



**National  
Lottery**



## **Rules for Instant Game 254**

### **“Christmas Countdown”**



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## The National Lottery

### Rules for Instant Game No. 254 “Christmas Countdown”

The following sets forth the game rules for an instant lottery game (hereinafter known as “**Christmas Countdown**”) which is to be operated by Premier Lotteries Ireland Designated Activity Company (hereinafter known as “the Company”) as part of The National Lottery.

The game will commence on a date to be announced, and will continue until the official game off-sale date of 5th January, 2021.

The last date for the claiming of any Instant Prize in Game 254 Christmas Countdown is 5th April, 2021.

These game rules have been approved by the Regulator in accordance with Section 45 of The National Lottery Act 2013.

#### 1. General

1. These game rules are governed by The National Lottery Act 2013 and the General Rules for National Lottery Games.
2. The Company reserves the right to vary these game rules subject to the consent of the Regulator.
3. The official address to which correspondence must be sent is:

**The National Lottery**

**Abbey Street Lower**


**Dublin 1**

4. A code of practice governing relations between participants in National Lottery games and the National Lottery is available to download from the National Lottery’s website [www.lottery.ie](http://www.lottery.ie).

#### 2. Definitions

The following words and terms will have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

1. **Act** means The National Lottery Act 2013.
2. **Bar-code** means the machine-readable arrangement of numbers and parallel lines of different widths printed on the back of each Ticket which can be electronically scanned.
3. **Bonus Draw** means a draw to select one winner of €5,000.
4. **Bonus Draw Code** means the thirteen digit alphanumeric code which is printed as ‘YOUR CODE’ on the front of the ticket and enables entry to the ‘Bonus Draw’.
5. **Book** means a batch of 10 fan folded Tickets bearing a common book number.

6. **Chief Executive** means the person appointed by the Company for the time being to be its Chief Executive or any other person to whom the Chief Executive's authority is lawfully delegated.
7. **Data Matrix Bar-code** means the machine-readable arrangement of numbers and black and white cells printed on the front of the Ticket under the scratch-off covering which can be electronically scanned for the purposes of validation.
8. **Game/Book/Ticket Number** means the 12-character numeric code printed to show on the bottom of each Ticket below the scratch off area and on the back of each Ticket.
9. **Instant Prize** means:
  - a) In respect of **Game One** the prize that is won when the player scratches the numbers 1-24 (inclusive) in the Play Area and reveals three identical Play Symbols. The amount won will be indicated on the corresponding 'Prize Legend' printed on the back of the Ticket.
  - b) In respect of Game Two the prize that is won when the player scratches the designated number 25 in the Play Area to reveal six cash Play Symbols. If three identical cash Play Symbols are revealed, the player wins that amount.
  - c) In respect of Game Three the prize that is won when the player scratches the four designated "FAST CASH" Play Areas to reveal 4 cash Play Symbols in each of the "FAST CASH" Play Areas. If two identical cash Play Symbols are revealed in the same "FAST CASH" Play Area, the player wins that cash amount.
  - d) In respect of Game Four a fixed prize of €50 which is won if the Play Symbol  is revealed in either of the two designated "INSTANT WIN" Play Areas of the Ticket.
10. **Play Area** means the large latex-covered panel on the front of the Ticket and includes each of the following Play Areas:
  - a) Game One – Numbers 1-24 (inclusive)
  - b) Game Two – Number "25"
  - c) Game Three – four "FAST CASH"
  - d) Game Four – two "INSTANT WIN"
11. **Play Symbols** means:
  - a) In respect of Game One (Numbers 1-24) the Play Symbols along with their matching captions which appear in the Play Area and which are derived from the set:



- b) In respect of Game Four (“INSTANT WIN”) the Play Symbols which appear in the Play Area along with their matching captions. These Play Symbols and captions will read:



- c) In respect of Game Two (Number “25”) and Game Three (“Fast Cash”), the prizes and their corresponding captions which appear in the Play Area. These prizes and their matching captions will read:



12. **Regulator** means the person appointed as Regulator of the National Lottery under Section 7 of the Act or the Minister acting under Section 8 of the Act.
13. **Retail Sales Agent** means a person(s), corporate body or partnership appointed by the Company to be a National Lottery sales agent at specified location(s) under Section 42 of the Act.
14. **The Company** means Premier Lotteries Ireland DAC.
15. **The Minister** means the minister for Public Expenditure and Reform or his successor in title.
16. **Ticket** means a National Lottery **Christmas Countdown** Ticket.
17. **Validation/Security Number** means the multi-digit numeric code which appears underneath the removable covering on the front of the Ticket and which enables validation.

### 3. Governing Law and Rules

In purchasing a Ticket, the Purchaser agrees to abide by the Law of Ireland, the Act, The General Rules for National Lottery Games, and these Game Rules.

