



Terms & Conditions for entry into the National Lottery Good Causes Awards 2025

1. Introduction

All applicants to the National Lottery Good Causes Awards 2025 (an initiative of Premier Lotteries Ireland DAC who operate the National Lottery (“National Lottery”). must agree and adhere to these Terms & Conditions.

By entering this competition, the applicant agrees to these Terms & Conditions.

2. Entry

The awards are open to every individual, club, charity, voluntary organisation or project that has received National Lottery funding in the calendar years 2020 to 2024 inclusive. Applications can be made by completing the relevant form online at www.lottery.ie/goodcausesawards by 5.00pm on 4th of April 2025.

No purchase of any National Lottery product is necessary in order to enter.

3. Eligibility Criteria

The competition is open to any organisation, club, individual or projects that received funding in the calendar years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024, which are or have been part financed by National Lottery proceeds, from any of the following:

- **Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media:**
 - Funding received from Sport Ireland
 - Funding received through Sports Capital Programme Grants
 - Funding received from The Arts Council of Ireland
 - Irish Language Support Grants
- **Department of Rural and Community Development:**
 - Funding received from Senior Alert Schemes
 - Funding through the Scheme to Support National Organisations (SSNO)
- **Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage:**
 - Funding received from The Heritage Council of Ireland

- Housing Adaptation Grants
- **Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth**
 - Funding received from UBU Your Place Your Space grants, Youth Services Grant Scheme, Targeted Youth Funding Scheme and Youth Information Centre Grants.
- **Department of Health**
 - Funding received through the HSE National Lottery grant scheme

Applicants can check to see if they are eligible to enter the awards by visiting www.lottery.ie/goodcausesawards.

All entries will be checked against the National Lottery's database of Good Causes beneficiaries to ensure that they are eligible. If your name does not appear and you believe you received funding during these years, please email goodcausesawards@lottery.ie and a member of our team will discuss it with you.

IMPORTANT - Please note that any organisation that was named as one of the 35 National Finalists in 2024, is not eligible to apply for the 2025 Good Causes Awards. This is to ensure that we get a variety of worthy Finalists every year.

Any individual entering whether on behalf of themselves or an organisation, club, or project must be over the age of eighteen (18) years. This does not exclude any organisation, clubs or projects that involve or serve the needs of persons under the age of eighteen (18) years.

The National Lottery is not responsible for any incomplete, incomprehensible or misdirected entries. Such entries will be deemed to be void at the instance of the National Lottery.

4. Categories

There will be seven (7) overall categories for the National Finals of the Good Causes Awards.

The seven (7) categories are as follows:

- Sport.
- Health & Wellbeing.
- Arts & Culture.
- Heritage.
- Youth Affairs.
- Community.
- Irish Language.

5. Competition Phases: County and National

The competition has two (2) phases:

- County
- National

County Phase

This phase is open to beneficiaries in any of the seven (7) categories of Sport, Health & Wellbeing, Arts & Culture, Heritage, Youth, Community & Irish Language who have received National Lottery Good Causes funding in any of the twenty-six (26) counties in the Republic of Ireland.

Due to its population density, what is the geographic region of County Dublin will be split into the following 3 areas -

- 1) Dublin City (Dublin City Council region)
- 2) Dublin North (Fingal County Council)
- 3) Dublin South (South County Dublin & Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council regions)

To ensure fairness and equitable distribution, and in recognition of the concentration and movement of population within the broader geographical region that is County Dublin Area, the National Lottery reserves the right to reallocate entries from any Dublin region to any other region within the geographical region that is County Dublin.

This will increase to twenty-eight (28) the number of regions for the County stage. This increases the total number of County winners as there is potential for seven (7) category winners from each of the twenty-eight (28) County regions.

In addition, the National Lottery reserves the right to permit a second entry per category from the Dublin City area to progress to the County Stage in recognition of the high proportional concentration of national Good Cause beneficiaries located in Dublin City.

The maximum total number of County winners for the National Lottery Good Causes Awards 2025 is one hundred and ninety-six (196).

National Phase

Each winning Good Cause in the County phase will then automatically go forward for inclusion in the National Phase of the competition.

Within each category, each of the application criteria will be marked out of ten (10) by each judge in our National judging panel, and the total score will determine the winner within each category.

