

## **CHAPTER 6 CLAIMS AND PRIZE ASSIGNMENTS**

## **600 Processing of Claims**

600.1 Claims for prizes of less than six hundred dollars (\$ 600) may be presented to a licensed agent for payment. The agent shall validate the ticket and pay all prize amounts due, if any, in accordance with the provisions of this title and procedures adopted by the Executive Director.

600.2 Except as otherwise provided in section 924.2, prizes of six hundred dollars (\$ 600) or more shall be claimed at the Claim Center beginning on the first day following the drawing.

600.3 To claim a prize at a Claim Center, a claimant shall present a winning ticket and a completed and signed claim form to the Agency for payment. A claim shall be presented or paid only in accordance with this Title and procedures adopted by the Executive Director.

600.4 A prize shall be claimed within one (1) year after the drawing in which the prize was won commencing with the day following the drawing, unless a shorter period of time has been authorized by the Executive Director for that particular game.

600.5 A prize for a bonus game shall be claimed within the period of time authorized by the Executive Director for that particular game.

600.6 Notwithstanding any requirement in sections 308.1(m) or 600 relating to the processing of claims by an agent, the Executive Director may designate a claiming period after which no instant ticket prize may be paid by a licensed agent. The time period shall be announced to licensed agents and the public. For the purpose of this section, the term "claiming period" shall mean the period of time in which a player may be paid an instant ticket prize by a licensed agent.

600.7 After the close of the claiming period, all instant ticket game prize claims shall be made at the Claim Center

## **601 Payment to Single Claimants Only**

601.1 A claim form shall be filed in the name of a single legal entity as claimant, either one individual or one organization. Multiple payees shall not be permitted.

601.2 A claim may be entered in the name of an organization only if the organization possesses a Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) issued by the Internal Revenue Service and the number is shown on the claim form. Groups, family units, clubs, or organizations without a FEIN shall designate in writing one (1) individual to receive the prize.

601.3 If the back of a ticket contains multiple signatures, or if a claim is erroneously entered with multiple claimants, the signators or claimants shall designate one (1) of them

as recipient of the prize, if any. If they fail to designate an individual recipient, the Executive Director may designate any one of the signators or claimants as the sole recipient of the prize or may reject the claim.

601.4 Payment of the prize to the sole recipient designated pursuant to § 601.3 shall effect the full and complete discharge of liability to pay the prize provided by § 611.

601.5 Nothing in this Title shall be deemed to permit multiple payees on a single POWERBALL(R) ticket.

## **602 Claim Form**

602.1 Each claimant presenting a prize claim at the Claim Center shall complete a claim form designated by the Executive Director and shall provide all information required by the Executive Director, including but not limited to, the prize claimant's:

(a) Name;

(b) Address, if any;

(c) Social Security number or FEIN;

(d) Driver's license, nondriver identification or other acceptable photographic identification;  
and

(e) Other applicable certifying documents required by the Executive Director.

602.2 All claim forms shall be completed and signed by the claimant or his or her duly authorized representative as provided in this title.

602.3 If the owner of a prize winning ticket is unable to complete a claim form due to a legal, physical, or other disability, a duly authorized representative, guardian, conservator, custodian, or fiduciary shall complete and sign a claim form on his or her behalf. The claim form shall indicate the name of the lawful payee.

602.4 If the person signing the claim form is a personal representative of the estate of a deceased winner, that person shall submit his or her letter of administration or its legal equivalent showing the appointment from the court having jurisdiction over the estate.

602.5 A person who signs a claim form shall be considered to have represented that the information contained therein is accurate and complete.

602.6 No incomplete claim form shall be processed for payment.

602.7 Any person who willfully submits a false or fraudulent claim form may be prosecuted

for the offense of making a false statement in accordance with D.C. Code § 22-2514 (1996 Repl. Vol.).

### **603 Generic Lottery Ticket Validation Requirements**

603.1 In order for any lottery game ticket to be valid, all of the following conditions shall be met:

(a) The ticket shall be validated in accordance with all procedures for claiming and paying prizes;

(b) The ticket shall not be stolen or appear on any list of omitted tickets on file with the Agency;

(c) The ticket shall be intact and shall not have been mutilated, altered, reconstituted or tampered with in any manner;

(d) The ticket shall not be defective, fraudulent, counterfeit in whole or in part, or a duplicate of another winning ticket;

(e) The ticket shall have been issued by the Agency through a licensed agent in an authorized manner;

(f) The ticket shall not be blank or partially blank, or printed or produced in error;

(g) The ticket shall not have been previously presented for payment and a prize paid thereon;

(h) The period designated for claiming a prize pursuant to this title shall not have expired; and

(i) The ticket shall pass all other confidential security checks of the Agency.

