



Mega Millions® FAQ for Players

GAME-CHANGE OVERVIEW

What are the changes happening to Mega Millions in April 2025?

The new Mega Millions® will feature bigger prizes at every non-jackpot prize tier, better odds, a larger starting jackpot value, a faster-growing jackpot and a built-in Multiplier that will multiply a non-jackpot prize. The Multiplier can range from 2X to 10X.

You'll see seven key differences in the new game.

- 2X to 10X bigger prizes at every non-jackpot prize tier
- Larger starting jackpot value
- Faster-growing jackpot
- Bigger average jackpot
- Better overall odds to win any prize
- Improved odds to win the jackpot
- No breakeven prizes; if you win a prize, you'll always win more than the cost of a play

The new Mega Millions® debuts on April 5, 2025. The Friday, April 4, 2025, drawing will be the final drawing under the current game structure. The first draw using the new matrix and prize structure will take place on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

JACKPOT

Is the starting-jackpot value increasing?

The jackpot will reset to \$50 million following a jackpot win instead of the current variable amount, which has typically been \$20 million.

Will the average jackpot be larger in the new game?

The Mega Millions® consortium estimates that the average jackpot win in the new game will be more than \$800 million vs. approximately \$450 million in the current game. The jackpot also is expected to grow faster and get to higher dollar amounts more frequently in the new game.

Will the jackpot reset with the changeover to the new game?

Unless someone wins the jackpot on the April 4, 2025, drawing – the final drawing under the current game and prize matrix – the jackpot from the current game will roll into the new game and continue to grow with ticket sales from the new game.

NON-JACKPOT PRIZES & MULTIPLIER

Will non-jackpot prizes increase?

Yes. Every non-jackpot win will multiply the base prize by 2X, 3X, 4X, 5X or 10X automatically because of each play's randomly assigned built-in Multiplier. Prizes in the new game will range from \$10 to \$10 million vs. \$2 to \$1 million in the current game.

Is the minimum prize increasing?

The minimum prize on a winning ticket in the new game will be \$10 vs. \$2 in the current game.

How will the new Multiplier work?

In the current game, if you match just the Mega Ball, you win \$2. In the new game in that same matching scenario, you would win \$10, \$15, \$20, \$25 or \$50 because of the higher prize (\$5) for that match and the Multiplier (which could be either 2X, 3X, 4X, 5X or 10X).

How will the Multiplier be assigned?

Every Mega Millions® play now will include a built-in random Multiplier to increase a non-jackpot prize. The Multiplier value – either 2X, 3X, 4X, 5X or 10X – will be randomly selected and printed on the ticket next to each play.

How will the Multiplier be different than in the current game?

The random Multiplier in the new game will be different from the current game in two ways: 1) The random Multiplier is automatically included in every play vs. being the Megaplier, which is an add-on feature that costs \$1 more; 2) We're adding a new 10X Multiplier that wasn't previously available.

Is the Megaplier still available for purchase?

No. The Megaplier add-on feature that has been available in some jurisdictions for an additional \$1 will be retired and replaced by the built-in Multiplier. Megaplier will no longer be available for any drawing after April 4, 2025.

Is Just the Jackpot still available?

No. The Just the Jackpot option that has been available in some jurisdictions for \$3 will be retired. It will no longer be available for any drawing after April 4, 2025.

ODDS

What are the odds in the new game?

Overall odds to win any prize will improve from 1:24 to 1:23 due to the removal of one gold Mega Ball from the game. With fewer Mega Balls from which to choose, odds of picking the right one improve, and odds of winning any prize improve.

What are the odds of winning the jackpot?

Odds to win the jackpot will improve from 1:302,575,350 to 1:290,472,336 in the new game due to the removal of one gold Mega Ball from the game.

CLAIMING PRIZES

Can I still collect my prize if I won on a ticket for a drawing before April 5, 2025?

If you have a winning ticket that was issued for a drawing date of April 4, 2025, or earlier, you should be able to claim your prize if you do so by the deadline set by the lottery from which the ticket was purchased. All winning tickets for drawings from the old game will be paid based on the prize matrix in effect during the time of the drawing for those tickets regardless of when a prize is claimed.

If I purchase a Mega Millions® ticket in one state, can I redeem it in another?

Because Mega Millions® is sold by individual lotteries, winning tickets must be redeemed in the state or jurisdiction in which they were purchased.

<https://www.valottery.com/winnersnews/claimprize>

Can a Mega Millions® jackpot winner claim the prize anonymously?

<https://www.valottery.com/winnersnews/claimprize>

Are prizes taxable?

Yes. All prizes are subject to income taxes. For tax-withholding information, please check

<https://www.valottery.com/winnersnews/claimprize>

What are the payout options if I win the jackpot?

If you are a Mega Millions® jackpot winner, you will have the choice of a Cash Option or an annual payout (also called the Annuity Option). The Cash Option provides a one-time, lump-sum payment that is equal to all the cash in the Mega Millions® jackpot prize pool and is based on actual sales. The Annuity Option offers an initial payment followed by 29 annual payments. Each payment is 5 percent larger than the previous one. This prize option is based on the advertised value of the jackpot. See the Virginia Mega Millions® Game Rules:

<https://www.valottery.com/data/draw-games/megamillions>

What happens if I lose a ticket?

Mega Millions® is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets. Protect yourself by signing the back of your ticket. Lottery tickets are bearer instruments. Unless the ticket is signed, anyone in possession of the ticket can file a claim for the prize won on the ticket.

What happens to Mega Millions® payments if the winner dies before collecting?

If a winner who has chosen the Annuity Option dies before receiving all annual payments, Mega Millions® will continue to pay the annual payments, as scheduled, to the winner's designated beneficiary or to the winner's estate.

What happens to a Mega Millions® jackpot prize if it is not claimed?

If a jackpot prize is not claimed within the required time limit in the state or jurisdiction where the winning ticket was sold (180 days), each participating lottery will get back all the money it contributed (through ticket sales) to the unclaimed jackpot.

PRICING

Why did the price change from \$2 to \$5?

Mega Millions® has always been a game about providing great value to our players, and, with this new price point, Mega Millions® is able to do that at every prize level. Everyone who wins will win more in the new game. A non-jackpot prize will be multiplied by 2X, 3X, 4X, 5X or 10X. There is a larger starting-jackpot value, faster growing jackpots, larger jackpots more frequently, improved odds to win the jackpot and improved overall odds to win any prize. This is only the game's second price adjustment since the first ticket was sold more than 20 years ago.