



Rules for Instant Game 253 “Merry Money”



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The National Lottery

Rules for Instant Game No. 253 “Merry Money”

The following sets forth the game rules for an instant lottery game (hereinafter known as “**Merry Money**”) 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 the 5th January, 2021.

The last date for the claiming of any Instant Prize in Game 253 Merry Money 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.

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 20 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) The prize that is won when a cash amount is revealed in the Play Area of Game 1.
 - b) The prize shown which is won when a Play Symbol revealed under 'Winning Symbols' matches a Play Symbol revealed under 'Your Symbols' in the Play Area of Game 2.
 - c) The prize that is won when two identical cash amounts are revealed in the Play Area of Game 3.
10. **Play Area** means the large latex-covered panel on the front of the Ticket with the games designated Game 1 'Instant Prize Amount Game', Game 2 'Key Symbol Match Game' and Game 3 'Match 2 Prize Amounts Game'.
11. **Play Symbols** mean the symbols and cash amounts along with their matching captions which appear in Game 1, Game 2 and Game 3 of the Play Area and which are derived from the following sets:

Game 1



Game 2

€5 €10 €25 €50 €100 €500 €1000 €20000
 FIVE TEN TWENTYFIVE FIFTY ONEHUND ONEHUND FIVEHUND ONEHUND TWENTYHUND

**Game 3**

€5 €10 €25 €50 €100 €500 €1000 €20000
 FIVE TEN TWENTYFIVE FIFTY ONEHUND FIVEHUND ONEHUND TWENTYHUND

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 **Merry Money** 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 **Merry Money** Ticket will be €5.

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 **Merry Money** 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

1. The owner of a Ticket who reveals a 'Win' cash amount Play Symbol in the Game 1 Play Area shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of the cash amount revealed.
2. The owner of a Ticket containing one or more Play Symbols revealed under the "WINNING SYMBOLS" panel in the Game 2 Play Area on a single Ticket which match one or more of the Play Symbols revealed under the "YOUR SYMBOLS" panel in the Game 2 Play Area on a single Ticket is entitled to the Instant Prize shown under the matching Play Symbol(s). If more than one Play Symbol revealed under "WINNING SYMBOLS" matches more than one Play Symbol revealed under "YOUR SYMBOLS" in the Game 2 Play Area then the sum of the Instant Prize amounts revealed in the Game 2 Play Area will be won.
3. The owner of a Ticket containing two identical cash amounts in the Game 3 Play Area on a single Ticket shall be entitled to an Instant Prize of the cash amount revealed.
4. Winning Tickets may contain prizes in Game 1, Game 2 and Game 3. The owner of a Ticket which qualifies for an Instant Prize in Game 1, Game 2 and Game 3 is entitled to the sum of those Instant Prize amounts. Players can win up to 10 times on a **Merry Money** Ticket.

9. Ticket Validation

To be a valid **Merry Money** National Lottery Ticket the following conditions must be met:

1. Exactly one Play Symbol and it's correct caption must appear in the Play Area of Game 1.

2. Exactly twenty eight Play Symbols and their correct captions must appear in the Play Area of Game 2.
3. Exactly four Play Symbols and their correct captions must appear in the Play Area of Game 3.
4. Each of the Play Symbols and its caption must be present in its entirety, must be fully legible, and must be printed in grey/black ink.
5. 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.
6. The Ticket must be fully intact.
7. The Game/Book/Ticket Number must be present in its entirety, must be fully legible, and must be printed in grey/black ink.
8. The Bar-code must be present in its entirety, must be readable and must be printed in grey/black ink.
9. The Data Matrix Bar-code must be present in its entirety, must be readable and must be printed in grey/black ink.
10. 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.
11. The Ticket must not be mutilated, altered, unreadable, or tampered with in any manner.
12. The Ticket must not be counterfeit in whole or in part.
13. The Ticket must have been purchased through an authorised Retail Sales Agent before the official close of Game.
14. The Ticket must have been issued by the Company in an authorised manner.
15. The Ticket must not be stolen.
16. The Play Symbols, Game/Book/Ticket Number and Validation/Security Number must be right-side-up and not reversed in any manner.
17. 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 thirty three Play Symbols and their correct captions, 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.
18. 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.

