

CUNY HRPP Policy: Use of Raffles as Compensation for Participation

Raffles, drawings and other games of chance are highly regulated in New York. Pursuant to the New York State General Municipal Law Article 9-A and the New York City Administrative Code § 20-433 et seq., games of chance offered by charitable organizations are permitted under certain circumstances. In order to meet the requirements of those laws, investigators who wish to use a drawing as compensation for participation in a research protocol shall abide by the following rules:

1. The drawing must be run by an “authorized organization” as defined by New York law. CUNY (including its colleges) meets the legal definition of an authorized organization, as do certain other types of religious, charitable, educational and service organizations. A for-profit organization will not.
2. Research participants shall not be required to pay anything in order to take part in the drawing.
3. No one under 18 may participate in or run the drawing. If some research participants may be under 18, another form of incentive should be used.
4. No single prize can exceed \$100 in value; no series of prizes awarded for drawings held in connection with a particular research protocol can exceed \$1000 in value.
5. The winner must be determined and the prize delivered or otherwise made available to the winner on the same day as the drawing.
6. The drawing cannot be advertised by means addressed to the general public, including newspapers, radio, TV, posters, or flyers.

Research Conducted Outside of New York State or Over the Internet

If a raffle or drawing is done in conjunction with a survey or other research that will be conducted in one or more locations outside of New York State, or will be conducted over the Internet and open to participants located outside of New York State, the raffle must comply with the games of chance laws of each of those locations. In these situations, in addition to complying with the requirements of New York law described above, the PI must also confirm in writing to the IRB that the raffle complies with the applicable laws of each of the non-New York research locations, including any foreign locations.