



FREE STARTER GUIDE

Fundraising Without Charity Status

Run an auction, a raffle, a ticketed event or a donation page without a registration number. What you can run, what to sort out first, and how to build trust when you are not a registered charity.

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How to Use This Guide

Try to sign up for most fundraising platforms and you hit the same wall: a form asking for a charity registration number. No registration, no account. That leaves a lot of genuine fundraisers with nowhere to go.

The cause is legitimate and the people are trustworthy, but on most platforms none of that counts without a number. This guide is for everyone in that gap: what you can run, what to sort out before you start, and how to build trust when you cannot point at a registration. Anything in [square brackets] is for you to complete.

You'll Find

- 1 Who fundraises as an individual, and what usually works for each
- 2 Why most platforms turn individuals away
- 3 What to check before you choose a platform
- 4 The two things to get right before you launch
- 5 A five-step setup, and what to have ready
- 6 How to build trust without a registration number

Who This Is For

Fundraiser	The situation	What usually works
Medical and hardship	Friends and family raising for treatment costs, recovery expenses, or a household hit by illness or accident	A donation page, often with an auction of donated items
Memorial	A community coming together after a loss, to support a family or fund something in someone's memory	A donation page plus a silent auction
Sports clubs and teams	Equipment, travel or facilities. Often incorporated associations or informal groups rather than charities	Ticketing plus a raffle, where local rules permit
School parent groups	Committees running trivia nights and auctions, where the legal entity behind the event is informal	Ticketing plus a silent auction
Community projects	A playground upgrade, disaster response for one family, funding a local event	A donation page plus a ticketed event

Why Most Platforms Say No

There are practical reasons behind the restriction, and it helps to understand them before you choose where to run your campaign.

- ✓ **Their model depends on it.** Platforms built around tax-deductible receipting need a registered charity at the other end, so they verify status at signup.
- ✓ **They hold the funds.** Many platforms collect into their own account and pay out later. Holding funds for unverified individuals creates fraud and compliance risk, so they avoid it by excluding individuals.
- ✓ **Verifying a charity is easier.** A charity register is a simple way to check who you are dealing with. Verifying a person takes more work, so many platforms do not bother.

The result is a gap. Donation-only crowdfunding sites accept individuals but offer no event tools. Event fundraising platforms offer auctions and raffles but often only to registered charities. If you are an individual who wants to run an auction, you fall between the two.

What to Check Before You Choose

Platform policies change, so check these yourself rather than relying on any comparison you read, including this one:

- ☐ Does it accept individuals and informal groups, or does it require a registration number?
- ☐ Where do the funds go: into your own account, or into theirs?
- ☐ How long before the funds actually reach your bank?
- ☐ Does it run events, or only donation pages?
- ☐ Can it handle an auction, a raffle and ticketing in one campaign?
- ☐ Do supporters have to download an app or create an account?
- ☐ Is identity checked by a payment provider, rather than by a charity register?
- ☐ What fees apply, and where are they published?

YOUR OPTIONS

What You Can Actually Run

Where funds go directly to your own connected account rather than being held by the platform, an individual can use the same tools a registered charity uses.

Tool	What it does	Who it suits
Silent auction	List items, take bids from any phone, notify winners automatically	Memorial and community fundraisers with donated items
Live auction	Real-time bidding on screen at a dinner or event	A ticketed night with a room full of people
Raffle	Sell tickets online with automated draws, where local rules permit	Clubs and school groups, subject to where you are
Donation page	A simple page for one-off or recurring giving	Medical, hardship and memorial fundraisers
Ticketing	Sell tickets to a dinner, trivia night or community event	Anything with a venue and a date

You can run one of these or combine several in a single campaign. A memorial fundraiser might pair a donation page with a silent auction of donated items. A sports club might run ticketing and a raffle for the same event.

Combining Them

Our campaign will use

☐ Silent auction ☐ Live auction ☐ Raffle

☐ Donation page ☐ Ticketing

All in one campaign, opening on:

Two Things to Get Right

General information, not legal or tax advice. Rules differ by country and by state, and they change. Confirm your own position before you start, and take advice if anything is unclear.

