FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Media Relations, 512-344-5131
mediarelations@lottery.state.tx.us

POWERBALL® REDESIGN COMING SOON!

Game’s changes mean bigger jackpots and better odds of winning non-jackpot prizes

(AUSTIN) – The Texas Lottery today announced an updated version of the Powerball® game that will offer bigger jackpots and better overall odds of winning non-jackpot prizes. Sales for the redesigned game will begin on Sunday, Oct. 4, and the first drawing with the new features will be on Wednesday, Oct. 7. The cost per play will remain $2.

“Powerball has been revamped seven other times in its 23-year history so that the game can continue to be attractive to players by delivering the big jackpots that players want, and these new changes will do just that,” said Gary Grief, executive director of the Texas Lottery.

What Changes With the Redesign

In addition to bigger jackpots and better overall odds of winning any prize, the new game design offers a big jump from $10,000 to $50,000 for the game’s third prize level, and a chance for players to multiply most winnings by up to 10 times with the Power Play® feature when the jackpot is $150 million or less.

There will be changes to both sets of numbers that players use. Players will choose their first five numbers from a set of 69 (currently 59) white balls and their Powerball from a pool of 26 (currently 35) red balls. The end result will be better overall odds of winning any prize with extended odds of winning the jackpot.

“With Powerball’s success comes demand for innovation to keep the game fresh. The playing population of Powerball has almost doubled in recent years and these changes reflect a right-sizing of the game for the current population that is playing the game.” Grief said.

Since getting its start in April 1992 in 15 states with jackpots that started at a guaranteed $2 million, Powerball has grown into one of the world’s biggest and most recognizable lottery games. Today it’s sold by 47 lotteries with more than $4 billion in Powerball sales nationally each year.

During fiscal year 2015, Powerball sales in Texas were $227.0 million with an estimated $92.1 million generated in revenue for public education.
What Stays the Same with the Redesign

Powerball jackpots will continue to start at $40 million and the game’s second prize for matching the first five numbers but missing the Powerball will still be $1 million. Powerball drawings will continue to be held at 9:59 p.m. Central on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Expansion of the Power Play Option

The game’s Power Play option will get a big expansion with a 10X feature when jackpots in the game are at lower levels. Currently, players can multiply many prizes by up to five times by adding the Power Play option to their purchase for an extra $1 per play. Under the new design, the Power Play option will be expanded to multiply most prizes (except the jackpot and Match 5 level) by up to 10 times whenever the game’s initially advertised annuitized jackpot is $150 million or less. The Match 5 prize of $1 million will continue to double to $2 million with the Power Play added. The Power Play numbers available will be 2X, 3X, 4X, 5X and 10X when the jackpot is $150 million or less. Only the first four multipliers will be in play when the jackpot is higher than that.

How Power Play will work: If the jackpot is at $100 million for a particular drawing and a player wins a $50,000 prize for matching four of the first five numbers and the Powerball, if the player also added the Power Play option to their winning play, their prize will be multiplied. If 10X is selected as the Power Play number in that night’s drawing, the player’s $50,000 prize will be multiplied to $500,000.

About the Texas Lottery

Beginning with the first ticket sold in 1992, the Texas Lottery has generated $24 billion in revenue for the state and distributed $47 billion in prizes to lottery players. Since 1997, the Texas Lottery has contributed $18 billion to the Foundation School Fund, which supports public education in Texas. As authorized by the Texas Legislature, certain Texas Lottery revenues benefit state programs including the Fund for Veterans’ Assistance. Since the first veterans’ themed scratch ticket game was launched in 2009, the Texas Lottery has contributed more than $52 million for programs benefitting Texas veterans.

The Texas Lottery provides several entertaining games for lottery players including Powerball®, Mega Millions®, Lotto Texas®, All or Nothing™, Texas Two Step®, Pick 3™, Daily 4™, Cash Five®, Texas Triple Chance™ and scratch ticket games. For more information visit us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube or at www.txlottery.org.

Editors/News Directors, note: Images of the Powerball logo and new prize chart are attached in JPEG format.

###