

## **Awarding Preference Points to Unsuccessful Tundra Swan Applicants: How the Tundra Swan Preference Point System Works**

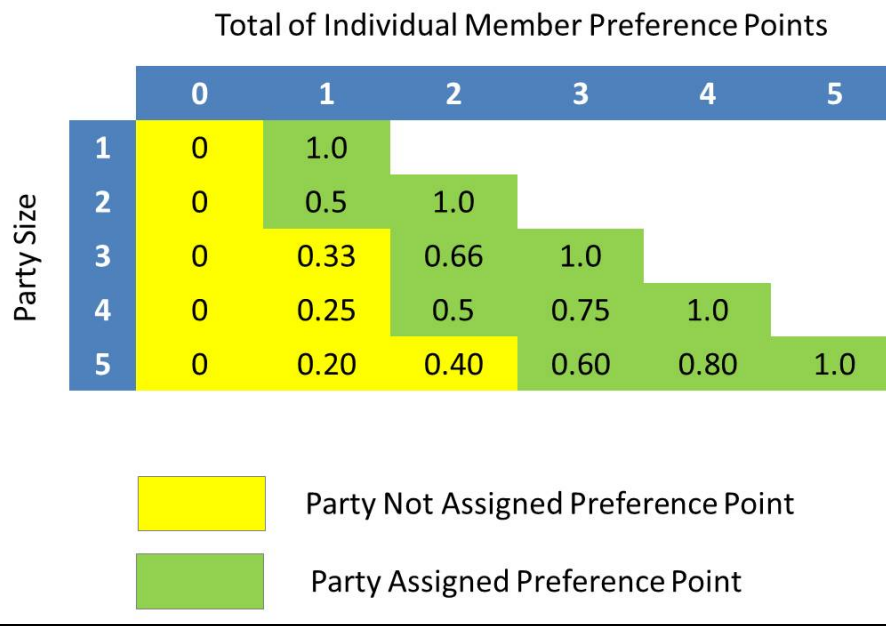
The preference point system for the Tundra Swan Permit Program gives applicants who are not awarded a swan permit an increased chance of drawing a permit the following year. Eligible applicants not awarded a tundra swan permit the prior hunting season will be awarded a preference point, which can be utilized the next time they apply for a swan permit.

### **Applicant Eligibility to Receive a Tundra Swan Preference Point**

- All applicants for tundra swan permits apply as a “party” and are assigned a Party-ID number at the time of application. The Wildlife Resources Commission allows applicants to apply for a tundra swan permit individually (i.e. a party consisting of 1 individual applicant), or as a multi-person party consisting of no more than 5 individual applicants.
- Each member of a party (1-5 individual applicants) must meet all eligibility requirements prior to the drawing or the party (and each of its members) is disqualified during the draw process.
- To meet all the eligibility requirements individual party members 1) must hold a valid NC hunting license and NC waterfowl privilege license at the time of the drawing, 2) must have returned the tundra swan harvest survey by the April 1 deadline (if they received a tundra swan permit the previous year), and 3) must not have submitted a duplicate application.
- Youth hunters <16 years of age who are not licensed must apply as a party with a properly licensed adult AND the adult party member(s) must have met the eligibility requirements as referenced above. To meet the eligibility requirements, youth hunters are also required to have returned the tundra swan harvest survey by the April 1 deadline if they received a tundra swan permit the previous year.
- If all party members meet the eligibility requirements, but the party is unsuccessful in the drawing, each member of the party (including youth hunters) will be awarded a preference point. Parties who are disqualified during the draw process will not be awarded a preference point.

**Assignment of Tundra Swan Preference Points to Parties**

- To determine how many preference points an eligible party has in the drawing, individual party members have their preference points averaged. A party can consist of 1 individual applicant or multiple applicants up to 5 individuals.
- When calculating a party’s preference point average, the total number of individual member preference points is divided by the party size, and then rounded up to the nearest whole number from .50 (e.g.  $\geq 0.50$  to 1).
- Eligible parties will be assigned a preference point if the average of all the individual member preference points is  $\geq 1$ .
- The matrix below illustrates the assignment of preference points during the 2020-21 draw process, after averaging, based on total individual member preference points and party size.



- A party would need the following number of points, after averaging, to be assigned a preference point:
  - Minimum of 1 point in a party of 1
  - Minimum of 1 points in a party of 2
  - Minimum of 2 points in a party of 3
  - Minimum of 2 points in a party of 4
  - Minimum of 3 points in a party of 5

## **Drawing Parties Under the Tundra Swan Preference Point System**

### Step 1

- Fifty percent (50%) of the available tundra swan permits will be awarded first, to those parties who have a preference point. In this initial drawing, parties with preference points are drawn until all those parties are awarded a permit.
  - If the allotted 50% of the permits are not exhausted after all parties with preference points are awarded a permit, the remaining permits are then made available for the second drawing.
  - If the allotted 50 % of the permits are exhausted before all parties with preference points are awarded a permit, the remaining parties would become part of the second drawing's pool of applicants.

### Step 2

- The remaining tundra swan permits, plus any permits leftover from the initial drawing described in Step 1, will be utilized in a second drawing.
- The second drawing pool of applicants includes all parties currently not assigned a preference point, and any parties from the initial drawing (Step 1) not awarded a permit.
- In the second drawing, parties are drawn at random without respect to preference points until all the remaining permits are exhausted.

## **After the Drawing - Adjusting Individual Applicant's Tundra Swan Preference Points**

- Individual applicants with a preference point(s) who were awarded a tundra swan permit will have their preference point status reset to "0".
- Individual applicants not awarded a tundra swan permit will be assigned one preference point.
- Preference points are cumulative, and are maintained with an individual applicant's WRC Customer Number.
- As individual applicant's (i.e. member's) preference points can accumulate, those parties with higher numbers of preference points, after averaging, will be given preference in the initial drawing (Step 1) over parties with lower numbers of preference points.