

CHAPTER II – CLUBS

Articles

- Article 2** Club Membership and Administration
- Article 3.** Club Name, Locality, and Adjustment to Locality
- Article 4.** General Membership Guidelines and Classification
- Article 5.** Membership Growth and New Members
- Article 6.** Former Rotarians and Family of Current Rotarians
- Article 7.** Club Meetings and Attendance
- Article 8.** Club Programs
- Article 9.** Club Finances and Public Relations
- Article 10.** Club Officers
- Article 11.** Club Relationships with Rotarians and Others
- Article 12.** Rotaract Clubs

ARTICLE 2. CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

- 2.010.** Membership of Clubs in RI
- 2.020.** Club Leadership Plan
- 2.030.** Association of Clubs Outside RI
- 2.040.** Clubs Chartered Prior to 6 June 1922
- 2.050.** Recommended Club Bylaws
- 2.060.** Incorporation of Clubs
- 2.070.** Incorporation of Club Activity
- 2.080.** Club Compliance with National Law
- 2.090.** Clubs and Politics
- 2.100.** Club and District Events Involving Weapons
- 2.110.** Legal and Insurance Implications of Events Involving Weapons
- 2.120.** Youth Protection
- 2.130.** Pilot Projects

2.010. Membership of Clubs in RI

RI is an association of member Rotary clubs and Rotaract clubs, each of which has a direct relationship and common responsibility to the association with no national or other grouping of clubs intervening in the administration and functioning of the clubs as members of RI. Every member club of RI is expected to comply with the provisions of the constitutional documents which provide for the organizational structure and functioning of the club. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57)*

Source: May-June 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 265
Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57

2.010.1. Failure to Function

In accordance with the RI Bylaws, the RI Board is responsible for ensuring that all member clubs of the association are functioning, and defines a functioning club as

1. Having paid its per capita dues to Rotary International
2. Meeting regularly consistent with RI constitutional documents
3. Ensuring that its members subscribe to *Rotary* magazine or a licensed regional magazine.
4. Implementing service projects that address needs in the local community and/or in communities in other countries
5. Receiving the visit of the governor, assistant governor, or an officer of Rotary International
6. Maintaining appropriate liability insurance as provided in section 72.060. of this Code
7. Acting in a manner consistent with the RI constitution, bylaws, and the *Rotary Code of Policies*
8. Complying with requests from the RI Board to terminate a Rotarian's membership who admits to, is convicted of or is otherwise found to have engaged in harassment as defined in the Rotary Code of Policies.
9. Paying its RI membership and district dues without outside assistance
10. Providing accurate membership lists on a timely basis to the general secretary. At a minimum, clubs must report their membership changes to the general secretary so they are received by 1 July and 1 January.
11. Resolving club disputes in an amicable manner
12. Maintaining cooperative relations with the district
13. Cooperating with RI by not initiating or maintaining, or retaining in its membership an individual who initiates or maintains, litigation against Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation, or the district, including their directors, trustees, officers, and employees, prior to exhausting all remedies provided for in RI's constitutional documents
14. Following and completing the election review process established in the RI bylaws

Each governor shall identify which clubs in the district are failing to function according to the above criteria. Rotary senior leaders are also encouraged to report any observations that suggest that a club has failed to function. The general secretary may also identify clubs that are failing to function and request a report from the district governor. The governor's report, as well as other evidence, shall be considered to determine if a club is failing to function. (*January 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80*)

Source: February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 339; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59.

Amended by May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 425; August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 79; November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178; November 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 93; June 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196; October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31; January

Rotary International Code of Policies
June 2025

2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96; May 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113; May 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 121; September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 28; October 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 68; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48; October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 30; January 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80

2.010.2. Plan For Achieving Minimum Standards in All Rotary Clubs

1. Creating Opportunities for Clubs to Become Functioning

The governor will make appropriate arrangements to strengthen clubs identified as weak, so they are able to fulfill the minimum standards established by the Board.

2. Addressing Clubs That Are Not Functioning

If a club elects not to participate in the strengthening opportunities offered by the district governor, the governor will work with the club to identify an appropriate course of action from the following options:

- a. Resignation – After careful consideration, in consultation with the governor, the club members agree to resign the membership of their club in accordance with club resignation board policy. The governor will provide the names of interested Rotarians to nearby clubs.
- b. Merger – In consultation with the governor, the club and all of its members will consolidate with a nearby club. Neighboring clubs with fewer than 20 members are encouraged to merge.
- c. Termination – The governor notifies the general secretary, or the general secretary determines, that a club is not able to meet the minimum standards for a functioning club. The general secretary notifies the club that it has been identified by the governor or the general secretary as failing to function and asks for its response within a reasonable timeframe. If the club doesn't respond or if the club's response indicates that minimum standards cannot be achieved, the club is terminated for failure to function.

(January 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80)

Source: February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324; November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158;

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31; January 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80

2.010.3. Resignation of Rotary Clubs

In accordance with RI Bylaws section 3.010., Club Resignation from RI, a club wishing to resign its membership in the association may follow these general guidelines:

With advance notice, convene a meeting of the entire membership and vote to decide if the club should resign its membership in Rotary International.

If a majority of the members present votes to resign the club's membership, the club's president and secretary should send a written communication to the district governor and the general secretary summarizing the club's vote and indicating the final date that the club will operate.

Care should be taken to follow all applicable local laws and stewardship requirements regarding the termination of a non-profit organization.

If the club has incorporated itself, and/or if it has incorporated an activity of the club, applicable laws and the articles of incorporation should be followed, especially concerning the disposition of assets.

The district should assist remaining members in locating other Rotary clubs if they express a desire to continue their Rotary membership. (*October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31*)

Source: June 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 283;

Amended by October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31; October 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 24

Cross-References

9.020. Clubs in Arrears to RI

32.030.4. Club Suspension, Termination, Resignation, and Reinstatement by General Secretary

32.030.9. Magazine Subscription Requirements

2.020. Club Leadership Plan

The purpose of the Club Leadership Plan is to strengthen the Rotary club by providing the administrative framework of an effective club. Club leaders should implement the Club Leadership Plan in consultation with district leaders as described by the District Leadership Plan. The Club Leadership Plan should be reviewed annually. Effective clubs:

- Sustain and/or increase their membership base
- Implement successful projects that address the needs of their community and communities in other countries
- Support The Rotary Foundation through both financial contributions and program participation
- Develop leaders capable of serving in Rotary beyond the club level

To implement a Club Leadership Plan, current, incoming, and past club leaders should:

1. Develop a long-range plan that addresses the elements of an effective club
2. Set annual goals and enter these in Rotary Club Central
3. Conduct club assemblies that involve members in the planning process and keep them informed of the activities of Rotary

4. Ensure clear communication between the club president, board, committee chairs, club members, district governor, assistant governors, and district committees
5. Provide for continuity in leadership, including the concept of succession planning to ensure development of future leaders
6. Amend bylaws to reflect the club committee structure and roles and responsibilities of club leaders
7. Provide opportunities to increase fellowship among members of the club
8. Ensure that every member is active in a club project or function
9. Develop and implement a comprehensive learning plan that ensures:
 - Club leaders attend district learning events as appropriate
 - Orientation is consistently and regularly provided for new members
 - Ongoing educational opportunities are available for current members
 - A leadership skills development program is available for all members

Club Committees

Club committees are charged with carrying out the annual and long-range goals of the club. The president-elect, president, and immediate past president should work together to ensure continuity of leadership and succession planning. Whenever feasible, committee members should be appointed to the same committee for three years to ensure consistency. The president-elect is responsible for appointing committee members to fill vacancies, appointing committee chairs, and conducting planning meetings prior to the start of the year in office. It is recommended that the chair have previous experience as a member of the committee.

Standing committees should be appointed in accordance with Article 11 of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution and reflected in the club's bylaws.

Learning Events Requirements

Club committee chairs should attend the district training assembly prior to serving as chair.

Relation to the District Leadership Team

Club committees should work with assistant governors and relevant district committees.

Reporting Requirements

Club committees should report to the club board on the status of their activities on a regular basis and at club assemblies, as appropriate. (*April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119*)

Source: November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 128;

Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104; June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 223; January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 118; September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 28; April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119

2.030. Association of Clubs Outside RI

A club does not have the authority to bind its members to any other organization nor establish a formal association of clubs outside of the framework of RI. (*October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31*)

Source: April 1971 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 233;

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31

2.040. Clubs Chartered Prior to 6 June 1922

Unless an exception was granted pursuant to the RI Bylaws, all clubs chartered before 6 June 1922 shall adopt the current Standard Rotary Club Constitution. The general secretary has as an addendum for each club chartered before 6 June 1922 with variations to the Standard Rotary Club Constitution. When a club wishes to amend a variation to make it conform more closely to the current Standard Rotary Club Constitution, it may do so by following the provisions of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution. (*October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31*)

Source: March 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139; November 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 83;

Amended by October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31

2.050. Recommended Club Bylaws

The Standard Rotary Club Constitution requires all clubs to adopt bylaws not inconsistent with the constitution and bylaws of RI. The Board has adopted Recommended Club Bylaws as found in an appendix to this Code. Amendments to the Recommended Club Bylaws resulting from the action of the Council on Legislation may be approved by the Executive Committee, acting on the Board's behalf. The Recommended Club Bylaws shall be reviewed by the Board as appropriate. (*October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31*)

Source: November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197;

Amended by October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31

2.060. Incorporation of Clubs

A club may incorporate so long as the club includes within the articles of incorporation a phrase reciting the allegiance to and submission of the club to the constitutional documents of RI as now existent and as may hereafter be amended.

Clubs should obtain the advice of legal counsel and liability insurance counsel with respect to the need for protection against liability resulting from club projects and activities through the incorporation of the club or its activities.

For purposes of this section the following words shall have the following meanings:

- “Corporation” shall mean a corporation, association, limited-liability company, or other similar entity recognized by a local jurisdiction.
- “Incorporate” shall mean the process of establishing a corporation.
- “Corporate Documents” shall mean the documents formally adopted by a corporation establishing its processes for governance and operation, including its articles of incorporation or association, bylaws and similar documents.

(October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31)

Source: July 1940 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36; November 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 93; November 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104; October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31.

Amended by January 1958 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 114; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

2.060.1. Suggested Incorporation Format

Certain general provisions for articles of incorporation are as follows:

The name of this corporation shall be "Rotary Club of (City), (State/Province/Country) Incorporated."

This corporation shall be a non-profit corporation. Its purpose shall be charitable and benevolent and to encourage, promote and extend the Object of Rotary, and to maintain the relations of a member club in RI.