### 4. Ticket Price

The price of a **Christmas Countdown** Ticket will be €10.

### 5. Purchase and Prize Restrictions

No Ticket shall be purchased by, and no Instant Prize shall be paid to, any officer or employee of the Company or any contractor or sub-contractor involved in the

production of **Christmas Countdown** Tickets or any other person prohibited by the Act from purchasing, owning, or claiming on a Ticket.

## 6. Prosecution







Any person who alters or attempts to alter a Ticket with a view to obtaining an Instant Prize, or any person who purchases, owns, or claims on a Ticket and is not entitled to do so, is liable to criminal prosecution.







## 7. Retail Sales Agent Conduct

1. Retail Sales Agents are prohibited from exchanging books with other Retail Sales Agents.
2. Prior to payment of any Instant Prize, Retail Sales Agents must verify the win through the central validation system.
3. Retail Sales Agents must denote completed payment of a winning Ticket by punching a hole through the Bar-code on the Ticket and retaining the Ticket until the book has been sold.
4. Retail Sales Agents are prohibited by law from selling National Lottery Tickets to persons under 18 years of age.









## 8. Determination of Prize Winners





### Game One Numbers 1-24 (Inclusive)

1. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game One of the Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €10.
2. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game One of the Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €15.
3. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game One of the Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €20.
4. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game One of the Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €50.
5. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game One of the Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €75.
6. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game One of the Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €100.

7. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game One of the Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €200.
8. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game One of the Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €500.
9. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game One of the Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €1,000.
10. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game One of the Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €5,000.
11. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game One of the Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €10,000.
12. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game One of the Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €100,000.

### Game Two (“25”) and Game Three (FAST CASH)

1. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game Two or two  Play Symbols in an individual Game Three Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €10.
2. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game Two or two  Play Symbols in an individual Game Three Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €20.
3. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game Two or two  Play Symbols in an individual Game Three Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €50.
4. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game Two or two  Play Symbols in an individual Game Three Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €200.









5. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game Two or two  Play Symbols in an individual Game Three Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €1,000.
6. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game Two or two  Play Symbols in an individual Game Three Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €10,000.

### Game Four ‘INSTANT WIN’

The owner of a Ticket containing a  Play Symbol in an individual Game Four Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €50.

### Multiple Wins

Players can win up to two times on a Christmas Countdown Ticket and will be paid the sum of the Instant Prizes won so that:

1. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game One and three  Play Symbols in Game Two of the Play Area on a single Ticket, or three  Play Symbols in Game One and two  Play Symbols in an individual Game Three Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €20.
2. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols and three  Play Symbols in Game One of the Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €25.
3. The owner of a Ticket containing three  Play Symbols in Game One and a  Play Symbol in Game Four of the Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of €70.

## 9. Ticket Validation

To be a valid **Christmas Countdown** National Lottery Ticket the following conditions must be met:

1. Exactly twenty six Play Symbols and their correct captions must appear in the Game One and Game Four Play Areas combined.



2. Exactly twenty two Play Symbols and their correct captions must appear in the Game Two and Game Three Play Areas combined.
3. Each of the Play Symbols and their correct captions must be present in their entirety, must be fully legible and must be printed in grey/black ink.
4. The Validation/Security Number must be present in its entirety, must be fully legible, must be printed in grey/black ink and must correspond, using the Company's codes, to the apparent Play Symbols on the Ticket.
5. The Ticket must be fully intact.
6. The Game/Book/Ticket Number must be present in its entirety, must be fully legible, and must be printed in grey/black ink.
7. The Bar-code must be present in its entirety, must be readable and must be printed in grey/black ink.
8. The Data Matrix Bar-code must be present in its entirety, must be readable and must be printed in grey/black ink.
9. The thirteen character alpha-numeric Bonus Draw code must be present in its entirety, must be readable and must be printed in grey/black ink.
10. The Ticket must not be mutilated, altered, unreadable, or tampered with in any manner.
11. The Ticket must not be counterfeit in whole or in part.
12. The Ticket must have been purchased through an authorised Retail Sales Agent before the official close of Game.
13. The Ticket must have been issued by the Company in an authorised manner.
14. The Ticket must not be stolen.
15. The Play Symbols, Game/Book/Ticket Number and Validation/Security Number must be right-side-up and not reversed in any manner.
16. The Ticket must be complete, not blank, or partially blank, must not have a hole punched through it, must not be miscut, must not be marked void, and must have exactly twenty six Play Symbols and exactly twenty six correct captions across Game 1 and Game 4, twenty two Play Symbols and their correct captions across Game 2 and Game 3, exactly one Validation/Security Number, exactly one thirteen character alpha-numeric Bonus Draw code and exactly one Game/Book/Ticket Number on both the front and the back.
17. The Validation/Security Number of all winning Tickets must appear on the Company's official file, and only one Instant Prize payment will be made on any individual winning Ticket.
18. The Ticket must not be misregistered, defective, or produced in error.