On completion of the National Final stage, there will be five (5) winners chosen in each of the seven (7) categories i.e., 35 Good Causes who will progress to the National Finals.

The 35 Good Causes finalists going forward to the National Finals will be announced w/c 21st July 2025.

HERO OF THE YEAR AWARD

The “HERO OF THE YEAR” award will be presented to a volunteer or employee of one of the national finalist Good Cause beneficiaries who goes over and above to make a difference.

Each of the thirty-five (35) National Finalists is invited to nominate one person for this award. This award presents a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate the impact made.

The Hero of the Year winner will be announced at the National Lottery Good Causes Awards on Saturday 18th October at Killashee Hotel, Naas, Co. Kildare. The winner will receive a certificate and a prize of €5,000, to spend as they wish.

The ‘Hero’ nominations for this award must strictly be over the age of eighteen (18) years.

National Finals Judging phase

Each of the thirty-five (35) finalists will be required to give a five-minute presentation on the impact their Good Cause has had on their communities followed by a ten-minute Q&A with the National Finals judging panel.

Up to two (2) members of the Good Cause may participate in the presentation.

Presentations to the judging panel may be delivered in person at National Lottery Headquarters or remotely across two (2) dates in September 2025. Dates will be determined by the National Lottery.

Gala Awards Event

The winners of the National Finals will be publicly announced at a black-tie awards dinner on Saturday 18th October 2025. Five (5) representatives from each National Finalist will be invited to the awards dinner.

There will be an overall National winner in each of the seven (7) categories.

Of the seven (7) category award winners, one (1) will be awarded “National Lottery Good Cause of the Year 2024”.

6. Assessment Criteria

The scoring criteria used by the judging panel to assess each application are as follows:

Q1 Tell us briefly about you, your community project, organisation or club?

Assessment Criteria:

First Impressions of the organisation, club or individual – How well do they engage you in how they tell their story?

Q2 How did your sport, project, organisation, or community benefit from National Lottery Good Causes funding and what did it enable the project to do differently, new, and what impact had it on the project or wider community?

Assessment Criteria:

1. Scale of the Impact (this is not necessarily the number of people they support, it's the depth of the impact that they make to those they serve).
2. Difference to people's lives - how does the work of this organisation impact the people they support?
3. How innovative is this organisation? Are they doing something really different and unique?
4. Impact of the Good Causes Funding - how did the Good Causes funding enhance their ability to deliver particular projects/services?

Q3: Tell us how your organisation fosters a welcome for all and/or promotes sustainability?

Assessment Criteria:

Are they clearly showing a commitment to Sustainability by reducing environmental impact and/or promoting and fostering an inclusive environment that ensures equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, or other diverse characteristics?

Q4 Please highlight to us one (1) standout moment or story that you are most proud of, that demonstrates why this project/organisation should win this award?

Assessment Criteria:

The X Factor - How does this organisation, its people or its activities stand out from the crowd? How different are they from other organisations?

Hero of the Year

NOTE: Only the 35 National Finalists are invited to complete this nomination process.

Q1 Name of the nominee and the role they play in the organisation

Q2 Tell us why they should be Hero of the Year

Assessment Criteria:

How does this nominee make a real difference in their group/community?

How does this Hero of the Year nominee get the best out of others?

Q3 What three words describe this person?

Assessment Criteria:

Do these three words demonstrate outstanding 'hero' qualities that sets them apart from others?

7. Prizes

All prize monies are the property of the winning Good Cause and must be reinvested into the Good Cause, apart from the Hero of the Year prize, which is an individual prize.

The prize structure for the competition will be broken down as follows:

COUNTY FINAL	
Prize	No of Winners
Certificate of achievement	(up to) 196
NATIONAL FINAL	
Prize	No of Winners
€1,000 (This may also be used to off-set any costs of participating in the competition e.g. travel, accommodation)	35
GALA EVENT	
Prize	No of Winners
€10,000 & Trophy for overall Category Winner €5,000 & Certificate for Hero of the Year	(seven) 7 (one) 1
OVERALL GOOD CAUSE OF THE YEAR	
Prize	No of Winners
€25,000 & Trophy	(one) 1

8. Competition Rules

All decisions made by the judging panel in each of the two (2) phases (County and National) will be final in all circumstances.