In so far as the provisions of the law of the State/Province/Country of _____, under which this corporation is incorporated, shall permit, this corporation shall operate in a manner consistent with the constitution and bylaws of Rotary International.

This corporation shall have the authority to adopt such bylaws as may be consistent with the purposes enumerated herein and consistent with the law of the State/Province/Country of _____, under which this corporation is incorporated. *(June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236)*

Source: July 1940 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36;

Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236

2.060.2. Harmony of Club Corporate Bylaws

In order that the new corporation shall be brought into harmony with RI, it shall adopt as its corporate bylaws all relevant provisions of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution and Recommended Rotary Club Bylaws provided by RI for its member clubs. The articles of incorporation must contain such additional statements and declarations as may be required by the laws where the corporation is incorporated. These provisions may be modified in any way not inconsistent with the expressed purpose of the incorporated club to be in all respects a member club of RI. If any existing club be incorporated pursuant to these conditions, it shall be recognized as a mere continuance of the former club without any change in its relationship to RI. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: July 1940 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

2.060.3. **General Secretary Authority Regarding Club Incorporations**

The general secretary shall review all proposed incorporation documents on behalf of the Board for compliance with the policies of RI. In the event of unusual circumstances requiring further statements of policy, the general secretary shall refer any such application to the Executive Committee. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: July 1940 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

2.070. **Incorporation of Club Activity**

Where a club proposes to engage in an unusual activity which is likely to involve liability on the part of the club, such activity should be separately incorporated from the club itself. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: July 1940 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36

Amended by Jan 1958 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 114; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

2.080. **Club Compliance with National Law**

Every club is expected to comply with the laws of the country in which it exists and functions. In order to comply with the laws of such country, clubs may take action as may be necessary to meet specific legal requirements, provided that

1. the action taken and any arrangements made relating to the organization and functioning of the clubs within the country do not contravene the constitutional documents as they relate to the practical administration and functioning of the clubs
2. any club concerned submits and continues to submit to the constitutional documents of RI as they may be amended from time to time and that the club continues in all respects to be and to function as a member Rotary club of RI
3. any such action as may be contemplated by the clubs of any country shall first be submitted to the Board for review

(June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220)

Source: May-June 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 265

Amended by June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220

2.090. Clubs and Politics

RI and its member clubs must refrain from issuing partisan political statements. Rotarians likewise are prohibited from adopting statements with a view to exerting any corporate pressure on governments or political authorities. (*October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31*)

Source: February-March 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 288

Cross-References

34.040.1. Use of Rotary Name or Emblem for Political Means

2.100. Club and District Events Involving Weapons

Rotary clubs, Rotary districts and other Rotary Entities may participate in activities involving the sale, give-away or transfer, including raffles, of guns, weapons or other armaments, provided they never take ownership of the item(s) and any transfer of ownership of a firearm is handled by a licensed third party in compliance with all applicable laws. Any use of the Rotary Marks in connection with such activities shall be in compliance with RI policy, including policy for use of the Rotary Marks. (*June 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172*)

Source: January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96

Amended by June 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172

Cross-References

44.020. Guidelines for Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts and Other Rotary Entities for Interacting with Other Organizations

2.110. Legal and Insurance Implications of Events Involving Weapons

Rotary clubs, districts and other Rotary Entities that organize events or activities that involve guns or weapons, including sport shooting activities, shall review potential liabilities arising out of such activities and consult with legal and/or insurance professionals to ensure that they are adequately protected. (*June 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172*)

Source: January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96

Amended by June 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172

Cross-References

8.030.2. Rotarian Code of Conduct

2.120. Youth Protection

2.120.1. Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth

Rotary International strives to create and maintain a safe environment for all youth who participate in Rotary activities. To the best of their ability, Rotarians, Rotarians' partners, and other volunteers must safeguard the children and young people with whom they come in contact and protect them from physical, sexual, and psychological abuse. (*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 98

Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

2.120.2. Abuse and Harassment Prevention and Reporting Procedure

To uphold the Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth all clubs and districts must ensure the abuse and harassment prevention and reporting requirements are followed as established by the general secretary:

1. RI has a zero-tolerance policy against abuse and harassment.
2. All district governors-elect must complete youth protection course before the start of their term as governor, as determined by the general secretary.
3. Districts participating in any youth programs may develop and implement youth protection policies according to local customs. Districts participating in Rotary Youth Exchange must develop and implement youth protection policies as outlined in *Rotary Code of Policies* section 41.050. Rotary Youth Exchange.
4. Districts participating in any youth program should appoint a youth protection officer. The youth protection officer should advise clubs and the district related to abuse and harassment prevention, assist districts to manage risks and crises that impact the safety of youth, should have professional experience in counseling, social work, law, law enforcement, or child development, and may be a Rotarian or non-Rotarian.
5. All allegations of abuse or harassment shall be reported to RI within 72 hours of learning of the incident. Failure to report incidents to RI within 72 hours may result in suspension of the district's Youth Exchange certification. Where there is sufficient evidence that an individual, club, or district knowingly failed to report as required, the general secretary may determine whether and/or the extent to which involved parties may continue to be eligible to participate in Rotary's youth programs, or whether additional sanctions may be necessary, including but not limited to requiring the club to terminate an individual's membership.
6. Any allegation of abuse must be immediately reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency, in accordance with RI's zero-tolerance policy. All law enforcement reviews must be conducted by legal authorities that are not affiliated with Rotary.

7. In addition to reporting to law enforcement for investigation, an independent and thorough investigation must be made by the club and district into any claims of abuse or harassment including a determination for how to prevent a similar situation in the future.
8. Any person involved in Rotary against whom an allegation of sexual abuse or harassment is made must be prohibited from all contact with youth until the matter is resolved. A club must terminate the membership of any individual who initiates contact with youth in a Rotary context after being notified they have been prohibited from contact with youth.
9. A club must terminate the membership of any individual who admits to, is convicted of or is otherwise known to have engaged in sexual abuse or harassment of youth or youth program participants. A Rotarian or non-Rotary volunteer who admits to, is convicted of, or is otherwise known to have engaged in sexual abuse or sexual harassment or other act of moral turpitude must be prohibited from working with youth in a Rotary context. A club may not grant membership to a person who is known to have violated Rotary's youth protection policies. (Upon obtaining information that a club has knowingly failed to terminate the membership of such an individual, the RI Board may terminate the club for failure to comply).
10. If an investigation into a claim of sexual abuse or harassment is inconclusive, then, for the safety of youth participants and the protection of the accused, additional safeguards must be put in place to assure the protection of any youth with whom the individual may have future contact. If there are subsequent claims of sexual abuse or harassment, the individual shall be permanently prohibited from working with youth in a Rotary context. Regardless of criminal or civil guilt, the continued presence of the adult could be detrimental to the reputation of the organization and could be harmful to youth. A person who is accused but later cleared of charges, may apply to be reinstated to participate in youth programs. Reinstatement is not a right, and no guarantee is made that any individual will be reinstated to a former position.
11. Districts must track all individuals prohibited from contact with youth and ensure such prohibitions are implemented consistently throughout the district from year to year.
12. Individuals prohibited from working with youth may not serve as District Interact Chair, Interact Club Adviser, District RYLA Chair, District Youth Exchange Chair, District Youth Protection Officer, or in any other locally-appointed club or district role where there may be contact with youth.

(February 2025 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 101)

Source: November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108; September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57

Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 85; April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119; February 2025 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 101

2.120.3. Travel and Overnight Stays by Youth

Recognizing that Rotary clubs and districts are encouraged to undertake activities that develop youth, club and district programs or activities that involve minors undertaking travel outside their local community, or that include overnight stays, must develop, maintain, and

comply with youth protection policies and written procedures. With the exception of travel and tours operated by or on behalf of host districts, Youth Exchange travel is subject to the policies outlined in *Rotary Code of Policies* section 41.050. *Youth Exchange*.

The governor has the responsibility for the supervision and control of all programs and activities organized within the district that involve minors traveling outside their local community or involve overnight stays.

Clubs and districts:

1. shall obtain written permission from the parents or guardians of all youth participants for travel outside the local community or involve overnight stays in advance;
2. shall provide parents or legal guardians with specific details about the program, location of event, travel itineraries, sleeping accommodations, and contact information for program organizers before departure;
3. should, when traveling 150 miles away from home residence or out of home country, require the parents or legal guardians of each minor to provide travel insurance for the minor, which includes such coverages as medical (when traveling outside home country), emergency medical evacuation, repatriation of remains, and legal liability, in amounts satisfactory to the club or district organizing the activity or event, with coverage from the time of the minor's departure from home until the return home.

(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58)

Source: January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 155; June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 210;

Amended by June 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196; September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

2.120.4. Club and District Requirements

Club and district policies and procedures should include.

1. volunteer application and screening procedures;
2. outlines of volunteer job descriptions and responsibilities;
3. supervision standards for ratio of adults to minors
4. crisis management plan including:
 - a. handling medical and other emergencies and providing for adult support;
 - b. procedures for communicating with parents and legal guardians;
5. written guidelines for reporting and follow-through on allegations or incidents consistent with RI policy.

(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58)

Source: January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 155

Cross-References

41.050. Rotary Youth Exchange

2.130. Pilot Projects

2.130.1. Electronic Voting Pilot

The general secretary shall arrange for electronic voting to be used wherever a mail ballot is needed in district and zone elections in Philippines and in District 3220 (Sri Lanka and Maldives) as a pilot project for elections held through 2024–25. Districts subject to the pilot should conduct all district elections by nominating committee or electronic voting. (*June 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 154*)

Source: April 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183; September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 33;

Amended by July 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 13; June 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189; April 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 125; June 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 154

2.130.2. Pilot Russian District

The RI Board has established a pilot district program with the non-districted clubs in Siberia and Far Eastern Russia and clubs in District 2220 (Russian Federation). (*October 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 34*)

Source: April 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 161

2.130.3. District Election Pilot

The RI Board has established a district election pilot for all districts in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, and Sri Lanka for a six-year period beginning 1 July 2020 with following provisions:

- clubs chartered or reinstated during the Rotary year in which the election takes place, or from January to June of the year prior to the year in which the election takes place, will be ineligible to participate in any aspect of the election process;
- when a club ballot is necessary, the voting strength of each club will be based on the number of members on the July invoice of the year prior to the year in which the club ballot takes place or the July invoice of the year in which the club ballot takes place, whichever is lower.

