

Priority Pool System Improvements for the Resident Big Game Licence Draw

The Wildlife Division has redesigned the Priority Pool system to make it easier to understand and reduce the risk of being penalized if you do not submit an application within a specified period.

The Department of Environment and Conservation has received feedback from hunters on the big game licence draw over the last several years who have stated that the process was confusing. These new improvements are a result of the input from the hunting community.

These changes will not affect your chance of receiving a licence in the big game licence draw.

The improvements include:

- A new priority pool numbering system that more clearly reflects your pool status (see table below).
- A hunter can now maintain his/her current priority pool status for up to three years without having to submit an application.
- When a hunter reapplies for the draw within three years, their status will advance to the next priority pool without delay based on the priority pool of their last application.

The following rules have not changed:

- An application must be submitted each year by the deadlines noted in the Hunting and Trapping Guide in order to qualify for a licence in the big game draw or to advance by one priority pool.
- When a hunter reaches Pool 1 they will remain there until successful in receiving a licence.
- If a hunter does not submit an application for three consecutive years, the file will be identified as inactive and their priority will be reset to Pool 8. Files can only be reactivated by contacting the Wildlife Division directly.

Overall, these changes will greatly benefit big game licence draw applicants. Under the ‘old’ system, a hunter’s priority pool ranking would have been affected by not submitting an application before the deadline date in any given year. The impact of this penalty was felt over the next three years and caused considerable dissatisfaction in most hunters. Under the ‘new’ system, however, an applicant’s priority pool status will not be negatively affected unless they fail to submit an application for three consecutive years.

New Pool Numbering System

The new system numbers the priority pools 1 through 9, where each number corresponds to a priority pool in the old system as shown in the table below. An additional pool has been added to accommodate the increased wait times that have been experienced in areas where there is far greater interest in receiving a licence, and where some hunters have been in Pool 1 for up to five years without receiving a licence. The following chart shows how the old pool names align to the new pool names for individuals who submit an application each year.

Old Priority Pool	New Priority Pool	Placement Criteria
-	Pool 1	(Priority Update or Unsuccessful in previous seven years)
Pool 1 (4 th year)	Pool 2	(Priority Update or Unsuccessful in previous six years)
Pool 1 (3 rd year)	Pool 3	(Priority Update or Unsuccessful in previous five years)
Pool 1 (2 nd year)	Pool 4	(Priority Update or Unsuccessful in previous four years)
Pool 1 (1 st year)	Pool 5	(Priority Update or Unsuccessful in previous three years)
Pool 2	Pool 6	(Priority Update or Unsuccessful in previous two years)
Pool 3	Pool 7	(Priority Update or Unsuccessful in previous year)
Pool 4	Pool 8	(Successful Party in previous year and New Applicants)
Pool 5	Pool 9	(Successful Individuals in the previous year)

A series of computerized tests have been conducted to ensure these changes will not affect your chance of receiving a licence in the big game licence draw.

To ensure that individual hunters will NOT BE NEGATIVELY AFFECTED by the renaming of pools, the Wildlife Division has tested previous draw processes under both naming systems, and confirmed that results are consistent across both draws. An individual's likelihood of being successful under either naming structure is exactly the same. To illustrate this point, the following data has been extracted from the Licence Draw Analysis for 2009 to show the lowest successful pool under the old and new naming structures. A complete copy of this table is included in the 2010-11 Hunting and Trapping Guide (I – Individual Application; P – Party Application).

