

## **1. Introduction**

The Fire Fighters Charity operates a Society Lottery open to the general public in England, Scotland, and Wales, for the sole purpose of raising funds for The Fire Fighters Charity.

The Charity is committed to ensuring that the lottery is operated in a secure, fair and socially responsible way and to endorsing responsible gambling amongst participants in its Lottery

The Gambling Commission ([www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk)) regulates gambling in the public interest. The regulatory framework introduced by the Gambling Act 2005 is based on three licensing objectives:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime and disorder, or being used to support crime.
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way.
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

This document sets out the Charity's policies and approach to ensuring we approach any gambling activities in a socially responsible way. Lottery staff are familiar with the contents of this document and read it upon appointment and every six months thereafter.

## **2. Preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder**

When an individual joins the lottery we will check that:

- The individual is aged 16 or over.
- The individual is resident in Great Britain.

If upon verification (see section 4 below) an individual is found to be aged under 16, any stakes paid will be returned and no prizes will be paid.

Where tickets are sold for lottery draws we will:

- Maintain records of tickets distributed and not returned.
- Limit the value of tickets to £20 sent to any address which is not that of an existing supporter of the Charity.

We also retain the right to cancel any membership should we suspect criminal activity.

## **3. Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way.**

We will ensure that:

- Players have access to clear information on matters such as the rules of the lottery, the prizes that are available and the chances of winning.
- The lottery rules are fair.
- Any advertising and promotional material is clear and not misleading.
- The results are made public.

We have a written procedure for handling any complaints and disputes relating to the conduct of our lottery. Copies are available upon request and made available to anyone who complains. Any complaint that relates to the outcome of the complainant's gambling transaction and which cannot be resolved to the complainant's satisfaction under our complaints procedure will be referred to an independent third party, should the complainant so choose.

We keep a record of any complaints that are not resolved under our complaints procedure.

#### **4. Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.**

We will use our best endeavours to address the following issues:

- Under age Gambling. It is illegal for individuals under the age of 16 to enter into a lottery. We reserve the right to ask for proof of age from any player and players' accounts may be suspended until satisfactory proof of age is provided. We will only accept valid, legible, photographic ID. If for whatever reason, upon winning any individual is unable to prove that they are 16 or over then any winnings will be forfeited and any stakes paid will be returned.
- Gambling Limits. The Charity may impose limits on the value of entries into a lottery that can be purchased by an individual.
- Self Exclusion. On request, we will close any player's lottery membership(s) for a minimum period of six months, such period being capable of being extended to 5 years, during which time the membership(s) cannot be reinstated. During this period we will also try to ensure that the individual does not try and open a new membership and we will take all reasonable steps to prevent any marketing material relating to the Lottery being sent to any self-excluded customer, with the exception of blanket marketing targeted at a particular geographical area where the excluded individual would not knowingly be included. We will keep a register of self-excluded persons and, at the end of any period of self-exclusion, ensure that the player is required to take positive action in order to begin participating in the Lottery again and then only after a "cooling off period" of 24 hours
- Access to Player History. We will provide any player with a full history of their lottery membership, including complete payment and winnings history upon request.
- Provide Information on Gambling Support Organisations. We will provide contact details or links on any lottery websites or via other appropriate media to GamCare and other relevant / appropriate organisations.
- Self Help and Awareness Information. We will provide self help and awareness information on any lottery websites or other appropriate media together with links to or contact details of GamCare and other relevant / appropriate organisations.
- Staff Training. All relevant staff receive regular awareness training on problem gambling issues.

#### **5. Responsible Gambling**

We have policies and procedures which govern our interaction with any participants in the Lottery whose behaviour may indicate problem gambling. These include the identification of the appropriate level of management who may initiate customer interaction and the procedures for doing so, the types of behaviour that may trigger such intervention and the circumstances in which consideration should be given to refusing to sell lottery tickets to a participant. All our staff receive regular training on their respective responsibilities relating to problem gambling, in particular so that they know who is designated to deal with problem gambling issues.

Whilst the majority of people do gamble within their means, for some gambling can become a problem. It may help you to keep control to remember the following:

- Gambling should be entertaining and not seen as a way of making money
- Avoid chasing losses
- Only gamble what you can afford to lose
- Keep track of the time and amount you spend gambling
- If you want to have a break from gambling you can use our self-exclusion option by emailing us at [lottery@firefighterscharity.org.uk](mailto:lottery@firefighterscharity.org.uk) with your name, address and membership numbers. We will then close your membership for a minimum period of 6 months, which period may be extended to up to 5 years, during which time it will not be possible for the account to be re-opened for any reason.

If you need to talk to someone about problem gambling then contact GamCare. GamCare is a registered charity that provides confidential telephone support and counselling to anyone who is affected by problem gambling. GamCare can be contacted free on 0808 8020 133.

## **6. Problem Gambling**

If you are concerned that gambling may have taken over your (or someone else's life) then the following questions may help you find out:

- Do you stay away from work, college or school to gamble?
- Do you gamble to escape from a boring or unhappy life?
- When gambling and you run out of money, do you feel lost and in despair and need to gamble again as soon as possible?
- Do you gamble until your last penny is gone, even the fare home or the cost of a cup of tea?
- Have you ever lied to cover up the amount of money or time you have spent gambling?
- Have others ever criticised your gambling? Have you lost interest in your family, friends or hobbies?
- After losing, do you feel you must try and win back your losses as soon as possible?
- Do arguments, frustrations or disappointments make you want to gamble?
- Do you feel depressed or even suicidal because of your gambling?

The more you answer 'yes' to these questions, the more likely you are to have a serious gambling problem. To speak to someone about this contact the GamCare confidential helpline on 0808 8020 133 or visit their website [www.gamcare.org.uk](http://www.gamcare.org.uk) for further information.