)

### **Section 685.110 Youth Waterfowl Hunting**

- a) Permit Requirements
  - 1) Permit reservations shall be accepted starting in September. Initial acceptance dates shall be publicly announced. Applicants must be between the ages of 10-15 inclusive on the date of the hunt.
  - 2) Only one permit per person shall be issued for the hunt on December 28 at Horseshoe Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area (Alexander County) and Union County State Fish and Wildlife Area and on the Sunday immediately preceding the first firearm deer season as set forth in 17 Ill. Adm. Code 650.10 at Donnelley State Wildlife Area and on the second Sunday in November of the Illinois Central Zone Waterfowl season at Spring Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area – Spring Lake Bottoms Unit.
  - 3) The permit shall be for the use of the entire blind and it shall be the responsibility of the permit holder to bring one supervising adult who may also hunt. The supervising adult shall be criminally liable for the actions of the youth in the hunting party, and be subject to the criminal penalties provided by law. Each youth and supervising adult may be accompanied by a non-hunting guide. The maximum number of people in a blind is two hunting youth, two hunting adults and a non-hunting guide.
  - 4) Permit Reservations and Transferability
    - A) All duplicate permit reservations shall be rejected and the hunter

shall forfeit his or her rights to a permit. Permits are not transferable. Previous participants are ineligible to apply for a permit.

B) For other information write to:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Youth Waterfowl Hunt  
One Natural Resources Way  
P.O. Box 19457  
Springfield IL 62794-9457

5) Permits for the Illinois Youth Waterfowl Hunt will be issued from the Springfield Permit Office.

b) General Waterfowl Hunting Regulations at the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Areas

1) Hours, Permits and Stamp Charges

A) Hunting hours at Horseshoe Lake State Conservation Area (Alexander County) and Union County are from legal opening until 12:00 Noon on the day of the Youth Waterfowl Hunt. Hunting hours at Donnelley State Wildlife Area and Spring Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area – Spring Lake Bottoms Unit are from statewide opening to 1:00 p.m. on the days of the youth waterfowl hunts.

B) At Union County State Fish and Wildlife Area and Horseshoe Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area (Alexander County), hunters with Illinois Youth Waterfowl Hunt Permit reservations are required to check in at the check station between 4:30 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. Permits are void after 5:00 a.m. A drawing shall be held on the morning of the hunt to allocate blind sites.

C) At Donnelley State Wildlife Area, the first weekend (Saturday and Sunday) and the third Saturday of the duck season for the zone the site is located in shall be designated as Youth Hunt days open to hunters 15 years old and under. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult. Blinds not allocated to youth hunters shall be available for adults. The blinds will be allocated by drawing the day of the hunt. Preference will be given to youth hunters who have not been drawn for a previous hunt at the site during the current season.

- D) At Spring Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area – Spring Lake Bottoms Unit, hunters with Illinois Youth Waterfowl Permit reservations are required to check-in at the check station no later than one hour before legal shooting time, after which time permits are void. A drawing shall be held on the morning of the hunt to allocate blind sites.
  - E) There is no fee for the Illinois Youth Waterfowl Hunting Permit.
  - 2) Hunting must be done from assigned blinds only and hunters, unless authorized, shall not move from blind to blind or leave the blind and return.
  - 3) Shotguns must be unloaded and encased at all times when not hunting.
  - 4) At Union County State Fish and Wildlife Area and Horseshoe Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area (Alexander County), each youth shall not possess more than 25 shells. Each adult shall not possess more than 5 shells for each Canada goose allowed in the daily bag. Hunters without their guns may leave the blind to retrieve crippled waterfowl.
  - 5) At Rend Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area, hunters participating in the youth hunt must sign in and out, no entry into subimpoundments before 4:30 a.m. and must be out of subimpoundments by 2:00 p.m. A drawing will be held at 4:00 a.m. each day of the youth hunt for hunters wanting to hunt the Casey Fork impoundment. Drawing will be held at the Cottonwood Access Area.
- c) **Special Hunts**  
If, by regulation published in the Federal Register, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sets any special dates for youth-only waterfowl hunting, the Department shall, by public announcement, open those Department sites that, under the circumstances prevailing at the time, the Department believes may be opened without unduly disturbing other Department programs. Open sites that require the use of windshield cards by hunters as specified in 17 Ill. Adm. Code 510.10 will be noted in the public announcement.
- d) Violations of this Section are Class B misdemeanors (see 520 ILCS 5/2.18), except that hunting prior to ½ hour before sunrise is a Class A misdemeanor with a minimum \$500 fine and a maximum \$5,000 fine in addition to other statutory penalties (see 520 ILCS 5/2.33(y)).

(Source: Amended at 39 Ill. Reg. 10932, effective July 27, 2015)