19. Each of the Play Symbols and its caption appearing on the Ticket must be printed in accordance with the official font schedule for Game 254 Christmas Countdown as agreed between the Company and the Ticket manufacturer.
20. The captions associated with the Play Symbols must each be printed in accordance with the official font schedule for Game 254 Christmas Countdown as agreed between the Company and the Ticket manufacturer.
21. The Validation/Security Number must be printed in accordance with the official font schedule for Game 254 Christmas Countdown as agreed between the Company and the Ticket manufacturer.
22. The Game/Book/Ticket Number must be printed in accordance with the official font schedule for Game 254 Christmas Countdown as agreed between the Company and the Ticket manufacturer. The display printing must not be irregular in any respect.
23. The Ticket must pass all additional confidential validation tests of the Company. Any Ticket not passing all the validation tests mentioned is void and is ineligible for any Instant Prize. In all cases of doubt, the decision of the Company will be final and binding. However, the Company may, at its discretion, replace an invalid Ticket with an unplayed Ticket or Tickets. Should a defective Ticket be purchased, the only responsibility of the Company shall be the replacement of the defective Ticket with an unplayed Ticket of equivalent sales price.

## **10. Ticket Responsibility**

1. The Company will not be responsible for lost or stolen Tickets.
2. The Company will not be responsible for Tickets redeemed in error for a lower Instant Prize at a Retail Sales Agent location. In the event that the matter cannot be resolved directly with the relevant Retail Sales Agent, then the winner can contact the Company requesting that the Company follow up with the Retail Sales Agent, as appropriate.
3. The Company shall not be obliged to pay any Instant Prizes which are not claimed on or before 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.
4. Where a winning Ticket is presented either to the Company or its authorised Retail Sales Agent by a person other than the purchaser and the Ticket passes all the Company's validation tests, the payment of the Instant Prize shall discharge the Company from any liability to the purchaser. In all other cases, the Company will be discharged from any liability after payment of Instant Prizes.

## **11. Bonus Draw**

There will be twelve Bonus Draws in total, eleven weekly draws will commence on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and end on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020, with one final Bonus Draw to be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

A Player must be over eighteen years of age to enter and win a prize in the Bonus Draw.

To enter a Bonus Draw a Player must reveal the thirteen character alpha-numeric code printed on the front of each ticket and follow the entry method outlined in the Bonus Draw procedure in these Game Rules. Entries to the Bonus Draw will be accepted from the following National Lottery games:

1. Game 252 €3 Hampers & Cash – three entries per Ticket.
2. Game 253 €5 Merry Money – five entries per Ticket.
3. Game 254 €10 Christmas Countdown – ten entries per Ticket.

Each Bonus Draw Procedure will be carried out in accordance with procedures set down by the Company.

To enter a Bonus Draw a Player must:

- Reveal the thirteen character alpha-numeric code contained in the Bonus Draw play area of a Ticket.
- Visit [www.lottery.ie](http://www.lottery.ie) and enter through the Bonus Draw entry webform or enter through the National Lottery Apple or Android apps.
- Players must enter the thirteen character alpha-numeric code contained in the Bonus Draw play area of a ticket and any other mandatory details requested on the Bonus Draw entry webform.
- A validation process will be carried out to ensure that each thirteen character alpha-numeric code is valid and only entered once into the Bonus Draw.
- For each code entered from a €10 Christmas Countdown Game 254 Ticket a Player will receive ten entries.
- Upon completion of an entry, a player receives a confirmation on site of entry and details of the number of entries they have received and which have been registered. The National Lottery will also send an email to the email address supplied restating the information provided on the confirmation page.
- Entries close each week at 10am on a Friday. Any valid entries received after that time are automatically entered into the next Bonus Draw.
- From Friday 9th October to Friday 18th December, 2020 a weekly draw will be conducted from all valid entries to select one winner of €5,000. A final Bonus Draw to select one winner of €5,000 will take place on 6th April 2021 to ensure any remaining entries received post 10 am on 18th December, 2020 have the opportunity to enter the draw.
- Each Bonus Draw will be conducted under security conditions in the presence of an appointed independent observer. Winners will be contacted directly by the National Lottery via the contact details provided on the draw entry webform.

### **Bonus Draw Prize Payment**

Immediately after each Bonus Draw the National Lottery, using the details provided at registration, will contact the winner of €5,000 to verify their identity and proof of age.

