

## How to Cash Winning Tickets

**Expiration:** All winning tickets sold in the State of Illinois expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year after they were issued. Therefore, all tickets sold in 2018 will expire on December 31, 2019 and all tickets sold in 2019 will expire on December 31, 2020.

**Cash at the Track or OTB:** The serial numbers of all winning tickets are retained in the tote system of the issuing facility until the Illinois host track responsible for those tickets purges them from the system. This purge is usually done 30 days after the close of the final race meet that track runs in a calendar year. Tickets hosted by Arlington will usually be purged mid October each year. Until the tickets are purged, you may cash your winning ticket at any wagering facility in Illinois that uses the same tote system that issued the ticket.

**Can I cash the tickets I bought at Churchill Downs on the Kentucky Derby at Arlington?** Even though Arlington Park shares common ownership with Churchill Downs and Fair Grounds Race Track, tickets **must always be cashed in the state in which they were issued.** We cannot cash tickets purchased at Churchill Downs at Arlington, or anywhere in the State of Illinois. These tickets must be mailed to the racetrack that issued them.

**Cash by Mail:** Once the tickets have been purged from the tote system, you may cash them by mail. Tickets must be mailed to the host track responsible for those tickets, regardless of where you purchased them, and must be postmarked no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year after they were purchased. Normal ticket processing time is two weeks, but because of holidays, racing schedules, and other issues, it can take up to four weeks to receive your check.

When mailing in winning tickets, always keep a copy for yourself, but you must send in the actual ticket. Usually regular US Mail is sufficient, but if the tickets are of a high value, you may wish to send them registered mail. Always include your name and address either on the back of the tickets, or somewhere inside the envelope. If we don't know who you are, we can't send you your winnings!

**Cash at Arlington:** As a courtesy for our fans, you can cash any Arlington or Trackside OTB voucher, and any Arlington hosted winning ticket from last year at the Information Window in the Player's Lounge, East end of level 2. This service is available from ½ hour prior to Arlington's first live race until ½ hour prior to Arlington's last live race daily.

**Who is the Host?**

For races run before 6:30 PM, Arlington is the host track for most of January and February, and again from May through September. Hawthorne is the host for all other times.

For tickets issued on races that are run after 6:30 PM, Hawthorne is the host track.

Don't worry if you send in your winning ticket to the wrong track, all Illinois tracks will forward your winning tickets to the correct host. This will, however, delay your processing, as the tickets must be logged in, and then forwarded.

**Where Do I Mail the Tickets?** Once you know who the host is, please mail your tickets to the appropriate address below.

Arlington Park  
PO Box 7  
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60006

Hawthorne Racecourse  
3501 S. Laramie Ave.  
Stickney, Illinois 60804

**Vouchers:** Uncashed wagering vouchers are treated a little bit differently, and it differs by where you got the voucher.

Arlington Park will honor any uncashed voucher issued by Arlington Park or any Trackside OTB, regardless of when it was issued. These vouchers are usually purged in December of the year after they were issued. All 2018 vouchers are set to be purged in December 2019. Prior to purging, vouchers may be cashed at any window, just like tickets. After purging, they may be mailed into Arlington Park at the address above.

Vouchers issued by Hawthorne, Fairmount, or any of their OTBs are treated as the policies of those establishments dictates. You may cash any of those vouchers prior to purging, but as to when they are purged and how long they are valid; the issuing facility sets the policy.