1. Tax Deductibility

Generally, gifts to an individual are not tax-deductible. Deductible receipts require a donation to a registered charity holding the right status in your country.

- ✓ **If deductibility matters to your supporters,** consider partnering with a registered charity who can receipt on behalf of the cause.
- ✓ **If it does not,** be upfront that contributions are gifts. Saying it plainly on your page is far better than being asked later.
- ✓ **Never imply a receipt you cannot issue.** It is the one mistake that turns a generous supporter into an unhappy one.

2. Raffles and Local Rules

Raffle rules are set by state and national regulators, and they often draw a distinction between charitable and personal fundraising. In some places an individual can run a small raffle freely. In others a permit is required, or raffles are restricted to approved organisations.

- ✓ **Responsibility sits with you as the organiser.** A platform provides the technology. Meeting the local rules is your side of it.
- ✓ **Check before you sell a single ticket.** Not after. Authorisation almost always has to predate the first sale.
- ✓ **If raffles are restricted where you are,** run a silent auction or a donation campaign instead. Both usually reach the same place without the licensing question.

SETUP

Five Steps to Live

Step	What happens
1. Create your campaign	Set up your page with your story, your photos and a fundraising goal
2. Connect your payments	Verify your identity and link the bank account where funds should land. This is a standard requirement for anyone receiving payments
3. Add your tools	Auction items, raffle tickets, donation options, event tickets, or a mix of them
4. Share the link	Supporters take part from any phone, with no app download and no account to create
5. Receive funds directly	Funds settle to your own account as they come in, then reach your bank on the payment provider's standard schedule

There is no charity verification step, because there is no charity requirement. Platform fees and standard payment processing apply, and current details are on the pricing page.

Have These Ready

- ☐ Your story, in a few honest paragraphs
- ☐ Two or three real photographs
- ☐ A specific goal amount, and a clear note on what it covers
- ☐ Bank account details for the payout
- ☐ Photo identification, for verification with the payment provider
- ☐ Your list of donated items, if you are running an auction
- ☐ Your local position on raffles, if you are running one

Building Trust Without a Number

A registered charity borrows trust from its registration. You have to build yours on the page itself, which is entirely doable, and mostly a matter of being specific where others are vague.

- ☐ Your real name is on the campaign, and a real photograph
- ☐ You have said clearly what your relationship to the cause is
- ☐ You have named exactly what the funds will pay for, item by item
- ☐ You have explained why the goal is that amount, rather than a round number
- ☐ You have stated plainly whether contributions are tax-deductible
- ☐ You have said what happens if you raise more than the goal
- ☐ You have said what happens if you raise less
- ☐ The running total is visible to everyone
- ☐ You have committed to posting updates, and said how often

Your Campaign Plan

The details supporters will look for

Who we are raising funds for: []

Our relationship to them: []

What the funds will cover: []

Goal amount: [] because: []

If we raise more than the goal: []

Named organiser, publicly: []

Campaign opens: [] Closes: []

PRO TIPS

Tips for Individual Fundraisers

- ✓ **Use your real name and a real photo.** Anonymity is the fastest way to lose a supporter.
- ✓ **Say exactly what the funds cover.** "Treatment costs" is weaker than the three things it pays for.
- ✓ **Be upfront about deductibility.** Saying it first is always better than being asked.
- ✓ **Post updates as funds arrive.** It is the single best driver of a second share.
- ✓ **Check your raffle position before you sell.** Not after the tickets are out.
- ✓ **If raffles are restricted, run an auction.** It gets to the same place without the licensing question.
- ✓ **Combine tools in one campaign.** Rather than sending people three separate links.

Built for People, Not Just Charities

Raise more, stress less. There is no charity verification step, because there is no charity requirement:

- ✓ Silent auctions, live auctions, raffles, ticketing and donations in one campaign
- ✓ Funds go directly to your own connected account. GalaBid never touches them
- ✓ No app download, and no account for your supporters to create
- ✓ Identity verified through your payment provider, not a charity register
- ✓ Real fundraising experts, not chatbots

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GET STARTED →

SEE PRICING FOR YOUR REGION →