(*May 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 138*)

Source: June 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189

Amended by September 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 47; June 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 193; June 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 153; May 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 138

2.130.4. District Conference Voting Pilot

All districts in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. All voting at a district conference or district legislation meeting for all district elections through 2027-28. The district conference or district legislative meeting where the voting takes place shall be held within the district boundaries. *(May 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 163)*

Source: April 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 125

Amended by October 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 24; May 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 163

2.130.5. Young Leaders Pilot Project

The RI Board has established a three-year pilot project beginning 1 July 2021 to engage and cultivate young leaders and help inform the Board of the thoughts and perceptions of younger members.

The president-elect is requested to appoint an adviser to up to three select committees each year as a non-voting member.

When selecting advisers, the president-elect is encouraged to consider diversity and inclusion and give special consideration to younger past governors and Rotaractors.

These advisers should be included on all committee communications and invited to attend all committee meetings. *(June 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 177)*

Source: April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec, 142

ARTICLE 3. CLUB NAME, LOCALITY, AND ADJUSTMENT TO LOCALITY

3.010. Club Name

3.020. Locality (Geographical Boundaries) of a Club

3.010. Club Name

The name of a Rotary or Rotaract club is to identify the club with the community or area of interest of its members and to distinguish it from all other Rotary or Rotaract clubs. Rotary and Rotaract club names shall not include references to ethnicity, gender identity, political viewpoints, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or trademarks without written permission of the trademark owner. However, a university-based Rotaract club may use the name of the institution of higher education with which it is affiliated with permission of the institution of higher education. The general secretary shall determine if a name is appropriate. (*October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52*)

Source: May-June 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 371

Amended by November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; April 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 165; January 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111; October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52

3.010.1. Use of Third-Party Identifiers in a Club Name

For liability and other reasons, Rotary and Rotaract clubs shall not be closely associated with a commercial enterprise whereby one corporation has undue influence on the club. Graphics/logos owned by these entities shall not be used in Rotary or Rotaract club names, graphics, or logos. Names of corporations and organizations shall only be used in a Rotary or Rotaract club name with the trademark owner's written permission and approval of the general secretary. However, a university-based Rotaract club may use the name of the institution of higher education with which it is affiliated with permission of the institution of higher education. (*October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52*)

Source: April 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 165;

Amended by January 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111; October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52

3.010.2. Use of "Rotary" Name and Other Rotary Marks in a Club Name

Other than "Rotary Club" and "Rotaract Club," clubs shall not use the "Rotary" name or other Rotary Marks, including the name or marks of any program of Rotary or The Rotary Foundation, or the name or marks of any other Rotary entity, in club names. (*October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52*)

Source: October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52

3.020. Locality (Geographical Boundaries) of a Club

Each Rotary club shall be organized and exist in a locality. The club shall designate the locality in the constitution of the club. (*October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 30*)

Rotary International Code of Policies
June 2025

Source: January 1939 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 105

Amended by November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29; October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 30

3.020.1. Establishment of a Club on a Cruise Ship

A cruise ship shall not be the locality of a club. It is in the best interest of Rotary that clubs not be closely associated with a commercial enterprise whereby one corporation has undue influence on the club. (*October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31*)

Source: November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 93

Amended by November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31

3.020.2. Change in Club Locality

Notification of action by a club to amend the provisions of its constitution relating to locality shall be accompanied by a statement of the reasons for the amendment. (*October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31*)

Source: May-June 1965 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 260; **Amended by** November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

ARTICLE 4. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES AND CLASSIFICATIONS

- 4.010. Diversified Membership
- 4.020. Personal Nature of Club Membership
- 4.030. General Classification and Membership Principles
- 4.040. Membership of Rotary Alumni in Rotary Clubs
- 4.050. Membership Cards
- 4.060. Dual Membership

4.010. **Diversified Membership**

A club's membership should be fully reflective of the community it serves. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29)*

Source: January 1969 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 86; November 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 89

Amended by November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29

4.010.1. Statement on Diversity

Rotary recognizes the value of diversity within individual clubs. Rotary encourages clubs to assess those in their communities who are eligible for membership, under existing membership rules, and to endeavor to reflect their community with regard to professional and business classification, gender, age, religion, and ethnicity. *(October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31)*

Source: June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 223

Amended by November 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31

4.020. **Personal Nature of Club Membership**

Membership in a club is the personal membership of the individual and not of the partnership or corporation which employs the individual. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: COL 80-102

4.030. **General Classification and Membership Principles**

Clubs should carefully consider the classification practice and broaden the interpretation of classifications where necessary to meet the current business, professional, occupational, and community service environment. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29)*

Source: November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84

Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226; October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29

4.030.1. **Membership of Retired Persons**

Retired persons being inducted into active membership in a Rotary club shall use their former profession as their classification. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29)*

Source: October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 62

Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29

4.040. Membership of Rotary Alumni in Rotary Clubs

Although Rotary clubs should not establish any special kinds of memberships or classifications for Rotary alumni, they should actively recruit Rotary alumni as club members. Rotary clubs also should maintain contact with Rotary alumni in their respective localities, and use the talents of such alumni, who are not yet qualified for membership or who have declined invitations for membership. *(October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38)*

Source: May-July 1959 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 253

Amended by November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226; October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38

4.050. Membership Cards

Rotary clubs should issue membership cards to their active members. Any Rotarian visiting a club who is not personally known in such club should present his or her Rotary membership card as a means of introduction. *(October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31)*

Source: COL 80-102

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31

4.050.1. **Letters of Introduction for Rotarians**

RI does not issue credentials, identification cards, or letters of introduction for anyone other than those traveling on RI business. RI does not issue cards of introduction to students, or traveling sons and daughters of Rotarians, to serve as an introduction and identification of the holders to individual Rotarians and officers of clubs. *(October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31)*

Source: June 1938 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 262

Amended by October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31

4.060. Dual Membership

For any individual Rotarian who is a member of more than one Rotary club at the same time, Rotary International will recognize only one active membership in the Rotary club in which an individual's RI dues are paid, membership is counted, club and district roles are assigned, Rotary Foundation contributions are credited, and district voting privileges are granted. *(June 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149)*

Source: January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124

Rotary International Code of Policies
June 2025

Amended by June 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149

ARTICLE 5. MEMBERSHIP GROWTH AND NEW MEMBERS

- 5.010. Membership Growth and Development
- 5.020. New Members
- 5.030. Grow Rotary Membership Operational Plan

5.010. Membership Growth and Development

5.010.1. Individual Rotarian's Role in Membership Growth

All Rotarians equally share the personal responsibility to promote the benefits of Rotary membership with others. *(October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31)*

Source: January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 93;

Amended by October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31

5.010.2. Accurate Club Membership Monthly Reporting

When a club is suspected by the governor or director of inaccurate membership reporting, the general secretary shall take the following action:

Determine the accuracy of the club's membership report

If the club has not been accurately reporting its membership the Board will consider this a serious violation of the trust placed in a club officer, and – pursuant to RI bylaws section 3.030. – will consider disciplining the club, up to and including termination for cause.

(May 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194)

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec 235;

Amended by October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31; October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 105; January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 117; May 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194

5.010.3. Membership of Younger Persons

Clubs should seek out past Rotaractors and other younger persons who are qualified for membership.

Clubs should find methods of increasing the appeal of membership to young men and women who demonstrate good character, integrity, and leadership; possess good reputation within their business, profession, occupation and/or community; and are willing to serve in their community and/or around the world.

Clubs may waive club dues and admission fees for members under the age of 35. In addition, clubs may provide payment of district dues for new members in this age group, and/or, by action at an assembly or conference, districts may reduce the per capita district dues for new members in this age group. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29)*

Source: January 1970 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 150; June 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 255; February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 177; June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 254;

Rotary International Code of Policies
June 2025

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226; September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 28; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29

5.020. New Members

5.020.1. Involvement of New Members

Clubs should encourage all new members to attend club and district events, including the club assembly and district conference. Clubs should also include new members on club committees when possible. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: January 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 180; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

5.020.2. Prohibition of Mandatory Contributions to The Rotary Foundation

The Rotary Foundation has developed on the basis of voluntary contributions. Contributions to the Foundation shall not be a condition of membership, and any reference implying such condition of membership shall not appear on the membership application card. Clubs are prohibited from enacting a bylaw that makes contributions to the Foundation a condition of membership. Any reference to such contributions on membership identification cards is not authorized. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: November 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 192; June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298;
Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

5.030. Grow Rotary Membership Operational Plan

An emphasis on growing Rotary is a key element of the RI Strategic Plan. The Grow Rotary Membership operational plan endeavors to align operations and resources to Rotary's strategic priorities in order to achieve long-term membership sustainability and growth. This plan supports our existing Rotary and Rotaract clubs' efforts to remain relevant and attractive to new members and deliver an experience that engages and retains existing members. The plan also seeks to expand Rotary's reach with innovative models that welcome more participants and gives them meaningful ways to unite and take action.

Priority: Increase Impact

Membership Initiatives:

- Ensure a consistent message that growing Rotary is the highest internal organizational priority of Rotary International while polio eradication remains Rotary's highest program priority.
- Continued and coordinated vision, a unified focus and engagement of RI and TRF Senior Leadership and staff.
- Enhance membership initiatives evaluation and membership reporting and measurement.

Priority: Expand Reach

Membership Initiatives:

- Improve Rotary's overall age, gender, ethnic and vocational diversity based on the existing qualifications for membership.
- Strengthen the collaboration and partnership between Rotary and Rotaract clubs.

- Develop new club types and alternative participant models and additional products that appeal to our target market.
- Leverage Rotary events at all levels as opportunities to better connect with existing and prospective members and participants, including sponsors.
- Increase understanding of Rotary and promote use of Rotary resources.

Priority: Enhance Participant Engagement
Membership Initiatives:

- Improve membership recognition opportunities for effective clubs and members.
- Encourage clubs to offer opportunities that engage participants, personally and professionally.
- Encourage clubs to offer local and international service opportunities, including The Rotary Foundation, to engage current and prospective members and participants.
- Develop indices to measure member engagement and incentivize clubs to maximize their results.
- Increase resources, curriculum, and partnerships focused on leadership and skill-building.

