

Mega Millions Matrix change Q & A

The Mega Millions game is about to get bigger! Starting with the October 22, 2013, drawing, Mega Millions players will see changes that include larger starting jackpots, faster growing jackpots, a million-dollar second prize and better odds of winning any prize—all for the same \$1 players now pay. If you have questions, we have answers!

Q: Will the available numbers I can play change?

A: Yes. The number of white balls is increasing to 75 and the number of gold balls (the Mega Ball) will decrease to 15. This will make the odds of hitting the jackpot steeper, but improve the odds of winning any prize.

Q: What if I win a prize? Will the prizes change?

A: Many of the prize levels will change. For example, the second prize will increase from \$250,000 to \$1 million for matching the first five numbers. The prize for matching just the Mega Ball number remains \$1.

Q: What about the size of the jackpot?

A: That will change too. The minimum jackpot will increase from \$12 million to \$15 million, and jackpots will grow by at least \$5 million after each drawing in which the jackpot is not won.

Q: So the price of a ticket is changing too, right?

A: Wrong. The price of a Mega Millions ticket remains just \$1.

Q: Will the Megaplier remain?

A: Yes. You can still buy the Megaplier option for an extra \$1 to increase non-jackpot prizes. One change: the Megaplier will be expanded to include a five factor. That means a Mega Millions ticket can now win up to \$5 million without matching all six numbers.

Q: What are the odds of hitting the jackpot?

A: Approximately 1 in 259 million

Q: Why make these changes?

A: Two big reasons: Larger and faster-growing jackpots and a new \$5 million second prize. These changes will make the game even more exciting.

Q: Sounds great! How do I get in the game?

A: You can play Mega Millions at any of 5,300 Virginia Lottery retailers across the Commonwealth. Good luck!

Q: When will I see these changes?

A: The changes go into effect with the October 22 drawing. You'll see them reflected in tickets bought beginning October 19.