

From time to time we have organisations raise the ethical issue of gambling and taking part in a lottery. In these instances, we offer the following guidance on the issue;

1. A lottery is a raffle; a supporter purchases a ticket, one of which is drawn at random just like picking a raffle ticket from the hat. Therefore, if the organisation holds a Christmas raffle or has a raffle at a summer fair, for example, it is exactly the same level of risk.
2. Although tightly regulated the Gambling Commission view the lottery as a low risk form of gambling, hence the license required to hold a lottery is the same as a raffle.
3. Players have to be over 16 years of age to participate. The site requires all players to register for an account before they are able to purchase tickets and play the lottery which includes age verification via a date of birth.
4. We currently run successful lotteries for a number of religious organisations for example Village Halls and schools to name a couple of categories.
5. Although not right for everyone, it is each individual's choice whether to participate or not in the lottery. If a person doesn't agree with spending their money in a lottery, it doesn't mean everyone else should be prevented from taking part and raising money for the cause in this way.
6. There are strict guidelines in place to prevent the marketing lotteries to underage or vulnerable people. This includes the imagery we can use and where we can advertise.
7. Players can stop their subscription at any time. At the bottom of the website there are links to the Gambling Aware organisation for help if anyone needs it.

8. There is no instant gratification with a lottery and all monies must be cleared before a ticket can be entered into a draw.
9. There is a vigorous vetting process and very strict guidelines in place in order to gain approval and a licence to run lotteries via the Gambling Commission. This includes measures to protect children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling.
10. Players are able to set up a self-exclusion agreement and the lottery will take reasonable steps to prevent further participation, including removing their name and details from any marketing databases.
11. Safeguards are in place to ensure that ticket purchases are not excessive. These include gatherwell monitoring this and contacting any supporter with a high-ticket yield to ensure they are fully aware of their purchase and lottery entries.

If you need any further information or have any questions on the above, please do not hesitate to get in touch.