Priority: Increase Ability to Adapt
Membership Initiatives:

- Continue to support surveys of existing, prospective and terminated club members to be able to enhance member value and increase retention.
- Continue to conduct business and technical process reviews and implement improvements as warranted.
- Continue to promote diversity in composition and recommendations of RI Membership Committee. (*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 67*)

Source: October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 67

ARTICLE 6. FORMER ROTARIANS AND FAMILY OF CURRENT ROTARIANS

6.010. Former Rotarians

6.020. Involvement of Partners and Other Family Members of Rotarians

6.010. Former Rotarians

6.010.1. Past Rotarians

The use of any name by an organization which would indicate a connection with RI is prohibited unless specifically provided for under the RI constitutional documents. *(October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31)*

Source: June 1925 Mtg., Bd. Dec. IV(k);

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

6.010.2. Jurisdiction of RI Board in Club Dispute

A dispute between a former Rotarian and the Rotary club in which he or she formerly held membership is not within the jurisdiction of the RI Board, with the exception of matters submitted to the general secretary under the provisions of the RI Bylaws. *(October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31)*

Source: July 1948 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45;

Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226; October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31

Cross-References

34.040.9. Use of Name "Rotary" and Rotary Emblem by Former Rotarians

6.020. Involvement of Partners and Other Family Members of Rotarians

Clubs and districts are encouraged to plan and implement service projects in such a manner that the partners and other family members of Rotarians can easily participate.

Clubs and districts are encouraged to organize educational, service, and fellowship programs and events in such a manner that the partners and other family members of Rotarians can attend and participate. *(October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31)*

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 71. **See Also** COL 89-139.

ARTICLE 7. CLUB MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

- 7.010. Club Meeting Location
- 7.020. Programs for Club Meetings
- 7.030. Speakers for Club Meetings
- 7.040. Club Assembly
- 7.050. Visitors and Guests
- 7.060. Joint Meetings with Other Service Clubs

7.010. Club Meeting Location

Clubs should hold their regular meeting within their locality. Each club is autonomous in determining its place of meeting. However, as each member of a club is entitled to attend the meeting of any other club, it is expected that each club will meet in a place where any member of any club in the world can attend its meeting. *(October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31)*

Source: January 1947 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 166 February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

7.020. Programs for Club Meetings

7.020.1. Club Programs: Rotary Education

Clubs should periodically hold regular meetings exclusively for imparting Rotary information, Rotary education, and leadership skills to their members. *(April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119)*

Source: January 1936 Mtg., Dec. of Exec. Comm. E58;

Amended by February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 285; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119

7.020.2. Club Programs: Issues of Public Interest

A club may properly discuss public questions of interest to its members provided that, when such questions are controversial, both sides are adequately presented. No corporate action shall be taken on any pending controversial public measure. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: January 1957 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 169; **See Also** February 1982 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 285

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59.

7.020.3. Club Programs: Cultural, Economic, and Geographical Conditions

Clubs should arrange programs on cultural, economic and geographical conditions in countries other than their own as a means of helping to overcome possible difficulties arising from language barriers and differences in cultural and social backgrounds. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: January 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149
Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

7.020.4. Club Programs: The Rotary Foundation

Clubs should present at least two meeting programs during each Rotary year, one of which should occur during the month of November, which has been designated as The Rotary Foundation month, on the purpose, programs and fund development activities of The Rotary Foundation. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 350;
Amended by November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

7.030. Speakers for Club Meetings

7.030.1. Expenses of Speakers

Clubs that invite officers of RI, past officers of RI, or other Rotarians to come for visits are expected to pay their expenses. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: May-June 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196
Amended by June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348

7.040. Club Assembly

The club assembly is a meeting of all club members, including the club's officers, directors and committee chairs, held for the purpose of conferring on the program and activities of the club or for membership education. All members of the club are urged to attend the assembly. The club president, or other designated officer, presides at club assemblies. *(October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31)*

Source: February-March 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248;
Amended by February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 279

7.050. Visitors and Guests

7.050.1. Guests at Club Meetings

Clubs should encourage members to invite guests to regular club meetings so that non-Rotarian members of the community may be better informed about the function of the club and its aims and objects. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: January 1973 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 125; **See Also** January 1916 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 16
Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59.

7.050.2. Students as Club Guests

Clubs are encouraged to invite students to be guests at club meetings. Clubs are encouraged to take an active interest in students at universities and schools and to see that they are familiar with the ideals and principles of Rotary. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: January 1927 Mtg., Bd. Dec. IV(i);

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

7.050.3. Rotary Alumni as Guests

Clubs are encouraged to welcome Rotary alumni as guests at their meetings, particularly alumni who have recently moved to the locality of the club. The alumni will be expected to pay the same costs of attendance as paid by visiting Rotarians. *(October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38)*

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 231;

Amended by October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38

7.060. Joint Meetings with Other Service Clubs

Except on specific occasions approved by the club's board, Rotary clubs may not hold their regular meetings with other service clubs. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: June 1924 Mtg. Bd. Dec. IX (c); **See Also** February 1923 Mtg. Bd. Dec. IX (c)(2)

Amended by May 1943 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 221; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59.

ARTICLE 8. CLUB PROGRAMS

- 8.010. Club Autonomy of Activities
- 8.020. Special Observances
- 8.030. Basic Principles of Vocational Service
- 8.040. Basic Principles of Community Service
- 8.050. Club-Level Learning

8.010. Club Autonomy of Activities

Clubs should develop their own programs according to the needs of their communities. It is not within the scope of the program of RI to sponsor or prescribe for any club a particular service project or program.

A fundamental principle of RI is the substantial autonomy of the member clubs.

The constitutional and procedural restrictions on clubs are kept to a minimum necessary to preserve the fundamental and unique features of Rotary. Within that provision there is the maximum flexibility in interpretation and implementation of RI policy, especially at the club level. (*April 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157*)

Source: May-June 1927 Mtg., Bd. Dec. XIV(b)(3); May-June 1958 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 202; January 1963 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90;

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; April 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157

8.020. Special Observances

In order to recognize and focus service, the Board has established several observances:

Special Observance	Month/Week/Day
(No monthly observance) Area of Focus: Maternal and Child Health Month	July
Membership and New Club Development Month Area of Focus: Basic Education and Literacy Month	August
Area of Focus: Community Economic Development Month	September
Rotary Alumni Reconnect Week	Week (Monday through Sunday) that includes 7 October
World Interact Week	Week (Monday through Sunday) that includes 5 November
The Rotary Foundation Month Area of Focus: Disease Prevention and Treatment Month	October
Vocational Service Month	November
	December
	January

Area of Focus: Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month	February
Rotary’s Anniversary: World Understanding and Peace Day	23 February
Area of Focus: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month	March
World Rotaract Week	Week (Monday through Sunday) that includes 13 March
Area of Focus: Environmental Month	April
Youth Service Month	May
Rotary Fellowships Month	June

(October 2022 Meeting; Bd. Dec. 29)

Source: January 1956 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 168;

Amended by May 1956 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 238; January 1958 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137; January 1958 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 141; November 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 192; February 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 268; February 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248; February 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 299; November 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 144; November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 116; February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 219; November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 138; July 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 20; July 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 17; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35; October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81; January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 118; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 85; October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29

8.030. Basic Principles of Vocational Service

8.030.1. Statement on Vocational Service

Vocational Service is the manner in which Rotary fosters and supports the application of the ideal of service in the pursuit of all vocations.

The second Object of Rotary is the basis for vocational service, specifically, encouraging and fostering:

- high ethical standards in business and professions;
- the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations;
- the dignifying of each Rotarian’s occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

Inherent in the vocational service ideals expressed above are:

- Faithfulness and fidelity to employers, employees and associates, fair treatment of them and of competitors, the public, and all those with whom one has any business or professional relationships;
- The contribution of one’s vocational talents to the problems and needs of society.

Vocational service is both the responsibility of a club and of its members. The role of the club is to implement and encourage the objective by frequent demonstration, by application to its own actions, by example and by development of projects that help members contribute their vocational talents. The role of the members is to conduct themselves, their businesses,

Rotary International Code of Policies
June 2025

their occupations, and their professions in accordance with Rotary principles and to respond to projects which the club has developed. (*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29*)

Source: October-November 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164;

Amended by January 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29;

Affirmed by June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 352

8.030.2. Rotarian Code of Conduct

All members (Rotarians and Rotaractors) are expected to:

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in their personal and professional lives.
2. Deal fairly with others and treat them with respect, which includes adhering to Rotary's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Code of Conduct by using respectful language, being supportive, fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment, and celebrating diversity.
3. Use their professional skills through Rotary to improve people's quality of life their own communities and elsewhere in the world
4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotary members.
5. Follow all codes of conduct for any Rotary-related event.

In addition, district and regional leaders, including district governors will:

6. Comply with all applicable laws and regulations in conducting Rotary business and in their personal lives.
7. Adhere to the provisions of Constitution of Rotary International and the Rotary International Bylaws, as well as to the provisions established by the RI Board in the Rotary Code of Policies.
8. Serve for the benefit of all members and participants in upholding Rotary's purpose, prioritize the interests of district members, and avoid even the appearance of impropriety in their conduct.
9. Foster an environment in the district that promotes safety, courtesy, dignity, which includes promptly addressing any allegations of harassment.
10. Avoid using their office for personal prestige or benefit or to benefit family members or friends.
11. Act on what is fair to all concerned.
12. Promote transparency about financial information, compliance with all local and national laws relating to financial management and adhere to Rotary's reimbursement policies for expenses.
13. Use confidential or proprietary information for their intended purposes (never for personal ones), prohibit and restrict the disclosure, communication, and use of this information, and take precautions against any accidental disclosures.

In addition to meeting the expectations for all members and for governors, directors will:

14. Act in the best interests of all members and of RI as a whole (not just of the zones they were elected from), adhere to their duty of loyalty to RI, act independently of any inappropriate influence, and put the interests of the association first.
15. Follow the Board's Conflict of Interest Policy, which is designed to preclude even the appearance of impropriety regarding the Board's actions, and thus refrain from accepting

any offers, gifts, or favors in exchange for influencing or taking a position on any item that the Board will consider.

16. Carry out their responsibilities with diligent and appropriate care, including asking reasonable questions, gathering as much information as they can before making a decision, and generally being as prudent as anyone in a similar position would be in similar circumstances.
17. Weigh the potential impact of their decisions, which often has a significant impact on various groups and individuals, in a way that is consistent with The Four Way Test, treats equally all the people who will be affected, and thus maintains members' confidence that the Board acts fairly and in the best interests of the association.
18. Report any suspected or potential violations of this code to the general secretary or the RI president and encourage other Board members to do so in order to ensure that people comply and that the goals of the code are accomplished.
19. Review this code of conduct during their orientation and then at least annually and acknowledge that they have read it, understand it, and will comply with their responsibilities under the code.