All applicants must apply under the relevant category and in the location where the group, organisation, club, or project is located. Any queries about the jurisdiction of the project can be detailed on the application form.

PLI reserves the right to reassign an applicant to a different category than stated on their application should (i) the relevant Good Cause have received funding in more than one (1) category, or (ii) should there be an error on the application from a Good Cause.

The National Lottery reserves the right to undertake a due diligence process on any/all finalists prior to announcing winners at the National Finals.

Canvassing by phone, in person or by a form of digital communication (e.g., email or social media contact) is strictly prohibited and is likely to result in an application being excluded from the competition at the instance of the National Lottery.

9. Judging Panel and Timeline

The judging panel for this competition will be chaired by one (1) independent judge. The independent judge will be joined by other judges from varying disciplines for each different phase of the competition as outlined below:

- For the **County Phase** of the competition, the County winners will be determined by a team of experienced National Lottery staff volunteers who will read through all valid applications and score them as per the judging criteria. Each County winner will be ratified by the Chair, a senior

representative from the National Lottery. This judging process will take place from 7th – 21st April 2025. Subject to regulatory approval, announcement of the County winners is expected w/c 26th May 2025.

- For the **National Phase** of the competition, the judging panel will consist of five (5) people. The independent Chair will be joined by one (1) National Lottery representative, an independent representative from the retail sector and two (2) representatives from any (1) of the areas of sport, arts & culture, heritage, health & wellbeing, community, and youth affairs.
- This selection process will take place in the National Lottery offices once the County winners are announced. (Up to) one hundred and ninety-six (196) county winners will be shortlisted to five (5) National finalists in each of the seven (7) categories.
- For the **Final Phase** of the competition to determine the overall winners, the judging panel will consist of six (6) people - the Chair, two (2) senior representatives from the National Lottery, an independent representative from the retail sector and two (2) representatives from any one (1) of the areas of sport, arts & culture, heritage, health & wellbeing, community and youth affairs. Over the course of two (2) to three (3) days, each of the 35 finalists will make a five-minute presentation and have a ten-minute Q&A with the judging panel. Each finalist will be scored independently by each judge and scores will be amalgamated to confirm results.

Action	Time Period
Application Phase	28th Feb – 4th April
County Judging Phase	7th April – 28th April
Regulatory Approval	28th April – 28th May
Announcement of (up to) 196 County Winners	29th May (TBC)
Judging process to shortlist (up to) County representatives to 35 National Finalists.	29th May– 8th July
Announcement of 35 National Finalists	w/c 21st July
National Final Judging Days	8th & 9th September*
National Lottery Good Causes Awards National Final Event	18th October 2025

* Dates TBC

10. Publicity, Branding and Social Media

Projects, organisations, and individuals who apply for these awards agree all intellectual property rights (including copyright) in the material submitted to PLI for the purposes of, or in connection with, this competition is assigned to PLI from the date of the project's entry.

At the application stage, all winners will agree and consent to have the name of the Good Cause published on the National Lottery website (www.lottery.ie); and official social media channels including, but not limited to, Facebook, X and Instagram after the winners are announced.

Representatives from all winning Good Causes must make themselves available to attend photocalls when required. Further publicity commitments, such as National Finals photocall, and the participation in a short video (for each County or National Finalists) will be used by the National Lottery to promote the County and National Finalists online and on social media channels.

11. Assistance with entering this competition

If you experience any difficulties entering this competition, or have any questions, you can contact the National Lottery by email to goodcausesawards@lottery.ie

12. Exclusion of Liability

The National Lottery will not be liable for any costs associated with applying for awards at any stage of the competition. This includes, but is not limited to, travel mileage and expenses, meals, accommodation, and other relevant expenses.

Under no circumstances (including, but not limited to, any act or omission on the part of the National Lottery) will the National Lottery or any of the judging panel be liable for any indirect, incidental, special and/or consequential damages or loss of profits whatsoever which result in connection with this competition.

The National Lottery reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions at any time, without prior notice, in its absolute discretion. Any material changes will be advertised on the National Lottery website and such posting shall be adequate notice to all applicants.

13. Jurisdiction

These terms and conditions shall be exclusively governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Ireland, and you irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Irish courts. All times and dates refer to the time and date in Ireland.