19. The Ticket must not be misregistered, defective, or produced in error.
20. Each of the Play Symbols and its caption appearing on the Ticket must be printed in accordance with the official font schedule for Game 253 Merry Money as agreed between the Company and the Ticket manufacturer.
21. The captions associated with the Play Symbols must each be printed in accordance with the official font schedule for Game 253 Merry Money as agreed between the Company and the Ticket manufacturer.
22. The Validation/Security Number must be printed in accordance with the official font schedule for Game 253 Merry Money as agreed between the Company and the Ticket manufacturer.
23. The Game/Book/Ticket Number must be printed in accordance with the official font schedule for Game 253 Merry Money as agreed between the Company and the Ticket manufacturer. The display printing must not be irregular in any respect.
24. 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 5th 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 9th October, 2020 and end on Friday 18th December 2020, with one final Bonus Draw to be held on Tuesday 6th 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 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 €5 Merry Money Game 253 Ticket a Player will receive five 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, 2020 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 €5, €10, €25, €50 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 €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 €20,000 must be claimed in person at the Company's headquarters, in exchange for a completed winning Ticket and following Ticket validation procedure.
4. A list of the prize claim centre agents is available at www.lottery.ie
5. Instant Prizes must be claimed within 90 days of the announced end of the game.
6. The Company will be discharged from any liability after payment or posting of Instant Prizes.
7. The official game off-sale date for Game 253 Merry Money is 5th January 2021.

8. The last date for the claiming of any Instant Prize in Game 253 Merry Money is 5th 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 208,146.
2. The odds of winning an Instant Prize are 1 in 2.88 on average.
3. At time of purchase some Instant Prizes may have already been won.

14. Prize Amounts, Number of Prizes and Odds

Prize Amount	Approximate Odds 1 in	No. of Winners in Game	No. of Tickets in Game 600,000
€5 Game 1	100.00	6,000	
€5 Game 2	20.83	28,800	
€5 Game 3	6.25	96,000	
€10 Game 1	400.00	1,500	
€10 Game 2	133.33	4,500	
€10 Game 3	66.67	9,000	
€10 Multi Win €5 x 2	15.38	39,000	
€25 Game 1	1,000.00	600	
€25 Game 2	666.67	900	
€25 Game 3	666.67	900	
€25 Multi Win €5 x 5	71.43	8,400	
€25 Multi Win €5 + (€10 x 2)	72.99	8,220	
€50 Game 1	1,000.00	600	
€50 Game 2	2,000.00	300	
€50 Game 3	2,000.00	300	
€50 Multi Win €5 x 10	645.16	930	
€50 Multi Win (€10 x 3) + (€5 x 4)	1,428.57	420	
€50 Multi Win (€10 x 4) + (€5 x 2)	3,333.33	180	
€50 Multi Win €25 + €10 + (€5 x 3)	2,000.00	300	
€50 Multi Win €10 x 5	2,000.00	300	

Prize Amount	Approximate Odds 1 in	No. of Winners in Game	No. of Tickets in Game 600,000
€50 Multi Win €25 + (€10 x 2) + €5	4,000.00	150	
€50 Multi Win €25 x 2	4,000.00	150	
€100 Game 2	50,000.00	12	
€100 Game 3	50,000.00	12	
€100 Multi Win €10 x 10	4,761.90	126	
€100 Multi Win €50 + (€10 x 2) + (€5 x 6)	10,000.00	60	
€100 Multi Win (€25 x 2) + (€10 x 2) + (€5 x 6)	4,761.90	126	
€100 Multi Win €50 + (€10 x 3) + (€5 x 4)	10,000.00	60	
€100 Multi Win (€25 x 3) + (€5 x 5)	20,000.00	30	
€100 Multi Win (€25 x 2) + (€10 x 5)	20,000.00	30	
€100 Multi Win €50 + €25 + (€5 x 5)	20,000.00	30	
€100 Multi Win €50 + €25 + €10 + (€5 x 3)	20,000.00	30	
€100 Multi Win €50 + €25 + (€10 x 2) + €5	20,000.00	30	
€100 Multi Win €25 x 4	20,000.00	30	
€100 Multi Win €50 x 2	25,000.00	24	
€500	100,000.00	6	
€500 Multi Win €100 x 5	100,000.00	6	
€500 Multi Win (€100 x 4) + (€50 x 2)	100,000.00	6	

Prize Amount	Approximate Odds 1 in	No. of Winners in Game	No. of Tickets in Game 600,000
€500 Multi Win (€100 x 4) + (€25 x 4)	50,000.00	12	
€500 Multi Win (€50 x 10)	33,333.33	18	
€500 Multi Win (€50 x 8) + €100	50,000.00	12	
€1,000	100,000.00	6	
€1,000 Multi Win €500 + (€100 x 3) + (€50 x 2) + (€25 x 4)	100,000.00	6	
€1,000 Multi Win €500 + (€100 x 4) + (€50 x 2)	100,000.00	6	
€1,000 Multi Win €500 + (€100 x 5)	50,000.00	12	
€20,000	100,000.00	6	

The total value of prizes in the Game as designed, including contribution of €15,000 to the overall pool for the Bonus Draws, is €2,106,000 which means that the likely proportion of the proceeds of the Game which is expected to be paid in prizes is 70.20%.

15. Termination of Game

The official game off-sale date for Game 253 Merry Money is 5th January, 2021.

The last date for the claiming of any Instant Prize in Game 253 Merry Money is 5th April, 2021.