The winner is required to complete a declaration form and provide a copy of a suitable form of identification (e.g. drivers licence, passport). Prizes will not issue to a person under the age of eighteen years whether that person is acting on their own behalf or on behalf of another person.

Upon receipt of the completed declaration form and verification of a winner's identity and proof of age, the National Lottery will send a cheque for €5,000 to the winner's verified address.

## 12. Payment of Prizes

1. Instant Prizes of €10, €15, €20, €25, €50, €70, €75 and €100 may be redeemed:
  - a) in exchange for a completed winning Ticket and following Ticket validation procedure at:
    - any Retail Sales Agent; and
    - all prize claim centre agents; and
    - National Lottery Headquarters; or
  - b) by posting the signed Ticket complete with name and address, to the Company's headquarters at the claimant's sole risk.
2. Instant Prizes of €200, €500 and €1,000 may be redeemed:
  - a) in exchange for a completed winning Ticket and following Ticket validation procedure at:
    - a Retail Sales Agent, with the Retail Sales Agent's consent; and
    - all prize claim centre agents; and
    - National Lottery Headquarters; or
  - b) by posting the signed Ticket complete with name and address, to the Company's headquarters at the claimant's sole risk (for Instant Prizes of €500 and €1,000 a copy of suitable Photo ID (e.g. current passport, current driving licence etc.) must be included.
3. Instant Prizes of €5,000 and €10,000 may be redeemed:
  - a) in exchange for a completed winning Ticket and following Ticket validation procedure at all prize claim centre agents; or
  - b) by posting the Ticket, together with a completed claim form and a copy of suitable Photo ID (e.g. current passport, current driving licence etc.), to the Company's headquarters at the claimant's sole risk; or
  - c) in exchange for a completed winning Ticket and following Ticket validation procedure at National Lottery Headquarters.
4. Instant Prizes of €100,000 must be claimed in person at the Company's headquarters, in exchange for a completed winning Ticket and following Ticket validation procedure.
5. A list of the prize claim centre agents is available at [www.lottery.ie](http://www.lottery.ie).
6. Instant Prizes must be claimed within 90 days of the announced end of the game.

7. The Company will be discharged from any liability after payment or posting of Instant Prizes.
8. The official game off-sale date for Game 254 Christmas Countdown is 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
9. The last date for the claiming of any Instant Prize in Game 254 Christmas Countdown is 5<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (90 days after the official game end date) and any unclaimed Instant Prizes will be forfeited after this date. The unclaimed prize money shall be allocated to a special reserve fund to be utilised by the Company in accordance with the National Lottery Licence.

### **13. Instant Prizes**

1. The total number of Instant Prize winning Tickets in the game as designed, shall be no less than 107,688.
2. The odds of winning an Instant Prize are 1 in 2.79 on average.
3. At time of purchase some Instant Prizes may have already been won.

**14. Prize Amounts, Number of Prizes and Odds**

<b>Prize Amount</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Approximate Odds 1 in</b>	<b>No. of Winners in Game</b>	<b>No. of Tickets in Game 300,000</b>
<b>Game 1</b>				
€10	3 x CANDYCANE	10.00	30,000	
€15	3 x SKATE	16.67	18,000	
€20	3 x SNOWFLAKE	50.00	6,000	
€50	3 x GLOVE	100.00	3,000	
€75	3 x SCARF	500.00	600	
€100	3 x HOLLY	1,000.00	300	
€200	3 x POLAR BEAR	1,666.67	180	
€500	3 x ICICLE	20,000.00	15	
€1,000	3 x SLED	50,000.00	6	
€5,000	3 x STOCKING	50,000.00	6	
€10,000	3 x BELL	150,000.00	2	
€100,000	3 x FIREPLACE	150,000.00	2	
<b>Games 2 or 3</b>				
€10		9.09	33,000	
€20		99.80	3,006	
€50		400.00	750	
€200		4,000.00	75	
€1,000		25,000.00	12	
€10,000		150,000.00	2	
<b>Game 4</b>				
€50	REINDEER	166.67	1,800	
<b>Multiple Wins</b>				
€20	3 x CANDYCANE & €10	46.99	6,384	
€25	3 x CANDYCANE & 3 x SKATE	98.43	3,048	
€70	3 x SNOWFLAKE & 1 x REINDEER	200.00	1,500	

The figures above are based on a complete sale of all Tickets in the game.

The total value of prizes in the Game as designed, including contribution of €15,000 to the overall pool for the Bonus Draws, is €2,103,000 which means that the likely proportion of the proceeds of the Game which is expected to be paid in prizes is 70.10%.

## **15. Termination of Game**

The official game off-sale date for Game 254 Christmas Countdown is 5th January, 2021.

The last date for the claiming of any Instant Prize in Game 254 Christmas Countdown is 5th April, 2021.