



WISCONSIN LOTTERY

# A WINNER'S GUIDE

## HOW TO PLAY IT SAFE

**Losing a Lottery ticket is like losing cash. Protect yourself by taking the following Player Safety Steps:**

- *Know the game you are playing.* Read directions and check your ticket(s) before leaving the store. Be sure you have the correct ticket.
- *Sign the back of your ticket(s) and include your address.* Remember, Lottery tickets are bearer instruments. Unless you sign your ticket, anyone can claim its prize.
- *Keep all Lottery tickets in a safe place.* The Lottery is not liable for damaged, lost or stolen tickets.
- *Check your ticket before handing it to the retailer for payment.* If you suspect the prize is valued at \$600 or more, make a copy of the ticket front and back **before** redeeming it. Do not rely on prize amount codes.
- *If your ticket is a non-winning ticket.* Ask the retailer for a copy of the validation receipt after they scan your ticket and ask for the ticket back.
- *If your ticket is a winning ticket.* Ask the retailer to show you the cash authorization receipt as proof of the prize amount. The retailer retains winning ticket(s) and cash authorization receipt(s) for their record keeping purposes.

## ANSWERS TO FAQs

- Lottery ticket purchasers must be at least 18 years old.
- Lottery purchases can only be made with cash and only at participating Wisconsin Lottery retailers. **Credit cards are NOT accepted.**
- Jackpots shall be paid to the recipient or his/her estate in the event of death unless otherwise assigned by a court of law.
- Prizes must be claimed within 180 days from the date of the lotto game draw or from the declared "end of the game" in the case of instant tickets.
- All Lottery winnings are taxable. The Lottery automatically deducts the current federal and state withholding rate for any winnings \$2,000 and up.
- Tickets, transactions and winnings are subject to state law and Lottery regulations.
- Any unclaimed prizes are credited to the Lottery Property Tax Relief Fund.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Problem Gambling Help Line: 1-800-GAMBLE-5. (1-800-426-2535)



WISCONSIN LOTTERY

©2009 Wisconsin Lottery

wilottery.com

What?

When?

How?

Where?

Who?



## HOW TO FIND OUT IF YOU'VE WON

### Visit Your Retailer or Lottery Office

After winning Lottery numbers are drawn, they are relayed to retailers' Lottery terminals. Retailers post or make copies available to players. Instant ticket prizes can be verified at a Lottery retailer or a Lottery office.

### Click, Call, Read or Write

- Visit our website: [wilottery.com](http://wilottery.com)
- Call the Info Line: 1.608.261.4916 or our 24 Hour Player Hotline: 1.608.266.7777
- Check your state and local newspapers
- Write to: Wisconsin Lottery, 2135 Rimrock Road, P.O. Box 8941, Madison, WI 53708-8941

(Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope, game name and month(s) for which a list of winning numbers is desired.)

## HOW TO REDEEM A WINNING TICKET

**By law, the ticket is the only valid receipt for prize claims. For prizes \$600 and up, players are required to:**

1. Sign the winning lottery ticket.
2. Complete the prize claim form. Forms are available at Lottery retailers, Lottery offices, or may be downloaded from [wilottery.com](http://wilottery.com).
3. Provide a drivers license or other picture I.D.
4. Provide bank information which may be required for some transactions.
5. Provide a Social Security number in order to facilitate payment of your prize.
6. Multiple winners on a single ticket are required to get a court order for prize payment (see claim form for details).

## WHERE TO REDEEM A WINNING TICKET

### By Mail

Winnings of **any amount** may be redeemed by mail (*you may want to use traceable/registered mail for tickets with larger prize amounts, e.g. \$100 or more*). Keep a copy of the claim form and a photo copy of the ticket for your records. Simply send the signed ticket and a completed claim form to the address below:

**Prize Payments  
Wisconsin Lottery  
Madison, WI 53774**

### In Person

**Prizes up to \$599.**

Redeem at your local Lottery Retailer or Lottery Office.

**Note: *This amount is subject to each retailer's practices for cashing.***

**Prizes of \$1 to \$501,000.**

**Milwaukee Validation Office**

**819 N. 6th Street**

**Room 530**

**Milwaukee, WI 53203**

**Phone: 414.227.3882**

**Hours: Monday–Friday 8 A.M.– 4 P.M. (except state holidays)**

**All Prize Levels \$1 and up.**

**Madison Office**

**2135 Rimrock Road**

**Department of Revenue Building**

**Madison, WI 53713**

**Phone: 608.267.2839**

**Hours: Monday–Friday 8 A.M.– 4 P.M. (except state holidays)**

With tickets in excess of \$5,000, please allow at least 2 hours prior to closing time for additional paperwork and processing time. Jackpot winners, please call ahead: 608.267.2839.

## HOW TO RECEIVE YOUR WINNINGS

### Jackpot Games – *Megabucks and Powerball*

A jackpot winner has 60 days from the date of ticket validation to select either the ANNUITY or the CASH OPTION payment method. If a winner fails to select a payment method within 60 days, the prize will be paid as an annuity. Once the payment method is selected, it cannot be revoked, withdrawn, or otherwise changed.

#### • Cash Option

A jackpot winner receives one lump-sum cash payment equal to the amount of cash available in the jackpot prize pool. This amount will be less than the estimated jackpot and may be approximately one-half the annuitized jackpot as advertised by the Lottery.

#### • Annuity

Jackpot amounts are paid in 25 annual installments for Megabucks and 30 annual installments for Powerball.