

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 47:9001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Louisiana Lottery Corporation in *The State Times* on May 21, 1991, amended and repromulgated in *The Advocate* on January 1, 1994, repromulgated LR 26:716 (April 2000).

Chapter 7. Instant Lottery Games

General Rules

§701. Policy Statement

A. The Louisiana Lottery Corporation (the "corporation") is authorized by R.S. 47:9008.A to adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to conduct specific lottery games and operations of the corporation. Pursuant to that grant of authority, the board of directors of the corporation (the "board") has adopted these instant lottery games general rules, which are intended to provide general guidelines concerning the conduct and administration of instant lottery games.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 47:9001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Louisiana Lottery Corporation on August 8, 1991 and promulgated in the *State Times* on August 15, 1991, repromulgated LR 26:699 (April 2000).

§703. Definitions

A. As used in the game rules, game directives and working papers, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

Bar Code—the representation of ticket and validation information in bar code form on the back and/or front of each instant lottery ticket.

Board—the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Lottery Corporation.

Captions—the printed verification of each play symbol which may appear in the game play area below the play symbol.

Claim Center—a regional office or claims office of the corporation at which winners may redeem prizes.

Claim Deadline—the day after which prizes from a particular game are no longer eligible to be redeemed or claimed.

Claim Form—the printed or digital form provided by the corporation to be completed by prize winners when claiming a prize.

Corporation—the Louisiana Lottery Corporation.

Cut and Paste—the attempted forgery of an instant ticket by cutting a symbol off one ticket and pasting it on another in an attempt to make the resultant ticket look like a winner.

Defective Ticket—any ticket that was printed in error or fails to meet the distribution specifications of the corporation.

Drawing Directive—the detailed drawing instructions promulgated by the president for each drawing event.

End of Production Prize Structure—the version of the prize structure provided by the ticket printer after production, indicating the exact number of winners of each prize and any variation from the originally authorized prize structure.

Free Ticket—a lottery prize for which the winner is entitled to another ticket or tickets equivalent to the cash value of the free ticket price.

Game Directive—the game-specific guidelines that itemize the particular requirements of each game.

Game End Date—the date after which tickets are no longer authorized to be sold.

Game Number—the designation of each game for purposes of inventory control and accounting.

Game Play Area—the area on the front or back of the ticket that contains the computer-generated symbols that determine winning or non-winning tickets according to game specifications.

Game Rules—these general rules regarding all instant lottery games, prize payments, and other game parameters.

Game Start Date—the date on which tickets for a particular game are authorized to be sold.

Instant Lottery Game—the two distinct types of games, instant scratch-off game and instant terminal game, whereby a player can immediately determine whether the player has won a prize.

Instant Lottery Ticket—any ticket produced for an instant lottery game authorized by the corporation.

Instant Scratch-Off Game—a lottery game that offers pre-printed tickets that, after a coating is rubbed off, indicate immediately whether a player has won a prize.

Instant Terminal Game—a game which is played using ticket-generating terminals linked to a central computer, whereby a player can immediately determine whether the player has won a prize.

Invalid Ticket—any ticket that fails to meet all of the validation requirements of the corporation and the ticket vendor.

Omitted Pack—any pack of instant scratch-off tickets that has been removed from the game during production.

Overprint—the scratch-off coating over the play area and the information printed on its surface of instant scratch-off tickets.

Pack—a set of instant tickets, each bearing a common pack number, fan folded in strips of five tickets. Each pack will contain the tickets or some other number of tickets determined by the corporation for a particular game.

Pack/Ticket Number—the series of digits visible on the ticket that designates the number of the particular pack and

the sequential number of each ticket in a scratch-off ticket game.

Play Symbols (or Prize Symbols)—a series of alphabetic or numeric characters or symbols appearing in the game play area of an instant ticket that are utilized in each game to determine winning tickets.

Preliminary Drawing—an event in which qualified entrants are selected at random to participate in a drawing event.

President—the president of the Louisiana Lottery Corporation.

Prize Structure—the authorized itemization of prize levels and number of winners contained in the working papers or game directives of each game.

Promotional Drawing—a special event designed by the corporation to award a large top prize and subordinate prizes through a random process.

Promotional Drawing Finalist—a contestant in a drawing event.

Retailer—any person with whom the corporation has contracted to sell lottery tickets to the public.

Security Omit—a pack of instant scratch-off tickets omitted from the game for security purposes, temporarily or permanently.

Ticket Display Area—the area on the front of the ticket that is used for non-secure graphics, information and other printing.

Ticket Number—the number appearing on the ticket.

Valid Ticket—a ticket that meets all the validation requirements of the corporation and the ticket vendor.

Validation Files—the computer files provided by the ticket printer that contain the information required to determine if a ticket is the winner of any prize.

Validation Number—the number within the play area of the ticket, covered by a scratch-off coating, that may be utilized to determine whether the ticket is a winner in the computerized validation process.

