



2026 Wyoming Game Call Contest Rules and Regulations – Elk Divisions

Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 1PM

INTRODUCTION

The regulations contained herein set forth the rules and procedures governing the 2026 Wyoming Game Call Contest in the Elk Divisions. The regulations are also an attempt to create high standards for all game call competitions.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the contest is to imitate actual elk sounds and to allow the contestants to demonstrate their ability to reproduce these sounds. Because not all elk sound exactly alike, it is expected that not all contestants will sound exactly alike. Every contestant has an equal chance to win.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CONTEST REGULATIONS

Any entrant failing to comply with any of the requirements as herein set forth shall be disqualified from the contest and will be ineligible to compete.

CONTESTANT CONDUCT

All contestants must adhere to the rules and regulations of the contest. Any contestants who harass the announcer, calling officials, scorekeepers, or other contestants will be disqualified immediately. This includes any family member even if they are not competing.

DIVISIONS

There are three divisions:

1. Pee-Wee (Age 10 and under)
2. Youth (Age 11-17)
3. Adult (Age 18 and older)

Contest officials reserve the right to reclassify contestants for the appropriate division.

DIVISION REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of three contestants is required for each division. If fewer than three contestants register, that division will be eliminated, and the contestants will have the option to upgrade to a higher division.

COMPETITION FORMAT

Each division competition will be conducted in one round. There will not be a bracket or any similar format. Contestants will draw a number prior to the beginning of their division. Contestants will then report their number to the scorekeeper before the contest begins. Following the completion of every contestant in the division, scorecards will be submitted by the judges and tallied by contest officials. The winners of each division will be announced at the end of the competition and prizes will be issued accordingly.

REGISTRATION

All contestants are required to complete a registration form, online or in person. Registration will be accepted until 12PM on Saturday, March 7th, 2026. Contestants are encouraged to pre-register online. There is no registration fee. The competition is open to any qualifying persons. Contestants are required to check-in at 12:30PM.

CALLING DEVICES/PROPS

Only vocal calling or sounds produced by handheld or breath-operated instruments may be used. Contestants can only produce sounds specified by the announcer. Electronic devices and the use of props such as trees, antlers, breaking branches, and other devices are prohibited. Contestants are prohibited from operating instruments by stepping on them or squeezing them between their knees or under their arms. Calls, grunt tubes, or any other instruments used can be a maximum of six inches in diameter and no more than three feet long. Calls in question will be measured by the contest officials. Contestants must be able to carry their calls to the calling area on their person. Duffle bags and backpacks are not allowed. A table will be provided for the contestants to put their devices on while they are calling.

CALLS

For the Adult and Youth divisions, contestants will be allowed a maximum of 90 seconds (30 seconds for cow/calf sounds, 30 seconds for bull sounds, and 30 seconds for freelance). Callers must produce sounds specified by the announcer within 15 seconds from the time the announcer asks. When the caller makes their first sound, an official of the contest will start a time clock. The contestant will be able to see the clock at all times when calling. A buzzer will go off at the end of the time limit.

CONTEST OFFICIALS

Contest officials will be announced prior to the start of the competition. The officials have the right to inspect and approve all calling devices used by the contestants. The officials have the right to allow or prohibit any calling devices from being used. The decision of the contest officials is final.

LOCATION OF JUDGES

Judges will score each call from behind a screen that completely prevents them from seeing or identifying the contestants. This screen will be near the calling site.

JUDGES

Knowledgeable judges will be scoring the competition. No person shall serve as a judge if they are related to any contestant. There will be a minimum of three judges and a maximum of five judges. Judges will not be allowed to re-score any contestant once their scorecard has been submitted.

SCORING

Judges will evaluate each series of calls from one (1) through twenty (20), one (1) being the lowest, and twenty (20) being the highest, for a total possible score of sixty (60) points per contestant, per judge for an overall total score of 180. The series of calls will be in these 3 categories: Cow/Calf calls, Bull Sounds and Freestyle. (Free Style is a combination of Cow/calf/ Bull Sounds. Herd Sounds). Each category will receive a score 1-20 for a total possible 60 points. Scoring is based on replicating elk vocalization.

Scoring is based on replicating elk vocalization. Trying to Realistically Replicate elk in the wild. Bugling, Lip Bawl, Cow/calf mews, alarm bark, grunting, chuckling... Any sound an elk makes. Contestants may request their scorecards, if desired, after the completion of the contest.

TIES

All ties determining award places will be broken by a call-off. Those contestants with equal total scores will be called back on stage and asked to deliver the same calls as in the preceding round. The contestant with the highest point total will be declared the winner of that place. Scores obtained in call-offs are used solely to break ties. Call-off scores are not figured in determining the total score.

WINNERS

The caller with the highest point total in each division will be declared the winner. The person with the second highest point total will be declared the second-place winner. The person with the third highest point total will be declared the third-place winner.

PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded as announced prior to the contest. Prize delegation is at the discretion of contest officials.