If the general secretary or RI president learns that a director has potentially violated this code, they will provide all the details they can to the Board's Executive Committee. The committee will then obtain all relevant information and take action as it deems appropriate, including providing counsel to the alleged violators and offering the full Board recommendations for corrective action. Only the Board can take disciplinary action against a director. *(April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 114)*

Source: COL 89-148;

Amended by May 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 204; September 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31; January 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88; October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 60; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119; April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 114

8.030.3. Key Messages on Vocational Service

Rotarians, clubs, and districts should implement the following strategies in their support of Vocational Service:

- Strengthen the emphasis on vocation and classification in new member recruitment and induction
- Identify means of emphasizing vocation in club activities
- Create a stronger emphasis on business networking with integrity in Rotary at the club and district level
- Focus more attention on business networking with integrity as a means of attracting and mentoring the new generation
- Emphasize the connection between the Four Way Test and the Rotarian Code of Conduct and their importance to the values of Rotary

(January 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158)

Source: May 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 204;
Amended by September 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

8.040. Basic Principles of Community Service

8.040.1. 1923 Statement on Community Service

Community Service is to encourage and foster the application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life.

In carrying out this application of the ideal of service, many clubs have developed various Community Service activities as affording opportunities for service by their members. For the guidance of Rotarians and Rotary clubs and to formulate a policy for Rotary toward Community Service activities, the following principles are recognized and accepted as sound and controlling:

1. Fundamentally, Rotary is a philosophy of life that undertakes to reconcile the ever-present conflict between the desire to profit for oneself and the duty and consequent impulse to serve others. This philosophy is the philosophy of service - "Service Above Self" - and is based on the practical ethical principle that "One profits most who serves best."
2. Primarily, a Rotary club is a group of representative business and professional people and community leaders who have accepted the Rotary philosophy of service and are seeking:

First, to study collectively the theory of service as the true basis of success and happiness in business and in life; and second, to give, collectively, practical demonstrations of it to themselves and their community; and third, each as an individual, to translate its theory into practice in business and in everyday life; and fourth, individually and collectively, by active precept and example, to stimulate its acceptance both in theory and practice by all non-Rotarians as well as by all Rotarians;
3. RI is an organization that exists:
 - a. for the protection, development and worldwide propagation of the Rotary ideal of service;
 - b. for the establishment, encouragement, assistance and administrative supervision of Rotary clubs;
 - c. as a clearinghouse for the study of their problems and, by helpful suggestion but not compulsion, for the standardization of their practices and of such Community Service activities, and only such Community Service activities, as have already been widely demonstrated by many clubs as worthwhile and as are within, and will not tend to obscure, the Object of Rotary as set out in the RI Constitution.
4. Because they who serve must act, Rotary is not merely a state of mind, nor Rotary philosophy merely subjective, but must translate itself into objective activity; and the

individual Rotarian and the Rotary club must put the theory of service into practice. Accordingly, corporate action by Rotary clubs is recommended under the safeguards provided herein. It is desirable that every Rotary club sponsor a major Community Service activity each fiscal year, varied from year to year if possible before the end of the fiscal year. This activity is to be based upon a real community need and should require the collective cooperation of all its members. This is to be in addition to the club's continuing its program for the stimulation of the club members to individual service within the community.

5. Each individual Rotary club has absolute autonomy in the selection of such Community Service activities as appeal to it and as are suited to its community; but no club should allow any Community Service to obscure the Object of Rotary or jeopardize the primary purpose for which a Rotary club is organized; and RI, although it may study, standardize and develop such activities as are general and make helpful suggestions regarding them, should never proscribe any Community Service activity for any club.
6. Although regulations are not prescribed for an individual Rotary club in the selection of Community Service activities, the following rules are suggested for its guidance:
 - a. Because of the limited membership of Rotary, only in a community where there is no adequate civic or other organization in a position to speak and act for the whole community should a Rotary club engage in a general Community Service activity that requires for its success the active support of the entire citizenship of the community, and where a chamber of commerce exists, a Rotary club should not trespass upon or assume its functions, but Rotarians, as individuals committed to and trained in the principle of service, should be members of and active in their chambers of commerce and as citizens of their community should, along with all other good citizens, be interested in every general Community Service activity, and, as far as their abilities permit, do their part in money and service;
 - b. As a general matter, no Rotary club should endorse any project, no matter how meritorious, unless the club is prepared and willing to assume all or part of the responsibility for the accomplishment of that which it endorses;
 - c. While publicity should not be the primary goal of a Rotary club selecting an activity, as a means of extending Rotary's influence, proper publicity should be given to a worthwhile club project well carried out;
 - d. A Rotary club should avoid duplication of effort and in general should not engage in an activity that is already being well handled by some other agency;
 - e. A Rotary club in its activities should preferably cooperate with existing agencies, but where necessary may create new agencies where the facilities of the existing agencies are insufficient to accomplish its purpose. It is better for a Rotary club to improve an existing agency than to create a new and duplicative agency;
 - f. In all its activities a Rotary club acts best and is most successful as a propagandist. A Rotary club discovers a need but, where the responsibility is that of the entire community, does not seek alone to remedy it but to awaken others to the necessity of the remedy, seeking to arouse the community to its responsibility so that this

responsibility may be placed not on Rotary alone but on the entire community where it belongs; and while Rotary may initiate and lead in the work, it should endeavor to secure the cooperation of all other organizations that ought to be interested and should seek to give them full credit, even minimizing the credit to which the Rotary club itself is entitled;

- g. Activities which enlist the individual efforts of all Rotarians generally are more in accord with the genius of Rotary than those requiring only the mass action of the club, because the Community Service activities of the Rotary club should be regarded only as laboratory experiments designed to train members of a Rotary club in service.

(January 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158)

Source: RI Convention Proceedings 23-34; 26-6; 36-15; 51-9; 66-49;

Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226; January 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158

8.040.2. 1992 Statement on Community Service

Rotary Community Service encourages and fosters the application of the ideal of service to the personal, business and community life of every Rotarian. In carrying out this application of the ideal of service, a variety of activities developed by Rotary clubs have afforded significant opportunities for service by their members. For the guidance of Rotarians and to formulate a policy for Rotary toward Community Service activities, the following principles are recognized:

Community Service is an opportunity for every Rotarian to exemplify “Service Above Self.” It is the commitment and social responsibility of every Rotarian and Rotary club to improve the quality of life for those who live in the community and to serve the public interest.

In this spirit, clubs are encouraged to:

1. review regularly service opportunities within their communities and involve each club member in an assessment of community needs
2. capitalize on the unique vocational and avocational talents of members in implementing their Community Service projects
3. initiate projects in accordance with the needs of the community and commensurate with the club’s standing and potential in the community, recognizing that every Community Service activity, however small, is important
4. work closely with the Interact clubs, Rotaract clubs, Rotary Community Corps, and other groups which they sponsor in order to coordinate Community Service efforts
5. identify opportunities to enhance Community Service projects through Rotary programs and activities at the international level
6. involve the community, when desirable and feasible, in implementing Community Service projects, including the provision of required resources

7. cooperate with other organizations in accordance with RI policy, to achieve Community Service objectives
8. achieve proper public recognition for their Community Service projects
9. act as catalysts to encourage other organizations to work together in Community Service efforts
10. transfer responsibility for continuing projects, when appropriate, to community, service, or other organizations so that the Rotary club can become involved in new projects

As an association of clubs, RI has the responsibility to communicate news of Community Service needs and activities, and from time to time suggest programs or projects which advance the Object of Rotary and which would benefit from the concerted efforts of Rotarians, clubs and districts who wish to participate. *(May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325)*

Source: COL 92-286

8.040.3. Participation in Community Service Activities by Clubs and Districts

As a basis for effective Community Service, all club presidents are encouraged to appoint Rotarians to serve on Community Service subcommittees, as needed, within the following groups: Human Development, Community Development, Environmental Protection, and Partners in Service. These subcommittees are urged to:

1. ascertain community needs by comprehensive survey and analysis of the particular relative circumstances in their respective localities;
2. encourage individual club members to supplement and strengthen such survey and analysis by exploring the locality of the club in their personal and vocational capacities for the purpose of discovering community needs;
3. meet with other community organizations for discussion and exchange of ideas where such meetings can be undertaken in harmony with established policy;
4. include as a factor in considering prospective members, their demonstrated active interest in and familiarity with community needs.

(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)

Source: January 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 148.

Amended by June 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 259; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

8.040.4. Preserve Planet Earth

Preserve Planet Earth encourages Rotary clubs to promote awareness among Rotarians and increase the number of environmental service projects. These activities are part the third avenue of service, Community Service. *(January 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 146)*

Source: January 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 146

Cross-References

17.030.2. *District Committees*

8.050. Club-Level Learning

8.050.1. Club Learning Facilitator

The club president-elect may wish to appoint a club learning facilitator(s) to oversee the club learning plan during the coming year. The club learning facilitator serves a one-year term, with a limit of three consecutive terms. The club learning facilitator should work with the club's board and committees to ensure all learning needs are met and work with the district learning committee, the assistant governor assigned to the club, and the district governor for support and ideas. *(April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106)*

Source: November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

Amended by April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106

8.050.2. Club Learning Plan

The club should have a comprehensive learning plan that ensures

1. Club leaders attend district learning events as appropriate
2. Orientation is consistent and regularly provided to new members
3. Ongoing educational opportunities are available for current members
4. A leadership skills development program is available for all members.

(April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106)

Source: November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

Amended by April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106

8.050.3. Club Leadership Development Seminar

Purpose:

To develop the personal leadership skills of club members thereby enhancing their professional life and developing future club leaders.

Participants:

Any interested Rotarian may attend

Suggested topics:

- Communication skills
- Leadership styles
- Leading and motivating volunteers
- Mentoring
- Time management

Rotary International Code of Policies
June 2025

- Goal setting and accountability
- Strategic planning
- Ethics (4-Way Test)
- Building Consensus
- Teamwork

Organizer:

Club learning facilitator, club president, assistant governor, and/or district learning committee (*April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106*)

Source: November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 107

Amended by April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106

ARTICLE 9. CLUB FINANCES AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 9.010. Club Finances
- 9.020. Rotary and Rotaract Clubs in Arrears to RI
- 9.030. Status of Suspended Clubs
- 9.040. Participation of Clubs in Fundraising Activities
- 9.050. Club Public Relations

9.010. Club Finances

At the beginning of each fiscal year the club's board of directors shall prepare or cause to be prepared a budget of estimated income and estimated expenditures for the year, which, having been agreed to by the board, shall stand as the limit of expenditures for the respective purposes unless otherwise ordered by action of the board.