603.2 Any lottery game ticket not passing all of the validation checks required by this title for that particular lottery ticket shall be void and shall not be paid except as provided in § 503.7.

603.3 The final determination on validation rests with the Executive Director, except that the determinations shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter 4 of this title.

603.4 Any person who submits a lottery ticket for validation or who claims a prize, in whatever capacity, agrees to be bound and shall be bound by the provisions of § 500.6.

603.5 Any person presenting a fraudulent, counterfeit or duplicate ticket may be subject to criminal prosecution.

#### **604 Instant Ticket Validation**

604.1 The Agent shall mutilate or destroy validated instant tickets.

604.2 Once an instant ticket has been validated, it shall not be returned to the claimant.

604.3 Any instant ticket which has been returned to the claimant after validation shall be void.

604.4 An instant ticket or a pull tab ticket shall not be valid unless the ticket bar code and other validation data was recorded on the central computer system prior to the sale of the ticket and the ticket can be processed for validation purposes by the terminal, wand or other electronic device used by the Agency for validation purposes.

#### **605 On Line Lottery Ticket Validation**

605.1 In addition to the validation requirements of § 603, an on-line game ticket shall not be valid unless all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The ticket validation number shall be presented and shall correspond in its entirety, using the computer validation file, to the selected numbers printed on the ticket for the date printed on the ticket;

(b) For the POWERBALL(R), Hot Lotto , Sizzler and Rolling Cash 5 games, the player selected numbers on the ticket shall be in individual groups of prescribed numbers each associated with a single letter "A," "B," "C," "D," or "E";

(c) For the DC Daily 6 game, the player selected numbers on the ticket shall be in individual groups of prescribed numbers each associated with a single letter "A" and "B." The requisite number and the associated letters constitute a single lettered game board play;

(d) The ticket data shall have been recorded on the central computer system on magnetic tape or disk prior to the drawing, and the ticket data shall match this computer record in every respect;

(e) The player selected numbers, the validation number data and the drawing data of an apparent winning lottery ticket shall appear on the official file of winning tickets, and a ticket with that exact data shall not have been previously paid; and

(f) The Agency shall not pay tickets that cannot be processed for validation purposes by the terminal except as provided in § 503.7.

605.2 If multiple wagers have been placed by a single player or group of players acting in concert on the same numbers or combination of numbers for a single drawing in an on-line game, and the Executive Director has determined that no such numbers or combination of numbers appears in the winners file in the central computer system for the drawing in

question, the Executive Director may reject each claim for wagers without validating each and every ticket which is the subject of the claim.

### **606 Annuitized Prizes**

606.1 Unless annuitized payments are authorized by this title, prizes shall be paid in a single cash payment.

606.2 The Agency may elect to fund annuitized prize payments directly, through purchase of annuities or by other means.

606.3 Except as otherwise provide in Chapter 9 of this title, annuitized prizes shall be paid annually in thirty (30) payments with the initial payment being made in cash or check, to be followed by twenty-nine (29) payments funded by the annuity. All annuitized prizes shall be paid annually in thirty (30) graduated payments (increasing each year) by a rate as determined by the Executive Director. Prize payments may be rounded down to the nearest one thousand dollars (\$ 1,000).

606.4 The initial payment of a POWERBALL(R) annuitized prize may be delayed for up to thirty (30) calendar days following the final determination of the Executive Director that the claim is valid.

606.5 The term of a Lifetime Grand Prize in the Cash 4 Life game shall commence on the first Wednesday following the date of the win and shall be paid every Wednesday thereafter for a minimum of ten (10) years and for no more than the lifetime of the natural person who claims the prize and who is validated as the winner of the prize pursuant to this chapter.

606.6 In the event of the death of a Lifetime Grand Prize Cash 4 Life winner during the minimum 10 year payment period, payment will continue to be made to the winner's estate until the minimum 10 year payment period is completed.

606.7 The initial payment of a Lifetime Grand Prize in the Cash 4 Life game may be delayed pending the final determination of the Executive Director that the claim is valid and that he or she is authorized to make the initial payment. The Executive Director's determination that he or she is authorized to make the initial payment shall be consistent with all agreements in effect governing the conduct of the game.

### **607 Nonassignment and Nonacceleration of the Prize**

607.1 No rights of any person to a prize or a portion of a prize shall be assignable.

607.2 No payment of an annuitized prize shall be accelerated beyond the normal dates of payment, except as provided for in the POWERBALL(R) game in § 908 and the Cash 4 Life game in § 932.1(b).

### **608 Payment of Prizes to Persons Under Eighteen Years of Age**

608.1 If a person entitled to a prize is under the age of eighteen (18), the Executive Director shall direct payment pursuant to D.C. Code § 2-2515 (1994 Repl. Vol.).

