

Contests and Lotteries Policy

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Approved by:	OPL Board
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Purpose:

This policy ensures that the Oakville Public Library (OPL) is compliant with all legislation related to contests and lotteries. This policy outlines the circumstances in which it is appropriate for OPL staff, board members, volunteers and/or family members to participate in OPL contests.

Scope:

This policy applies to all residents, OPL staff, board members, and volunteers.

Policy Statement:

According to the *Competition Act*, a promotional contest is defined as “any contest, lottery, game of chance or skill, or mixed chance and skill, or disposition of any product or other benefit by any mode of chance, skill, or mixed chance and skill, for the purpose of promoting, directly or indirectly, the supply or use of a product, or for the purpose of promoting, directly or indirectly, any business interest.”

To comply with applicable legislation, OPL commits to providing the following information to the public for each contest it runs:

- Number and value of prizes
- Geographic area(s) to which the prizes relates
- Skill testing question requirement (as applicable)
- Contest closing date
- Any important information relating to the chances of winning (e.g. odds of winning)
- Method of selecting winners (i.e. skill or random)
- Method of no purchase entry

OPL also commits to contacting winners and/or distributing prizes as soon as possible after the contest closing date.

OPL, as a public library constituted under the *Public Libraries Act*, is not eligible for a lottery license, and therefore cannot run a lottery to raise funds. To be considered a “contest” and not a “lottery” the contest must be free for the public to enter and/or there must be a method of “no purchase entry” available to the public.

Participation in OPL Contests

The intent of promotional contests is to encourage increased awareness and/or use of an OPL program or service by the public.

In order to avoid the possibility of bias, OPL staff, board members and volunteers may not participate in any OPL contest open to members of the public. Even in the case where an OPL staff member, board member and/or volunteer may be considered to be participating as a customer (i.e. attending an adult program with a door prize), they are still not eligible to participate in the contest component of the program.

Immediate family members of OPL staff, board members and volunteers may only participate in OPL contests where the winners are chosen randomly.

OPL reserves the right to include additional limitations on prizes, such as having an OPL library card, if deemed necessary.