All bills shall be paid by the treasurer, or other authorized officer, only after approval by two other officers or directors. An annual financial review by a qualified person shall be made of all the club's financial transactions. *(January 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 142)*

Source: November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59;
Amended by January 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 142

9.010.1. Attendance of Incoming Presidents at Convention

Within the constraints of their budgets, clubs should consider sending the club's incoming president to the International Convention as the club's delegate. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: July 1934 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 25

9.010.2. Club Promotion of Community Service Activities

Rotary clubs are encouraged to allocate an appropriate portion of their budget annually for the purpose of increasing public awareness of club activities within the community. Rotary clubs are encouraged to enhance the public image of Rotary through public and permanent identification of club community service activities using the Rotary club name and emblem. Rotary clubs are encouraged to seek appropriate public and permanent recognition for their financial and service contributions to other organizations and causes. *(June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245)*

Source: November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124;
Amended by February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194

9.010.3. Support of Rotaract Club Leaders by Sponsor Rotary Clubs

Rotary clubs that sponsor one or more Rotaract clubs are encouraged to allocate an appropriate portion of their budget annually to provide for the attendance of Rotaract club officers, directors, and committee chairs at all relevant and necessary district-level learning events. *(April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119)*

Source: January 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103
Amended by April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119

Cross-References

- 5.020.2. *Prohibition of Mandatory Contributions to the Rotary Foundation*
18.020.6. *Formation of New Clubs: Costs*
18.020.7. *Admission Fee for New Clubs*

9.020. Rotary and Rotaract Clubs in Arrears to RI

The procedures outlined in the following subsections govern the payment by Rotary and Rotaract clubs of financial obligations to RI

9.020.1. Procedures for Collection of Club Past Due Financial Obligations

The procedures for collecting past due financial obligations from Rotary and Rotaract clubs shall be as follows:

1. a reminder notice to clubs with unpaid financial obligations of US\$250 or more for Rotary clubs and US\$75 or more for Rotaract clubs will be sent 60 days (two months) from due date; another notice will be sent 90 days (three months) from the due date
2. termination of clubs with unpaid financial obligations of US\$250 or more for Rotary clubs and US\$75 or more for Rotaract clubs will occur 120 days (four months) from due date and the termination notification will be sent no less than 120 days from the due date
3. clubs with balances of less than US\$250 for Rotary clubs and less than \$75 for Rotaract clubs will be contacted for payment, but termination will not be mentioned
4. records of all write-offs of club financial obligations will be maintained for review by the Board at any time.

(April 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139)

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 83, Appendix I;
Amended by May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 453; June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 285; October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 141; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178; June 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248; January 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 79; April 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139

9.020.2. Exceptions to Club Notification and Termination Procedures

The general secretary is authorized to make exceptions implementing these guidelines which in the general secretary's judgment are warranted, based on special or unique circumstances.

(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)

Source: May-June 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 268

9.020.3. Notice of Termination to Governors and Directors

District governors will receive a listing of Rotary and Rotaract clubs terminated for non-payment within their districts, and RI directors will receive a listing of Rotary and Rotaract clubs terminated for non-payment within their zones. *(April 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139)*

Source: June 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 333;

Amended by October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 141; June 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248; April 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139

9.020.4. Reinstatement of Clubs Terminated Due to Non-Payment of Financial Obligations

A terminated Rotary or Rotaract club may only seek to be reinstated up to five months (150 days) after its termination. When a Rotary or Rotaract club seeks to be reinstated within this time period, it must pay the full amount of its outstanding financial obligations and a reinstatement fee of US\$30.00 per member for Rotary clubs and US\$3.00 per member for Rotaract clubs. Additionally, Rotary and Rotaract clubs must provide a current membership list. If only partial payment is made within the five-month reinstatement period, that amount will be applied to the terminated Rotary or Rotaract club's delinquent financial obligation. Terminated Rotary or Rotaract clubs that have not fulfilled reinstatement requirements, which include the full amount of their outstanding financial obligations the reinstatement fee, and membership reporting within five months (150 days) of termination shall lose their original charter and are not eligible for reinstatement. Reinstated Rotary or Rotaract clubs shall maintain their name, history, and charter, and are considered members in financial good standing eligible to receive the full services of the association. *(April 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139)*

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 166;

Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325; October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 141; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 328; June 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248; January 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96; January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 117; April 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139

9.030. Status of Suspended Clubs

The suspension of a club will result in the imposition of the following measures until such time that the club has been reinstated by the board, pursuant to RI Bylaws section 3.020.6.:

1. Club is not authorized to submit suggestions to the nominating committee for governor
2. Club is not authorized to vote at the district conference, district assembly and in any authorized ballot-by-mail
3. Club is not authorized to concur with any proposed legislation submitted to the Council on Legislation or resolutions to the Council on Resolutions
4. Club is not authorized to concur with a challenge to the nomination of a candidate for district governor
5. Secretariat services cease immediately, including services of The Rotary Foundation, such as the acceptance of new, or the processing of current program applications; and the recognition of clubs as sponsors or hosts of active Rotary Foundation program awards

6. Club will not receive the following services from the governor: a monthly letter, inclusion on district mailing lists, and an official visit.

(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29)

Source: June 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 333;

Amended by June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 258; January 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 79; September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 28; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29

9.040. Participation of Clubs in Fundraising Activities

9.040.1. Legal Requirements for Club Fundraising

Where local laws require a provision in a club's constitution for fundraising, a club desiring such authority shall act under the provisions of RI Bylaws section 2.030.3. and seek approval of the Board for amendment of its constitution to meet local requirements.

Where such club requests are required by law, they shall be favorably considered. The general secretary is authorized to act for the Board in such cases. *(October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31)*

Source: January 1958 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112;

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31

Cross-References

35.070.1. *Use of Rotary Marks on Telephone Cards*

35.070.2. *Use of Rotary Marks on Affinity Credit Cards*

9.050. Club Public Relations

Clubs are expected to maintain positive public and news media relations. Clubs should be encouraged to sponsor meetings to which the public is invited.

Public relations should be directed to several audiences: Media, local government officials, the business community, civic leaders and organizations, as well as qualified candidates for membership and people directly affected by Rotary service projects. *(October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31)*

Source: January 1933 Dec. of Exec. Comm. 152M; November 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124;

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

9.050.1. Rotarians' Responsibility in Promotion of Rotary

Individual Rotarians are urged to help their Rotary clubs to become more identifiable in their communities by personally informing others about what Rotary is and does, in order to improve and expand Rotary growth and service. *(October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31)*

Source: November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 82

Amended by October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31

9.050.2. Publicity for Club Projects and Activities

Clubs are expected to seek publicity for successful service projects and activities which illustrate Rotary's aims and accomplishments.

Experience shows the following Rotary Stories are most effectively promoted:

1. Outstanding volunteers
2. Interaction between people in developed and developing countries
3. Local Rotary and/ or The Rotary Foundation projects
4. Rotary exchange program individuals such as Youth Exchange students, Ambassadorial Scholars, or GSE participants
5. Human interest stories of people benefiting from Rotary service
6. PolioPlus activities – particularly in polio-endemic areas.

(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)

Source: November 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

9.050.3. Club Relations with Media

Clubs should reach out to the public by sharing their stories with the local media. This can be done by identifying media targets, developing a media list and contacting appropriate media with a press release.

In addition, club activities should include talks to clubs by news media personnel on the role of the media. *(October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31)*

Source: February 1978 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 271;

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

9.050.4. Public Relations Learning for Club Officers

Clubs are encouraged to seek resources among their membership to train officers in effective techniques to use in response to news media inquiries and interviews. Clubs also are encouraged to include a segment on Rotary public relations in all club leadership learning events. *(April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119)*

Source: November 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137;

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119

9.050.5. Publicity for RI Through Rotary

Clubs should encourage Rotarians to pass their copy of the magazine along to non-Rotarians; subscribe for the magazine for the local newspaper editor who is not a Rotarian; place the

magazine in the public school libraries; and pass along to the editor's suggestions for articles, and news of club activities. *(October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31)*

Source: January 1936 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197;

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31

9.050.6. Adverse Public Relations

Every club should take positive steps to prevent or correct any attitudes within its community or conditions within the club that may harm Rotary's reputation and limit its effectiveness. If negative public opinion is caused by misperceptions of Rotary's purpose or activities, a club should counter these misperceptions with well-directed public information and community relations efforts. *(October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31)*

Source: November 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 146

Amended by October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31

9.050.7. Adverse Public Relations: Governor Involvement

Where a condition exists or a problem arises which may affect other clubs or RI, a club should advise the governor at the earliest opportunity so that a cooperative effort can be made to address the problem. It is the governor's responsibility to advise and assist clubs in preventing or solving local public relations problems and to advise the general secretary. The general secretary shall assist governors and clubs, keeping the president and the Board advised and referring to them problems that may require their consideration and action. *(October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31)*

Source: November 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 146;

Amended by October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31

9.050.8. Community Speakers

Clubs are encouraged to make available to various groups in their community speakers who can effectively talk about Rotary. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: January 1973 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 209; June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348

ARTICLE 10. CLUB OFFICERS

- 10.010. Club Officers
- 10.020. Qualifications of the Club President
- 10.030. Duties of Club President
- 10.040. Duties of Club President-Elect
- 10.050. Duties of Club Secretary
- 10.060. Club Officer Disputes

10.010. Club Officers

10.010.1. Rotation of Club Officers

The best interests of a club are served by observing the principle of rotation in office. This includes membership on the board of directors and chairpersonship of committees as well as the offices of president, secretary, and treasurer. Club officers should not be encouraged or expected to hold office for two successive years; however, clubs may sometimes find it advantageous to elect an officer for a second and successive year or to re-elect a former officer of the club. *(September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 28)*

Source: January 1936 Dec. of Exec. Comm. E34; January 1938 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 169; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59;

Amended by January 1943 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 123; September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 28.

Affirmed by Jan 1963 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113. **See Also** April 1922 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 9 (S)

10.010.2. Annual Recognition of Club Officers

Each club is encouraged to hold a meeting at the commencement of each Rotary year for the purpose of installing its president and other officers, recognizing that such a meeting provides opportunity for club officers and members to renew and reaffirm their commitment to the objectives of RI. Such meetings may provide a public relations opportunity to acquaint the community with the purpose and goals of Rotary. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: November 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 100;

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

10.010.3. Online Learning

Incoming presidents, secretaries, and treasurers are to complete their required learning plans in the Rotary Learning center by 1 July each year. *(February 2025 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81)*

Source: February 2025 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81

10.020. Qualifications of the Club President

In addition to the qualifications listed in the Standard Rotary Club Constitution, the club president should:

1. possess leadership skills
2. have sufficient time to lead and carry out the work of the club
3. have served in the club as a board member or as chair or member of one or more of the major committees or as club secretary
4. possess a working knowledge of the club constitution and bylaws
5. have attended one or more district conferences and international conventions.