Working Papers—the printing requirements provided to the ticket printer for the production of each game.

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§705. General

A. These game rules shall apply to all instant lottery games offered by the corporation upon adoption by the board. Any change in these rules must be approved by the board, and will take effect upon approval. The detailed information regarding each specific instant game will be contained in a game directive promulgated by the president.

Each game directive will include the appropriate prize amounts, the game symbols required to win each prize, and any unique play format information or claim requirements. The game directive cannot be in conflict with these game rules. Each game directive will be distributed to and posted at every corporation office and will be available for public inspection during the sales period of the particular game. The directive must be approved and signed by the president days prior to the start of the game. The president shall also promulgate drawing directives that prescribe the operational details of preliminary drawings, grand drawings, and any other special promotional drawings in which a prize of more than \$5,000 is offered.

B. Promulgation shall be similar to that prescribed for game directives. The drawing directive must be approved and signed by the president prior to the drawing event.

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HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Louisiana Lottery Corporation on August 8, 1991 and promulgated in the *State Times* on August 15, 1991, repromulgated LR 26:700 (April 2000), LR 47:368 (March 2021).

§707. Odds of Winning

A. The overall odds of winning any prize in a particular game will be contained in the game directive for that game and shall be included in the promotional materials for the game or printed on the back of the ticket. The statement of odds does not need to specify the odds of winning each particular prize. The corporation shall make every attempt to release accurate odds information for each instant lottery game.

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§709. Compliance with Law/Rules

A. Any person who purchases an instant lottery ticket agrees to comply and abide with state law, these game rules and game directives.

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HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Louisiana Lottery Corporation on August 8, 1991 and promulgated in the *State Times* on August 15, 1991, repromulgated LR 26:701 (April 2000).

§711. Names of Winners

A. The corporation shall have the right to use the names and the city or area of residence of all prize winners in instant lottery games. That information may be used by the corporation for advertising and publicity purposes. The corporation will not make public the addresses or phone numbers of instant lottery winners. Such information will be provided to authorized governmental agencies, as required by law or as deemed appropriate. Winners who grant the corporation permission to be photographed agree to allow

the use of such photographs for publicity and advertising purposes without any additional compensation.

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HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Louisiana Lottery Corporation on August 8, 1991 and promulgated in the *State Times* on August 15, 1991, repromulgated LR 26:701 (April 2000).

§713. Payment of Prizes

A. Instant lottery game prizes will be paid in accordance with game directives and retailer regulations, and upon submission of a valid winning instant ticket, payment will be made to the person submitting the ticket for payment. The owner of an instant ticket bears the sole responsibility for the risk of loss or theft of the ticket. If an instant ticket is claimed by the owner in error for a lower prize than that to which the owner is entitled, the corporation shall not be liable to the owner for the higher prize not claimed. Any ticket on which the name of the owner is altered, or appears to have been altered, may be impounded by the corporation without payment to the claimant until ownership of the ticket can be determined.

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§715. Age Eligibility

A. No person under the age established by law may purchase an instant lottery ticket, but persons under the age established by law may receive an instant lottery ticket as a gift.

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HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Louisiana Lottery Corporation on August 8, 1991 and promulgated in the *State Times* on August 15, 1991, amended LR 26:701 (April 2000).

§717. Retailer Eligibility

A. Retailers authorized by the corporation to sell tickets may purchase tickets assigned to them and may claim prizes resulting from any tickets so purchased.

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HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Louisiana Lottery Corporation on August 8, 1991 and promulgated in the *State Times* on August 15, 1991, repromulgated LR 26:701 (April 2000).

§719. End of Game

A. Each instant lottery game will end when all tickets for that game have been sold, or on a date announced in advance by the president. The president may suspend or terminate a game without notice if such action is deemed to be in the best interests of the corporation. No tickets for a particular game may be sold for a game after the game ending date or after the suspension or termination of a game. Any liability for prizes from tickets sold after that date belongs to the retailer who sells the tickets. No prize shall be paid to any

claimant who fails to submit a claim within the period of time provided by law.

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§721. Winner Validation

A. Except as provided in specific game directives, the following requirements will apply to the validation of winning instant lottery tickets.

1. The number of play symbols in the game play area must correspond with the number of play symbols provided for in the working papers for the game.

2. Each play symbol must have a corresponding caption underneath, in accordance with the captions provided for in the working papers for the game.

3. Each of the play symbols must be present in its entirety and be fully legible.

4. Each of the play symbols and its play caption must be printed in black ink, unless a different color of ink is specified in the working papers for the game.

5. The instant ticket must be intact and not defaced in any manner.

6. The game and pack/ticket numbers must be present in their entirety and be fully legible.

7. The ticket must not be reconstituted or tampered with in any manner.

8. The ticket must not be counterfeit in whole or in part.

9. The ticket must have been issued by the corporation in the authorized manner.

10. The ticket must not be stolen or be from a pack omitted from the game by the corporation.

11. The play symbols, captions and retailer validation codes must be in a right-side-up orientation and not reversed in any manner.

