

Q – Is a raffle or tombola a lottery?

A – Yes, if participants are 'required' to pay to enter a draw to win a prize which is awarded by chance then it's a lottery.

A lottery has three essential elements:

- Payment is required to participate
- One or more prizes are awarded
- Those prizes are awarded by chance

If your activity has all three of the above elements it classed as a lottery.

Q – Can I promote a raffle at an event?

A – Yes, this would be an Incidental Lottery and can be held at commercial events (such as exhibitions) or non-commercial events (such as school fetes) and must be promoted for charitable purposes only. All lottery tickets must be sold at the location and during the event and the results of the lottery can be drawn at the event or after it has finished. It is recommended that the organisers of the lottery make it clear to participants when the result of the lottery will be decided. There are no ticket information restrictions or minimum age for participants.

Q – Can I promote a raffle at my workplace?

A- Yes, but a Workplace Lottery can only be run (promoted) and played by colleagues who work at the same single set of premises. Tickets can only be sold to people over the age of 16.

Q – Can I sell raffle tickets in advance of my event or the draw to my friends, family and work colleagues?

A- No. This would be classed as a Society Lottery which requires a licence as tickets are being sold in advance of the draw and to the general public across a variety of locations. There are a lot of regulations attached to running a Society Lottery.

To keep things simple, please structure your raffle as an Incidental Lottery - see the raffle guidelines for exempt lotteries which do not require a licence.

Q- Can I promote a raffle in a shop and sell tickets to customers?

A – Yes you can but it's not suitable for fundraising. This would be classed as a Customer Lottery which can only be run by a business,

at its own premises and for its own customers. This type of lottery cannot make a profit and no prize can be more than £50 in value. All of the proceeds (ticket sales) must be spent on prizes and reasonable expenses.

Q – Can I sell raffle tickets to residents in my local residential home for the elderly?

A- No, you cannot promote the raffle; however a resident of that home can promote it. A Residents Lottery can only be run (promoted) and played by people who live on the same single set of premises. Tickets can only be sold to people over the age of 16.

Q – Can I ask a private members club or society to run a raffle?

A- Yes, a Private Society lottery can only be promoted by an authorised member of a society. The society can be any group or society, provided it is not established and conducted for purposes connected to gambling. For example, private members clubs can organise such lotteries. Tickets can only be sold to people over the age of 16, other members of that society and to people on the premises used for the administration of the society.

Q- Do I need specific information printed on the tickets for my raffle?

A – There are no ticket information restrictions for all the exempt lotteries. However, if you wish to print tickets for your event this is okay and we recommend you to add in details of the prizes and when the prize draw will take place.

Q - How much can I sell the tickets for?

A – You can sell tickets at any price set by you but remember if a person is 'required' to make a payment to be entered into a draw to win a prize all payments must be equal amounts.

Q – How can I change my raffle so it doesn't come under any gaming rules and regulations?

A – If you want to run a raffle outside of all the lottery regulations then simply remove the 'payment is required' element, this means the activity is no longer considered a lottery.

You can restructure your activity by clearly promoting the raffle as a free entry prize draw and participants are given the option of making a donation if they want to.

Q – I am still not sure about how to arrange my raffle and want some help and guidance.

A - Call our Fundraising team on 01789 266852 or email:
fundraising@theshakespearehospice.org.uk