(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)

Source: January 1947 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164; April 1971 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 231.

See Also January 1963 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 112

10.030. Duties of Club President

The club president has the following duties:

1. presides at meetings of the club
2. ensures that each meeting is carefully planned, opening and adjourning on time
3. presides at regular meetings (at least once a month) of the club board of directors
4. appoints club committee chair and members who are qualified for the jobs assigned
5. ensures that each committee has definite objectives and each is functioning consistently
6. attends the district conference
7. cooperates with the governor and assistant governor in various club and district Rotary matters
8. supervises the preparation of a club budget and the proper accounting of club finances, including an annual financial review
9. ensures that a comprehensive learning program is implemented by the club and may appoint a club learning facilitator (s) to carry out the learning, if needed
10. ensures that important information from the Governor's "Monthly Letter," and other bulletins and literature from the Secretariat and governor are passed on to the club members
11. submits each June a comprehensive report to the club on the status of club finances and the extent to which the club has achieved its objectives for the year
12. works cooperatively with the president-elect before leaving office to ensure the smooth transition of authority, including the transfer of all relevant records, documents, and financial information
13. arranges a joint meeting of the incoming and outgoing club boards to ensure the success of the new administration and to provide continuity of administrations.

(April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106)

Source: January 1947 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59;

Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104; January 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 142; October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31.; April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106

See Also Jan 1951 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 53; February 1923 Mtg. Bd. Dec. VIII(z)

10.040. Duties of Club President-elect

10.040.1. Appointments for Club Committees

Incoming club presidents-elect shall complete their appointments of club committee chairs no later than 31 March. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: October-November 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 123;

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

10.040.2. Annual Fund Goal-Setting by Clubs

The club president-elect oversees the Annual Fund goal for the club for implementation during his or her term as president. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 321;

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

10.050. Duties of Club Secretary

The club secretary is responsible for timely membership reporting to Rotary International in addition to any other duties included in the club constitution and bylaws. The club secretary must report the incoming club officers for the next Rotary year to Rotary International no later than 1 February. *(January 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96)*

Source: January 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96

10.060. Club Officer Disputes

If there is a dispute within a club as to which members have been duly elected as the club's officers, the general secretary shall request the district governor to investigate the dispute. The governor shall notify the general secretary which of the members should be properly recognized as the club officers. Until the dispute is resolved, the general secretary may rely upon the findings of the governor as to which club members should be recognized as club officers for RI's administrative purposes. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 98)*

Source: November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 98

ARTICLE 11 CLUB RELATIONSHIPS WITH ROTARIANS AND OTHERS

11.010. Circularization

11.010. Circularization

11.010.1. Rotary Clubs – Approval to Solicit Cooperation, Financial Aid, or Participation in Commercial Ventures

A club desiring to actively request (using e-mail, telephone, mail, fax, etc.) the cooperation of one or more other clubs or members of other clubs, shall first submit its purpose and plans to the governor or governors of the involved area and secure his, her or their approval. Clubs requesting cooperation with non-active methods (using websites, social media or other emerging technologies that rely on individuals or groups opting in to share or receive communications) are exempt from this policy.

No club shall actively solicit financial assistance or participation in commercial ventures from any other Rotary club or from individual Rotarians other than its own members unless it first secures authorization from the RI Board.

A Rotarian shall not circularize Rotary clubs or other Rotarians on matters affecting his or her individual business interests.

A Rotary club(s) engaging in these types of activities must comply with RI policy for use of the Rotary Marks, including use of proper identification and qualifying language regarding the Rotary club(s).

The general secretary shall request the governors of any districts having clubs involved in unauthorized active solicitations to take action to end such activities. Continued non-compliance with this policy shall be reported to the RI Board for possible discipline for cause, up to and including termination of the club. (*May 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 297*)

Source: January 1937 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108;

Amended by May 1956 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 207; COL 80-102; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270; May 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 297

11.010.2. Multidistrict Activities and Projects – Approval to Solicit Cooperation, Financial Aid, or Participation in Commercial Ventures, Including Telemarketing

A multidistrict entity desiring to request the cooperation of clubs or Rotarians, outside its own membership, in connection with any matter whatsoever, by any means, including telemarketing, shall first submit its purpose and plans to the governor or governors of the involved area and secure his, her, or their approval.

A multidistrict entity(ies) engaging in these types of activities must comply with RI policy for use of the Rotary Marks, including use of proper identification and qualifying language regarding the multidistrict entity(ies).

No multidistrict entity shall solicit financial assistance or participation in any commercial venture from any Rotary club or from Rotarians other than its own members without authorization from the RI Board.

Multidistrict entities that are not in compliance with this circularization policy could lose their multidistrict status. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270*)

Source: October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 41;

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270

11.010.3. Global Networking Groups – Approval to Solicit Cooperation, Financial Aid, or Participation in Commercial Ventures, including Telemarketing

A Global Networking Group desiring to request the cooperation of districts, clubs or Rotarians outside of its own membership in connection with any matter whatsoever, by any means, including telemarketing, shall first submit its purpose and plans to the governor or governors of the involved area and secure his, her, or their approval.

Global Networking Groups engaging in these types of activities must comply with RI policy for use of the Rotary Marks, including use of proper identification and qualifying language regarding the Global Networking Group.

No Global Networking Group shall solicit financial assistance or participation in commercial ventures from any Rotary district or club or from individual Rotarians other than its own members unless and until it first secures an authorization from the Board.

Even within the limits described above, it is not permissible for a Rotarian to circularize other Global Networking Group members on matters affecting his or her individual business interests. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205;

Amended by November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

11.010.4. Telemarketing to the Public by Clubs, Districts, and other Rotary Entities

Rotary clubs, districts and other Rotary Entities, other than Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation, desiring to use a commercial telemarketing, internet web hosting and/or email firm to solicit the public on their behalf shall:

1. first submit its purpose and plans to the governor or governors of the involved area and secure his, her or their approval;
2. comply with existing Rotary circularization policy;
3. include proper identification and qualifying language regarding the Rotary club(s), district(s) or other Rotary Entity(ies) to be represented.

The general secretary shall request the governors of any districts that are not in compliance with the above policy to take action to end such activities. Continued non-compliance with this policy shall be reported to the RI Board for possible discipline for cause, including termination. *(June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270)*

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270

11.010.5. Limited Exception to Circularization Policy

Requests from districts or clubs for cooperation and assistance with a specific international service project or activity are not subject to the limitation placed upon general circularization rules where such requests are directed to one or a limited number of districts or clubs. *(September 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 34)*

Source: January 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 154; October 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 116; September 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 34

11.010.6. Use of Member Data for Commercial Purposes or Circularization

No member of a Rotary club shall use any database or list of names compiled in connection with a Rotary-related project or activity for commercial purposes. Any directories of RI, its districts and clubs, as well as any other database or list of names compiled in connection with a Rotary-related project or activity shall not be made available by Rotarians or by clubs or districts for the purpose of circularization. This applies to directories in electronic and printed formats. *(January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99)*

Source: June 1930 Mtg., Bd. Dec. I; Jan 1937 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108;

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99

11.010.7. Club and District Directories

Any club or district publishing a directory shall publish in that directory a notice to the effect that the directory is not for distribution to non-Rotarians nor may it be used as a commercial mailing list. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: June 1936 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275;

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

11.010.8. Circularization of Rotaract Clubs

As a matter of policy, the Board does not recognize the right of any individual or organization except RI to circularize Rotaract clubs for any commercial purpose, except in the case of Rotaractors who are responsible for organizing Rotaract club, district and multidistrict meetings and only within the districts directly involved. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57)*

Source: October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57

ARTICLE 12. ROTARACT CLUBS

- 12.010. Membership in a Rotaract Club
- 12.020. Sponsorship
- 12.030. Rotaract Club Base
- 12.040. Standard Rotaract Club Constitution and Recommended Rotaract Club Bylaws
- 12.050. Rotaract Club Suspension and Termination
- 12.060. Rotaract Marks
- 12.070. Rotaract Club Finances
- 12.080. Rotaract District Meetings and Activities
- 12.090. Rotaract Multidistrict Information Organizations
- 12.100. Rotaract Multidistrict Meetings and Activities
- 12.110. Rotaract Leadership Learning Seminars
- 12.120. Grow Rotaract Membership Operational Plan

12.010. **Membership in a Rotaract Club**

A Rotaract club is an organization of young adults who take action through community and international service, learn leadership skills, and participate in professional development. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57)*

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150;
Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57

12.010.1. Membership in Multiple Rotaract Clubs

1. No member shall simultaneously belong to more than one Rotaract club or be an honorary member in the same club.
2. Active Rotaractors may be elected as honorary members to more than one Rotaract club.
3. No Rotaract club shall elect a number of honorary members to exceed the number of active members in the club.

(November 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69)

Source: November 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

12.010.2. Honorary Membership in Rotaract Clubs

1. Rotaract clubs may elect honorary members, for a term set by the club board.
2. Honorary members in a Rotaract club shall be active Rotaract members in another club or community members who have distinguished themselves by meritorious service to Rotaract, who shall:
 - a. be exempt from paying dues;
 - b. not vote;

- c. not hold any club office;
- d. be entitled to attend all meetings and enjoy all other privileges in the club, but community members who are not active Rotaract members shall have no rights or privileges in any other club.

(November 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69)

Source: November 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

12.010.3. Rotaract Age Limit Policy

A Rotaract club may establish upper age limits, provided that the club obtains the concurrence of its members and records it in their bylaws. *(October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 53)*

Source: January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 102; October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 53

12.020. Sponsorship

1. A Rotaract club is established following the notification of the district Rotaract representative, approval of the governor, and upon certification and recognition by Rotary International. Its existence depends upon continued recognition by Rotary International.
2. A Rotaract club may be organized, sponsored, and counseled by Rotary club(s) or Rotaract club(s) provided that:
 - a. Rotaract clubs shall be sponsored only by Rotary or Rotaract clubs within the boundaries of the district in which they are located.
 - b. A Rotaract club may be organized and sponsored jointly by up to three Rotary clubs or Rotaract clubs and may be sponsored jointly by more than three Rotary clubs or Rotaract clubs with the governor's approval if, in the governor's considered judgment, the best interests of the district, the sponsor clubs, and the Rotaract club concerned would be effectively served. A joint Rotaract committee should be created with representation from each of the sponsor clubs.

