#### 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: Wild Turkey

# RULE 3.4. MANDATORY TAGGING AND HARVEST REPORTING FOR WILD TURKEYS

A. The MDWFP harvest reporting system shall be known as "Game Check" to maintain uniform terminology across states.

B. When hunting spring turkey, all hunters, regardless of license exemption status, shall obtain a valid turkey harvest tag issued by the MDWFP. This requirement will be enacted during the 2026 spring turkey hunting season.

1. Only harvest tags issued by the MDWFP shall be valid. The harvest tag may take a physical or electronic form.

2. Before moving a turkey from the point of harvest, hunters must invalidate the turkey harvest tag via a methodology approved by the MDWFP.

3. Hunters utilizing physical harvest tags must attach the invalidated tag to the bird's leg before moving the carcass from the location of harvest; these must remain attached until the bird is processed.

C. All hunters, regardless of license exemption status, must report their harvest to the MDWFP by 10:00 PM on the day of harvest. Reporting may occur via the MDWFP smartphone application, MDWFP web portal, or by telephone.

D. A violation of this rule may be a Class III violation, punishable as provided in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-101, and upon conviction, further subject to the administrative penalties provided in MISS. CODE ANN. §49-7-26(4).

History: Revised May 2024.

Source: MISS. CODE ANN. §§49-1-29, 49-4-4, and 49-7-26.

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B. When hunting spring turkey, all hunters, regardless of license exemption status, are required to carry, on his or her person, shall obtain a valid turkey harvest tag issued by the MDWFP. This requirement will be enacted during the 2025 2026 spring turkey hunting season.

1. <u>Only harvest tags issued by the MDWFP shall be valid. The harvest tag</u> may take a physical or electronic form.

2. Before moving a turkey from the point of harvest, hunters must invalidate the turkey harvest tag by notching, punching, cutting, or otherwise physically altering the tag todenote the date of harvest in the appropriate fields via a methodology approved by the MDWFP.

3. <u>Hunters utilizing physical harvest tags must attach the invalidated tag to the</u> <u>bird's leg before moving the carcass from the location of harvest; these must remain attached until</u> <u>the bird is processed</u>. <u>Before moving a turkey from the point of harvest, hunters must physically</u> <u>attach the turkey harvest tag to the bird's leg. Harvest tags must remain attached to the carcass</u> <u>until the bird is processed</u>.

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