

Raffle and Lottery Guidance

A handy guide to running your own raffle or lottery



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REGULATOR

Registered Charity Number 1160875



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Children's Hospital
Charity

Doing more for sick kids

We believe every patient deserves a childhood, which is why we always strive to do more for sick kids.

Our hospital is a leading, specialist paediatric centre, delivering some of the most advanced treatments, complex surgical procedures and cutting-edge research to over 100,000 children and young people from across the UK and beyond.

Thanks to our incredible supporters like you, we can continue to go above and beyond for every child that needs us.

Did you know?

One in five children from Birmingham and one in eight from the wider Midlands are treated at our hospital every year



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Organising a raffle

Holding a raffle at your event is a fantastic way to raise vital funds with minimal costs. However, as raffles fall under strict laws relating to all lotteries, there are some cases where a license from your local council may be required. Charity lotteries, raffles, and other forms of gambling are regulated by the Gambling Commission, under the Gambling Act (2005).

To make sure your raffle is legal and as successful as possible, please take the time to read the following information as well as guidelines from the [Gambling Commission](#). It's vital that the raffle is fair and transparent. The winning ticket must be selected in a fair way, such as with an online platform.



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On-the-day raffle

The simplest way to organise a raffle is to have one as an additional fundraising activity at an existing event. This is known as an 'incidental lottery' and does not require a license or registration with your council to run.

These raffles can be run during a fair, school fete, dress down day or charity ball. You can make your own tickets or use cloakroom style tickets.

To run an incidental lottery, you must ensure your raffle meets these requirements:

- The selling of tickets and the draw must both take place during the event. The participants must be notified when the draw will take place when purchasing tickets
- All tickets must be sold at a standardised price
- Children under 18 must not sell or buy tickets
- Deductions for any prizes purchased by the event organiser must not exceed £500, although it's best practice to have prizes donated to help you raise as much as possible.

Top tip

Start asking for prize donations early to ensure you're prepared before the event. Contact local businesses and think about what your supporters would be excited to win. Optimise your networks and think about who could help. Don't forget to send a thank you for each generous donation!



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Longer-running raffles

Small Society Lotteries

Society lotteries are lotteries promoted for the benefit of a non-commercial society i.e. for charity or to support a sporting, athletics or a cultural society activity. For these, raffle tickets can be sold in advance and the draw can be advertised to the general public.

To run a small society lottery, you must register your raffle with your local authority licensing department, incurring a fee of about £40. You can register [here](#).

Workplace Raffles

If you're holding a raffle within your workplace, it must only be promoted by those working on a single set of premises. All players must also work on the premises and proceeds must be used for charitable purposes. There must be a winner as prizes cannot be rolled over to another game.

Online Raffles

You need a small lottery license run a raffle online. This includes raffles on social media, auction or selling sites, fundraising platforms and live streaming platforms. Under the Gambling Act 2005, it's a criminal offence to run an illegal raffle and you could face prosecution.



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The rules around small society lotteries are as follows:

- Your tickets will need to include details of a person registered as the 'promoter', the ticket price and the date of the draw
- No single prize may be worth more than £25,000, even if it has been donated
- You cannot sell more than £20,000 worth of tickets in a single lottery, or £250,000 in any one year
- Every ticket must cost the same and payment must be taken before the ticket is entered into the draw
- You can sell tickets door to door, online, by telephone or face to face, but you cannot sell tickets in a street
- You must send details of your lottery to the local authority it is registered with, no later than three months after the lottery is drawn. The local authority will have a specific form to use for this.



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Online competitions

Instead of a raffle you could also organise a 'prize competition' or 'free draw'. These do not require licenses and have become increasingly popular on social media platforms. As running a raffle on social media without a license is illegal, it may be simpler to host a competition.

The rules on how to enter must be clear to all participants at the point of purchase. A free draw can only request a voluntary donation and can be used as an addition to other fundraising events and activities.

When hosting a competition on social media, you must state:

- No affiliation with Instagram/Facebook etc
- Minimum age
- Restrictions on residence e.g. UK only
- Collection of prize or covering cost of delivery
- Date and time the prize will be drawn
- Details of the selection process.

If you have any further questions about holding a lottery, raffle or auction, we'd advise you to consult the [Gambling Commission's website](#) or contact a member of the Fundraising Team







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The impact of your fundraising

It's only thanks to our community of wonderful people like you we can continue to do more for our sick kids. Your generous fundraising will make a huge difference to our hospital, helping to fund updated spaces, innovative technology, advanced treatments and cutting-edge research for our patients and their families.

Without you, this simply would not be possible.

-  **£50** could gift one child every day for a month with a distraction pack to keep them entertained in our Emergency Department
-  **£100** could help to fund research by enabling our medical teams to explore new treatments to help improve and save young lives
-  **£250** could gift each child on a chosen ward with a hand-picked present, specially selected to suit their age and interests
-  **£500** could purchase comfortable bedside chairs to enhance the experience for parents and visitors

Thank you
for your incredible support