### **609 Payments to Persons Under Legal Disability**

609.1 The Executive Director shall direct payment to the duly authorized representative or fiduciary of a person under legal or other disability to receive a prize in accordance with the laws of the District.

609.2 The Executive Director may petition a court of competent jurisdiction to determine the lawful payee in all cases involving the death of a prize winner, payment on behalf of a minor or other person under a legal disability, or multiple claimants.

### **610 Prize Payments Upon Death of a Prize Winner**

610.1 Except as provided in writing and approved by the Board or Executive Director prior to the adoption of this section, or as provided in § 908.19 or § 932.1(b), instant, on-line, annuitized or lump sum cash prize payments remaining upon the death of a prize winner shall be payable to the estate of the deceased prize winner by the payment method to which the decedent was entitled at the time the winning game ticket was purchased.

610.2 In the event of the death of a natural person who was the sole recipient of a prize designated pursuant to § 601.1, the Executive Director may determine the proper recipient of any remaining prize payments or may seek a determination of the lawful payee pursuant to § 609.2.

### **611 Discharge of Liability Upon Payment**

611.1 Payment of any prize, including a POWERBALL(R), Hot Lotto, Sizzler or a prize awarded pursuant to Chapter 10 of this title, shall discharge the District of Columbia, the Agency, the Multi-State Lottery Association, and their members, product groups, officers, employees, agents and attorneys, representatives, and contractors of all liability for payment of the prize.

611.2 (DELETED)

611.3 Payment of a prize to a duly authorized representative or fiduciary shall effect the full and complete discharge provided by §§ 611.1 and 611.2.

### **612 Withholding from Prize Payments**

612.1 Prize payments shall be subject to all taxes and other withholdings required by law, and are subject to attachment for funds owed the District.

612.2 The Mayor may intercept a lottery prize winning of an individual who owes delinquent child support pursuant to D.C. Code § 30-524.1 and the Child Support Intercept Enforcement Program of the District of Columbia.

### **613 Dissemination of Winning Numbers Information**

613.1 The dissemination and publication of winning numbers by telephone or in the media is for informational purposes only, and the Agency shall not pay a prize based upon information obtained from the LOT LINE or any source other than the official draw results electronically recorded in the central computer system.

#### **614 Release of Information About Winners**

614.1 Pursuant to D.C. Code § 2-536(6) (2001), a prizewinner's name, city, county and state of residence, winnings, and all associated game, play and prize information are records, or a portion of records, required to be made available to the public. Information about or concerning prizewinners or participants in Agency activities authorized at Chapter 10 of this title may also be contained in records, or a portion of records, required to be made available to the public pursuant to D.C. Code § 2-531 through § 2-539 (2001).

614.2 The Agency shall not release the street address or telephone number of a prize winner, except as may be required pursuant to lawful authority or urgent necessity.

614.3 The Executive Director may direct that prizewinners, or participants in Agency activities authorized at Chapter 10 of this title, be photographed or videotaped to complete the Agency's records and for the purposes identified in § 614.4.

614.4 A prizewinner, or participant in Agency activities authorized at Chapter 10 of this title, consents, without further consideration or expectation of payment, to the Agency's use of the prizewinner's name, county, city and state of residence, the games played, the amount of the prize and any photographic or video-graphic replication of the prizewinner's likeness or image for promotional purposes. "Promotional purposes" shall include, without limitation, advertising, publication and promotion of the Agency, its games, programs, contests and other activities in any print, broadcast, electronic, Internet or other form or media whatsoever.

614.5 Each prizewinner, or participant in Agency activities authorized at Chapter 10 of this title, releases the District of Columbia, the Agency, Multi-State Lottery Association, and their respective game groups, members, officers, employees, agents and attorneys, representatives, and contractors from all claims and liability arising out of, or related to, the promotional purposes, and use of the information and likenesses, set out in § 614.4.

614.6 The provisions of § 614.4 and § 614.5, which are applicable to prizewinners shall also apply to any person who presents a prize claim that is later denied or forfeited for any reason.

#### **615 Publication of Estimated Prizes or Winning Numbers Not a Basis for Liability**

615.1 The publication of an estimated prize amount shall not be construed as a promise to pay that estimated prize amount.

615.2 No prize shall be paid based on the publication or dissemination of an estimated prize amount or erroneous winning number information.

615.3 No prize shall be paid based upon a claim that a lottery ticket(s) has been mutilated, destroyed, abandoned or discarded as a result of the publication or dissemination of erroneous winning number information.

615.4 The Board, the Agency, the Multi-State Lottery Association and their employees, agents and contractors shall not be liable for any prize or other claim arising out of the publication or dissemination of estimated prize amounts or erroneous winning number information.

615.5 This section shall be applicable to any and all means by which prize information may be communicated to any person(s) or the public at large.