12. The ticket must have within the play area exactly the specified number of play symbols and corresponding captions, and exactly the specified number of retailer validation codes, as provided for in the working papers for that game.

13. The validation number on the ticket must appear on the official validation tape for the game as provided to the corporation by the ticket printer.

14. The ticket must not be partially blank, misregistered or printed or produced in error.

15. The ticket must be submitted for redemption within the claim period provided for the game.

16. The ticket must withstand microscopic inspection of the security patterns within the play area to determine any alterations of the ticket.

17. The ticket must withstand additional confidential validation tests prescribed by the corporation.

B. Except as provided above, any instant lottery ticket that fails to pass any of the validation requirements is void and ineligible for any prize, and no prize shall be paid. Liability for defective tickets is limited to the original purchase price of the ticket.

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§723. Delay of Payment

A. The corporation shall pay prizes in a timely fashion but may delay making payment of any prize or installment of a prize under the following circumstances:

1. a dispute occurs or it appears that a dispute may occur relative to any prize;
2. there is any question regarding the identity of the claimant;
3. there is any question regarding the validity of any ticket;
4. the claim is subject to any court ordered garnishment;
5. the corporation becomes aware of a change in circumstances relative to a prize awarded, the payee or the claim which requires review.

B. The corporation assumes no liability for interest for any delay of payment of a prize or installment.

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§725. Claim Form

A. For any prize of more than \$600, the owner of the apparent winning ticket shall complete an official claim form (printed or digital) that requires the winner to provide:

1. the name of the individual or entity claiming the prize;
2. the address and city of residence of the claimant;
3. the Social Security number of the individual claimant or the federal employer's identification number issued by the IRS for multiple claimants.

B. No prize payment will be authorized if the required information is not provided by the claimant. The corporation will utilize due diligence to insure that the information provided on the claim form is correct, including information contained on a driver's license, Social Security card or other

forms of information. The name of the owner printed on the back of the ticket must correspond with the name of the claimant.

C. A group, family unit, club or other organization which is not a legal entity or which does not possess a federal employer's identification number may claim a prize if it:

1. files an Internal Revenue Service Form 5754, "Statement by Person(s) Receiving Gambling Winnings," or a successor form, with the corporation, designating to whom the prize is to be paid and the person or persons to whom the prize is taxable; or
2. designates one individual in whose name the claim shall be entered and furnish that person's Social Security number and other required information, if approved by the president.

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§727. Assignability

A. The right of any person to a prize after the prize is claimed shall not be assignable, except as follows.

1. The corporation may pay any prize to the estate of a deceased prize winner.
2. The prize to which a winner is entitled may be paid to another person pursuant to an appropriate court order.

B. A promotional drawing finalist may not assign or sell the right to participate in the promotional drawing, nor can two or more finalists enter into an advance agreement to split their winnings following the promotional drawing.

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§729. Installment Prizes

A. The corporation may provide for the payment of any prize of more than \$100,000 in equal annual installments. The schedule of payments shall be designed to pay the winner equal dollar amounts each year until the total payments equal the prize amount. When the prize is paid in installments, the president may round the actual amount of the prize to the nearest \$1,000 amount to facilitate the appropriate funding mechanism. The corporation shall not accelerate the payment schedule of any installment prize without the consent of the winner.

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§731. Merchandise Prizes

A. If a non-cash prize is offered, the value of the prize will be determined by the fair market value of any such prize, which will be the amount reported to the state and the IRS for tax purposes. The corporation may pay withholding taxes on behalf of the winner in accordance with federal and state rules. The corporation will not be responsible for any state taxes or other fees associated with the prize.

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§733. Preliminary Drawings

A. The president shall promulgate a drawing directive that details the procedures involved in conducting a random drawing to determine promotional drawing finalists. The directive shall specify the qualifications for valid promotional drawing entries and a methodology for the random pre-selection of entries for purposes of the preliminary drawing, if required. The president shall exercise care in making certain that any procedures devised for finalist selection are totally fair and random, and that no entry has a greater opportunity for selection than any other.

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HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Louisiana Lottery Corporation on August 8, 1991 and promulgated in the *State Times* on August 15, 1991, repromulgated LR 26:703 (April 2000), amended LR 47:369 (March 2021).

§735. Promotional Drawings

A. The president shall promulgate a drawing directive that details the procedure for conducting any promotional drawing, including the prizes to be offered, the drawing method, and the equipment to be utilized. The president shall exercise care to insure a totally random drawing process that results in the selection of prize winners in a method that favors none of the participants.

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§737. Independent Auditor

A. All drawing events, including preliminary drawings and promotional drawings, shall be witnessed by an independent auditing firm. The independent auditor shall attest to the fact that procedures for the drawing were properly disseminated and that the procedures were followed, and shall make note of any exceptions to the procedures.

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