

Running a small raffle

These guidelines are for raffles which are not the main event, such as part of a dinner dance, or office party.

Although raffles are great fundraising endeavours on their own, many groups and charities also run raffles as part of other events, such as shopping fairs and parties. These types of lotteries are referred to as 'incidental non-commercial lotteries'; in other words, the lottery is not the main event.

When running an incidental, non-commercial lottery, you will be exempt from many of the rules and regulations governing other types of lotteries. However, although the rules are less strict, the Gambling Act 2005 still applies.

When organising an incidental lottery, you should consider the following rules:

- All lottery tickets must be sold at the event, with all participants present.
- You cannot offer more than £250 in prizes, even if prizes have been donated.
- You cannot offer cash prizes.
- You cannot conduct a 'roll-over' lottery of any type.

By adhering to these rules, the process of running an incidental non-commercial lottery is actually made a lot simpler. You will need to print or buy ticket books, collect prizes and choose your ticket price ahead of time. Then, on the day of your event, you can move around the room and sell tickets to interested parties.

The best way to conduct a lottery as part of another fundraising activity is to leave the prize draw until the end of the event. This way, not only will you have more time to sell tickets, but people will also stay to see if they've won, giving you more time to fundraise with other activities too!

Four Steps to a Successful Lottery, Raffle or Prize Draw

Once you have decided to conduct a lottery and have reviewed the relevant legal requirements, it's one of the easier fundraising events to plan. Running a lottery requires four simple steps:

- Printing tickets or buying ticket book
- Procuring prizes
- Promoting the lottery and selling tickets
- Running the lottery

By making yourself aware of current legislation and keeping your plans organised, you are well on your way to a successful lottery, prize draw or raffle. However, if you're ever in doubt about your plans or need assistance, you should contact your local authority, the Institute of Fundraising, the Gambling Commission, or check the Gambling Act 2005.

A simple raffle
can really
boost your
fundraising

