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BIGGER! BETTER! MORE! SALES FOR NEW \$2 POWERBALL® GAME START SUNDAY

(AUSTIN) – Bigger starting grand/jackpot prizes, better odds of winning and more chances to win \$1 million await Texas Lottery® players when sales for the new *Powerball* game begin Jan. 15, 2012. The first drawing for the new game occurs on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012. The cost to play the game will increase from \$1 to \$2 per play.

Starting jackpots for the new *Powerball* game will double to \$40 million and a matrix change will provide better odds of winning. Players will continue to choose five numbers from one to 59, but the pool of *Powerball* numbers will drop from 39 to 35. Odds of winning the grand/jackpot prize will improve to one in 175,223,510, and overall odds of winning any prize will improve to one in 32.

An exciting aspect of the new *Powerball* will be more opportunities for players to win \$1 million or more. The second-tier prize, awarded for matching all five numbers, but not the *Powerball* number, will increase from \$200,000 to \$1 million.

“We believe our players will enjoy the price-point variety the new \$2 *Powerball* game provides, as well as the excitement of the bigger jackpots, better odds and more chances to win \$1 million,” said Texas Lottery Commission Executive Director Gary Grief. “Players who prefer to spend \$1 per play can still participate in the *Lotto Texas*® and *Mega Millions*® drawing games.”

Players will also be able to participate in the revamped *Power Play*® feature for an extra \$1 per play. *Power Play* will now offer set increases for non-grand/jackpot prizes, including the chance to win \$2 million for the second-tier prize.

Jurisdictions participating in *Powerball* include 42 states, Washington D.C. and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Texas *Powerball* sales began on January 31, 2010. *Powerball* drawings are held on Wednesday and Saturday nights at 10:12 p.m. Proceeds from *Powerball* benefit Texas education. For more information, please visit the Texas Lottery website at www.txlottery.org.

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