

GUIDANCE ON GAMBLING ACT 2005 - SMALL SOCIETY LOTTERIES

What are small society lotteries?

A lottery is a sweepstake, draw or raffle run by a non-commercial society, i.e. the society must be established and conducted:

- for charitable purposes,
- for the purpose of enabling participation in, or of supporting, sport, athletics, or a cultural activity; or
- for any other non-commercial purpose other than that of private gain

General rules for small society lotteries

Societies which run small society lotteries must be registered by the local authority for the area where their principal office is located. Registrations run for an unlimited period, unless the registration is cancelled. An annual fee is required to renew the registration.

The total value of tickets to be put on sale per single lottery must be £20,000 or less, and the aggregate value of tickets to be put on sale for all lotteries in a calendar year must not exceed £250,000. No single prize may be worth more than £25,000. Prizes can be cash or non-monetary.

Every ticket in the lottery must cost the same and the fee must be paid to the society before entry into the draw is allowed. Tickets can not be sold in a street but they may be sold from a kiosk or door-to-door. Tickets may be sold by an automated process. The minimum age for participation in a lottery is 16 years old.

All tickets must state:

- the name of the society on whose behalf the lottery is being promoted
- the price of the ticket
- the address of the society
- the date of the draw, or the means by which the date will be determined

Societies must submit a statement for each lottery which shows:

- date on which tickets were available for sale
- date of draw
- value of prizes
- total proceeds of lottery
- amount deducted for prizes and costs organising lottery, which should be no more than 80% of the proceeds (donated prizes do not count as part of the 80% but should still be declared)
- amount applied directly to the purpose for which the society is conducted, which should be at least 20% of the proceeds
- if any expenses were not paid from the proceeds, the amount of expenses and the source from which they were paid

This statement must be submitted within three months of the draw taking place. It must be signed by two members of the society appointed in writing for that purpose by the society's governing body and accompanied by a copy of that appointment.

Lottery operators should maintain written records of any unsold and returned tickets for a period of one year from the date of the draw.

Further information can be obtained from the Gambling Commission's website at www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk.

If you have any queries, please contact the Licensing Section on 01344 352000 or email licence.all@bracknell-forest.gov.uk