

JERSEY GAMBLING COMMISSION

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FAQ – What are the rules for a raffle/lottery?

What is the difference between a raffle and a lottery?

A raffle is a lottery and subject to the rules governing gambling.

This is a common question, but these two words describe the same activity:

- there is a prize,
- there is a monetary charge for a ticket,
- there is a draw: the element of chance deciding a winner.

Raffle is often used instead of lottery, perhaps because it sounds softer and less formal. Entry into a raffle is usually by cloakroom tickets and the sale and draw typically happen on same day or as part of an evening event. A lottery ticket is the term commonly used when selling tickets in advance for a draw taking place at a future event and it has full details of this event printed on the actual ticket.

What details do we need to print on lottery tickets?

A *lottery* ticket should contain everything a person needs to know about the promotion they entered. A promoter should make sure that the following information appears on the ticket:

- the name of the club/charity/society;
- the name and address of the promoter;
- the time¹ and date;
- the place or event where the draw takes place;
- the prize or range of prizes;
- the price of the ticket;
- a unique number identifying the ticket from other tickets;
- the number of the permit or registration (this is only a recommendation for Registrations, but it is good practice. Naturally, this cannot apply to Exempt lotteries);
- the return date for tickets.

What are the guidelines if we use cloakroom or raffle tickets for same day events?

It is important that anyone running a raffle should only use cloakroom tickets when the draw takes place on the same day as the event where the tickets are sold.

¹ It is only reasonable that a person who purchased a ticket is able to witness the draw should they wish to do so. It is accepted that it is not always possible to specify an exact time that the draw will be held. However the ticket should give an indication of when the draw will take place for example 'The draw will take place on the evening of the Society's Annual Christmas Dinner' etc.

What price can we charge for tickets?

A ticket is also known as a 'lot' or a 'chance' and each ticket must sell for the same price so that there is equal chance gambling. There is no restriction on the price of a ticket. This rule applies equally to both raffle and lottery tickets. Raffle tickets cannot be sold cheaper if multiples are purchased. For example £1 per ticket or 6 tickets for £5.

Are there any rules about selling tickets?

The following rules apply:

- The price of every ticket or chance must be the same.
- The price of the ticket must be printed on the ticket.
- No person can enter a lottery without first buying a ticket.
- Payment for the ticket must be in full.
- No refunds in a lottery are permitted once the ticket has been purchased (unless the promotion is cancelled or the ticket is voided). Special circumstances may arise but you must contact the Commission.
- No ticket may be sent through the post to a person who is not a member of the society. This is a basic security measure.
- No ticket may be sent unsolicited to any person.
- Advertising the sale of tickets to members of the public should only be within Jersey

Who can buy tickets? Are there any restrictions?

Tickets should not be sold to persons under the age of 18 years.

Children should not be used as agents for the sale of tickets. A society, club or charity should not ask children to take tickets home to sell to parents, friends of parents or neighbours. It is the responsibility of the promoters to sell tickets to adults and in no way involve minors in the promotion of gambling.

What are the rules for prizes?

A prize offered must be a prize honoured. In other words, you must be able to guarantee that you will be able to pay the winners. If for example you are selling tickets to win £20,000 then you need to prove that you can pay that amount out in prize money.

Please contact the Commission about large value prize structures.

Does a certain percentage of ticket sales have to be used as prizes?

No. Your prizes and ticket price are up to you, but they should be clear and understandable to people buying them. However, if you're in any doubt please contact us.

What about the draw?

Usually the top prize is won by the first ticket drawn. If there is any change to this usual way of drawing winners, the public must be made well aware of it when the promotion is launched.

It is important that people are given the prizes that they win.

If someone has won a prize and is not in attendance at the venue when the actual draw takes place, the prize must be put aside for that person and on no account should there be a redraw.

The promoter should ensure that the draw is conducted fairly and in front of witnesses.

What sort of records do I have to keep?

It is important to keep records showing monies received from the sale of tickets, details of who bought the tickets and proof that prizes were distributed or paid out to the winners. You are responsible and accountable to the people who pay to take part. You will also need financial records of income and expenditure, including administration expenses such as printing of tickets and purchase of prizes. The value of donated prizes should also be recorded.

The following information should be recorded;

- the whole proceeds of the gambling;
- the sums deducted from the proceeds on account of expenses;
- the sums deducted from the proceeds for prizes;
- the number of tickets or chances
 - printed (where applicable)
 - sold;
 - unsold;
- the recipient of the proceeds of the gambling;
- the amount the recipient received and ultimate purpose of these monies;
- the dates when tickets or chances in the gambling were sold.

Please keep records for one month after all prizes have been paid out. In the event that not all prizes are claimed on the draw day or day of event, they should be retained along with the records for a minimum of six months. A record of how they are then disbursed should also be retained.

For further comprehensive advice please read our Advice on Conducting Lotteries and our Charitable Gambling Policy Statement and Code of Practice.