



Special Falconry Licence Guidelines

The purpose of these Guidelines is to provide interpretation of regulation 4(3) of the Conservation of Wild Birds (Falconry) Regulations (SL 549.106) with regards to the issuance of special falconry licences.

Applicable Law

Regulation 4 (3) of the Conservation of Wild Birds (Falconry) Regulations, states:

“(3) In addition to the licence stipulated in sub-regulation (1), the Wild Birds Regulation Unit may also issue a special falconry activity licence, which may only be issued for a definite period and in conjunction with a special activity:

Provided that such licence may only be granted to persons who are already in possession of the licence mentioned in sub-regulation (1) and exclusively for the purpose of holding any falconry activity that may derogate from the provisions of regulations 5 and 6.”

Whilst the above provision makes it possible for the Regulator to authorise exemptions from the general restrictions concerning time, place and nature of falconry-related activities in specific circumstances, this provision is not intended to grant a general dispensation from these restrictions, but rather, a limited derogation that is subject to specific conditions and justification. The specific parameters for the issuance of special licences are further explained below.

Parameters to consider in the application for special licence

1. Special licences can only be granted to persons holding a general falconry licence.
2. Special Falconry Licences may be granted for specific activities and events such as exhibitions, demonstrations, training events, fairs etc. Applicants for special licence must always identify the scope of the specific activities for which they seek a special licence. This scope cannot be defined in general terms such as “to practice falconry”, but must be specific, such as “to hold a falconry fair where falcons shall be displayed to the public, but not flown” or “to hold a falconry training activity which will consist of display, flying of falcons and pursuit of quarry species”. A description of the scope must therefore be specific and not generic.
3. Applicants must always define the specific dates or period during which the activity will be held. Special licences cannot be granted for ongoing, routine activities taking place in a long term manner. In case a period of time is stipulated in lieu of specific dates, this should generally not exceed one calendar week. In case the request exceeds a one week period, it should be



*Taqsimta tar-Regolamentazzjoni
ghall-Ghasafar Selvaggi*

Wild Birds Regulation Unit

accompanied by a justification. Special licences would generally not be issued for long-term, ongoing activities of several months or years in duration.

4. Applicants should also define the area in which the special activity will be taking place. An A4 site plan, clearly outlining in red the site boundary where the special falconry activity will be held, should be submitted with the application.
5. Whilst a single application for a special licence can be submitted for multiple falconers (licensed persons), in case a licence request involves a group application from more than 3 falconers, this must be accompanied by an explanation of whether the persons concerned will participate in the proposed activity as a group at the same time, or whether different falconers will practice their activity at different times.
6. Depending on the nature of the permitted activity, the Regulator may request that the licence applicant/s would be required to submit a post-activity report within 10 working days from the expiry date of the Special Falconry Licence. This report should include:
 - i. A description of the activity practiced
 - ii. The names of participants taking part in the activity
 - iii. The specific areas used each day
 - iv. Species and amount of quarry that may have been caught (if pursuit of quarry species was authorised as part of the special licence, and other relevant details).
7. The Regulator reserves the right to consider other factors as stipulated in the Conservation of Wild Birds (Falconry) Regulation S.L. 549.106, as well as other parameters and conditions it may deem relevant in any specific case, such as for instance risk of disturbance to breeding birds, or other factors.