HOSTING A RAFFLE OR TOMBOLA?

If you are organising a raffle or game of chance (such as a tombola or duck race) at your event. Here are our tips to keep it legal and fun:

What is a raffle?

A raffle is a type of lottery where participants buy one or more tickets to win a prize. Each entry buys a unique ticket number. At the end of the raffle, prize winners are chosen by drawing entries at random.

In the UK, raffles and lotteries are seen as gambling by the Gambling Commission, meaning they follow certain laws and restrictions. For more information, click here.

Do I need a license?

You may need to apply for a license or register your raffle with your local authority. The easiest way to avoid this is by running an **'incidental lottery'**:

Requirements of an incidental lottery:

- It must take place during another in-person fundraiser.
- Tickets can only be sold at one location. You must not sell tickets online or in advance of the event.
- You must provide physical tickets to those taking part.
- You can do the lottery draw during or after the event.
- Deductions for expenses must not exceed £100 and deductions for prizes must not exceed £500.

Another great alternative is to run a free prize draw, which does not require a licence. It must be free to enter, but you can suggest a donation when participants are entering.

Can I collect Gift Aid on raffle ticket sales?

Gift Aid cannot be claimed on raffle ticket sales, as the donation is being made in exchange for something.

If you are collecting your raffle ticket sales on JustGiving, you can change the settings to ensure that no donations are taken with Gift Aid. Instructions on doing this can be found here.