Moose Management Area	Applicants Naming Area	Lowest Pool an Either-Sex Licence was Awarded		Lowest Pool a Male-Only Licence was Awarded		2009 Resident Licence Quota
		OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	
St. Anthony (01)	3442	3-I	7-I	4-I	8-I	983
Harbour Deep (03)	1256	5-I	9-I	5-I	9-I	862
Twin Lakes (15)	3784	2-P	6-P	3-I	7-I	726
Sandy Badger (16)	1616	1-I	5-I	2-I	6-I	135
Grey River West (19)	775	3-P	7-P	4-P	8-P	293
Round Pond (20)	703	2-I	6-I	3-P	7-P	105
Bonavista North (23)	3253	1-I	5-I	3-P	7-P	576
St. John's (35)	3294	1-I	5-I	2-I	6-I	475
Southern Shore (36)	4533	2-P	6-P	3-I	7-I	1100
Cloud River (39)	823	5-I	9-I	5-I	9-I	404
Cloud River (39A)	138	5-I	9-I	-	-	87
Bellevue (44)	1253	1-I	5-I	2-I	6-I	200
Ten Mile Brook (45)	4417	3-I	7-I	5-I	9-I	1520

This change benefits you. The old naming of pools was confusing due to the fact that Pool 1 was further subdivided using 'Class A, B or C'. The new naming structure more clearly defines the pools and creates far less confusion.

The addition of a new pool for hunters that have been in the old Pool 1 for four years or longer further differentiates between who has been waiting the longest. The Wildlife Division recognizes that as interest increases in a particular area, wait times for success in the draw will also increase. The extra pool has been added to further define a hunter's priority in the draw system.

All other hunters not in the previous Pool 1 will see no difference in their pool status, other than the fact that its name has changed. **Your likelihood of being successful in the draw will remain the same.**

Please see the complete results of the 2009-10 Resident Big Game Licence Draw Analysis (Old vs. New System) in the 2010-11 Hunting and Trapping Guide for further information.

If you have any additional questions please contact the Wildlife Division at one of the following numbers:

Corner Brook	(709) 637-2162
	(709) 637-2025
	(709) 637-2010
St. John's	(709) 729-2630
	(709) 729-5384
Happy Valley-Goose Bay	(709) 896-5107

Frequently Asked Questions

Why have changes been made to the Priority Pool System?

The Wildlife Division has redesigned the Priority Pool system to make it easier to understand and reduce the risk of being penalized if you do not submit an application within a specified period. In addition, the Department of Environment and Conservation has received feedback from hunters on the big game licence draw who have stated that the process was confusing. These new improvements are a result of the input from the hunting community.

What are some of the improvements that have been made?

The new priority pool numbering system will more clearly reflect your pool status. In addition, a hunter can now maintain his/her current priority pool status for up to three years without having to submit an application. Also, when a hunter reapplies for the draw within three years, their status will advance to the next priority pool without delay based on the priority pool of their last application.

Are there any similarities to the old Priority Pool System?

Similar to previous years, an application must be submitted each year by the deadline noted in the annual Hunting and Trapping Guide in order to qualify for a licence in the big game draw or to advance by one priority pool. When a hunter reaches Pool 1 they will remain there until successful in receiving a licence, however if a hunter does not submit an application for three consecutive years, the file will be identified as inactive and their priority will be reset to Pool 8. Files can only be reactivated by contacting the Wildlife Division directly.

How will these changes affect my chances of receiving a licence in the big game licence draw?

Your chances of receiving a licence remain exactly the same. Only the pool names have changed. A series of computerized tests have been conducted to ensure these changes will not negatively affect your chance of receiving a licence in the big game licence draw. Details of these computerized tests can be found in the 2010-11 Hunting and Trapping Guide in the section entitled *Resident Big Game Licence Draw Analysis (Old vs. New System)*.

How does the new Priority Pool System work?

The new system numbers the priority pools 1 through 9, where each number corresponds to a priority pool in the old system as shown in the table below. An additional pool has been added to accommodate the increased wait times that have been experienced in areas where there is far greater interest in receiving a licence, and where some hunters have been in Pool 1 for up to five years without receiving a licence. The following chart shows how the old pool names align to the new pool names for individuals who submit an application each year.

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Where can I go to find more information?

You can visit the online version of the 2010-11 Hunting and Trapping Guide or you can call us at Corner Brook (637-2162, 637-2025 or 637-2010), St. John's (729-2630 or 729-5384) or Happy Valley-Goose Bay (896-5107).