(January 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81)

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150;

Amended by January 1971 Mtg., Bd. Dec.164; January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 171; October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92; June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 214; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57; January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 101; January 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81

12.030. Rotaract Club Base

12.030.1. Rotaract Club Base

A Rotaract club may be community or university-based. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57)*

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150

Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57

12.030.2. University-based Clubs

Where the Rotaract club is university-based, the counsel of sponsor club(s) shall be exercised in full cooperation with the university authorities, with the understanding that such clubs are subject to the same regulations and policies established by the university authorities for all student organizations and extracurricular activities of the university (or other institution of higher education.) *(October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 53)*

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150; January 1971 Mtg., Bd. Dec.164;

Amended by June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 214; October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 53

12.030.3. Satellite Clubs

A community or university-based club may establish a satellite club, whose members shall be members of the club, for the purpose of establishing flexible meeting times, alternate locations, or to encourage a group of current members with potential to establish a new club in the future. *(November 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69)*

Source: November 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

12.040. Standard Rotaract Club Constitution and Recommended Rotaract Club Bylaws

12.040.1. Standard Rotaract Club Constitution

There shall be a “Standard Rotaract Club Constitution” prescribed by Rotary International and subject to amendment only by the Board of Directors of Rotary International. As a prerequisite of its organization and certification, each Rotaract club shall adopt the “Standard Rotaract Club Constitution” and shall automatically adopt all amendments thereto subsequently made. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57)*

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150;

Amended by June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 214

12.040.2. Recommended Rotaract Club Bylaws

Each Rotaract club shall adopt bylaws not inconsistent with the “Standard Rotaract Club Constitution” and with policy established by Rotary International. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57)*

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150

12.050. Rotaract Club Suspension and Termination

12.050.1. Suspension of Rotaract Club

1. The general secretary may suspend any club that fails to report club and membership information to RI annually, no later than 30 June.
2. The general secretary may reinstate any suspended club if such annual reporting is completed by such time as deemed necessary by the general secretary.

(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57)

Source: October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57

12.050.2. Status of Suspended Rotaract Clubs

The suspension of a club will result in the imposition of the following measures until such time that the club has been reinstated:

- Club is not authorized to participate in RI events and activities;
- Club is not authorized to receive awards or recognition from RI or TRF;
- Club will not receive communications from RI.

(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57)

Source: October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57

12.050.3. Termination of Rotaract Clubs

A Rotaract club may be terminated:

1. By Rotary International, for:
 - a. failure to function in accordance with its constitution
 - b. initiating, or maintaining, or retaining in its membership an individual who initiates or maintains litigation against Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation, or the district, including their directors, trustees, officers, and employees, or
 - c. for other cause
2. By the Rotaract club itself upon its own determination.

(October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 30, 53)

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150; January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 136;
Amended by October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 30 and 53

12.060. Rotaract Marks

Rotaract club members shall be entitled to use and display the Rotaract name and logo in an appropriate and dignified manner during their period of membership in a Rotaract club and shall relinquish such entitlement upon termination of membership in a Rotaract club or upon the termination of the Rotaract club in conformity with the *Rotary Code of Policies* Article 34.060.4. (*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57*)

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150;

Amended by June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 214; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57

12.070. Rotaract Club Finances

1. Individual Rotaractors shall pay annual membership fees to their Rotaract club to cover the cost of club administration.
2. Any fees, dues or assessments on the membership of any Rotaract club shall be nominal and shall be only for the purpose of covering the cost of administering the club.
3. Funds for activities and projects undertaken by Rotaract clubs shall be raised by such clubs apart from membership fees, dues or assessments and shall be placed into a separate account.
4. A thorough audit by a qualified person shall be made once each year of all the club's financial transactions.
5. It is the responsibility of the Rotaract club to raise the funds necessary to carry out the program of the club.
6. Rotaract clubs should not make general solicitations for financial assistance from Rotary clubs or from other Rotaract clubs. Sponsor clubs may provide financial support when mutually agreed upon.
7. No part of the expenses of meetings of Rotaract clubs shall be paid by Rotary International.
8. Rotaract clubs should establish financial guidelines to ensure that all funds are managed in a responsible and transparent manner, including all monies collected to support service projects, consistent with laws and banking regulations in the country, including plans for disbursement of funds should the Rotaract club disband or be terminated.

(*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57*)

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150; May 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 402;

Amended by February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 182; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236; January 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 187; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57

12.080. Rotaract District Meetings and Activities

12.080.1. District Rotaract Committee

District Governors are encouraged to appoint a district Rotaract committee as noted in Rotary Code of Policies section 17.030.2. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57)*

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150;
Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57

12.080.2. District Rotaract Representative

1. A district with two or more Rotaract clubs must elect a district Rotaract representative from among their membership. The method of election shall be determined by the Rotaract membership, reviewed by the district Rotaract committee, and approved by the district governor in advance of elections. The district Rotaract representative must have served as a Rotaract club president or as a member of the district Rotaract committee for one full term before taking office.
2. In a district with one Rotaract club, the district Rotaract representative shall be the most recent, available past Rotaract club president.
3. The district Rotaract representative will be guided and counseled by the Rotary governor and should work with the district Rotaract committee and other appropriate Rotary district committees. In districts with no Rotaract committee, the district Rotaract representative assumes the responsibilities of the committee as noted in 17.030.2.13.
4. The district Rotaract representative in collaboration with other district leaders, should:
 - a. Support and implement leadership learning events, including a learning session for Rotaract club officers in the district, in collaboration with the district learning committee
 - b. Support Rotaract clubs in setting and achieving goals, resolving conflicts, and meeting their district and RI administrative requirements.
 - c. Assist in establishing new Rotaract clubs and promote membership growth throughout the district.
 - d. Keep the governor informed of the progress and status of Rotaract clubs.
 - e. Provide advice and support to Rotaract clubs in implementing their service activities.
 - f. Stay up to date on Rotary initiatives.
 - g. Share the status of the Rotaract clubs with their successor.
5. All election disputes shall be resolved locally by the district governor based on district policy in consultation with the district Rotaract chair. RI will not intervene.

(October 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 33)

Source: January 1969 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 155;

Amended by January 1973 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172; May 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 392; March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236; June 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 217; June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 214; October 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92; January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 136; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57; January 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81; April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119; October 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 33

12.080.3. District Rotaract Meetings and Activities

1. Rotaract clubs may organize district conferences or other meetings beyond the club level, with the approval of the district governor, to bring together all Rotaractors and Rotarians in the district to inspire greater collaboration, discuss important topics, or provide leadership learning events.
2. No meeting of members of Rotaract clubs beyond the club level shall have any legislative authority nor shall be so organized as to give the appearance of having such authority.
3. At a district Rotaract meeting, a three-fourths majority of the Rotaract clubs in a district may vote to undertake a district service project.
4. Such a project must be approved by the governor, and specific plans and instructions for the administration of the district project must also have the approval of the governor and three-fourths of the Rotaract clubs in the district.

(April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119)

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150;

Amended by January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 174; February 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 307; March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 229; June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 214; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57; April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119

12.080.4. District Rotaract Finances

1. The district should make provisions to fund the administrative activities of the district Rotaract committee.
2. All district Rotaract activities shall be financed by the Rotaract clubs in the district.
3. The cost of district Rotaract meetings shall be minimal and within the financial means of those participating. No expenses of district Rotaract meetings shall be paid by Rotary International.
4. A district Rotaract service fund may be established to raise funds for a district service project. Contributions to such a fund must be voluntary and cannot be made enforceable upon the individual.
5. A service fund must be approved by the governor, and specific plans and instructions for use of the fund must also have the approval of the governor and three-fourths of the Rotaract clubs in the district.
6. The governor must appoint a district fund committee to be responsible for collecting and administering the district fund, such committee to be composed of at least one Rotaractor and one Rotarian from the district Rotaract committee.

7. The district service fund must be kept in a bank account which clearly indicates that the fund is the property of the district Rotaract organization and not the personal property of any individual Rotaractor or Rotaract club.

(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57)

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150;

Amended by January 1973 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172; February 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 307; June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 214; January 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 187; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57

12.090. Rotaract Multidistrict Information Organizations

12.090.1. Formation of a Rotaract MDIO

Districts may develop a multidistrict organization between Rotaract clubs in the districts concerned, provided that:

- there is no objection by the governors of each of the districts concerned; authorization is secured from the general secretary, acting on behalf of the RI Board of Directors, to develop and maintain such an organization
- the organization complies with RI policy or is subject to termination of its status by the general secretary on behalf of the RI Board of Directors
- each member district is represented by its district Rotaract representative. Alternatively, a district may appoint a proxy, as needed, to carry out activities within the multidistrict organization
- funds needed to implement the organization's activities (i.e. production and distribution of regional club directories and newsletters, dissemination of Rotaract program information, general correspondence) cannot be made enforceable
- the organization has no decision making or legislative powers, except for decisions concerning the activities of the organization
- the organization shall establish a voting mechanism to be reviewed by the district governors.

(April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 156)

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 229; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 74; January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 136;

Amended by January 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84; April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 156

12.090.2. Purpose of a Rotaract MDIO

The purpose of a Rotaract Multidistrict Information Organization is to:

- build a sense of community and common purpose, especially aligned with Rotary's strategic objectives and areas of focus, in the region,
- offer leadership opportunities that engage members beyond the club or district,

- strengthen the relationship between Rotaract and Rotary at the club, district, zone, and regional level.

(April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 156)

Source: April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 156

12.090.3. Objectives of a Rotaract MDIO

The objectives of a Rotaract Multidistrict Information Organization may include, but are not limited to:

- disseminate information to the member district,
- facilitate communication between the member districts, Rotaract clubs within the member districts, and other Rotaract MDIOs,
- provide leadership or professional development opportunities to officers or individuals within the member districts,
- support and facilitate multidistrict service projects in accordance with the policy for Rotaract multidistrict service projects,
- plan and organize events to promote networking, fellowship, and professional development for the member districts.

(April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119)

Source: April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 156

Amended by April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119

12.100. Rotaract Multidistrict Meetings and Activities

12.100.1 Multidistrict Rotaract Meetings

1. Meetings of Rotaract club members from more than one district, particularly from districts in more than one country, are to be held under the guidance of the host governor and the district Rotaract committee, and in conjunction with the host district Rotaract representative. Such meetings are subject to the advance approval of the governors of the districts involved. Invitations to governors to hold multidistrict Rotaract meetings must be accompanied by:
 - a. information including the date, location, purpose, facilities, program and participants of the proposed meeting;
 - b. a copy of the anticipated meeting budget with assurance that the sponsors are in a position to and will assume complete responsibility for contractual and financial obligations inherent in the meeting;
 - c. assurance that the planning and implementation of the proposed meeting will be carried out under the direct supervision of Rotaractors and Rotarians;

2. The host club or district must maintain liability insurance for multidistrict Rotaract meetings with coverage and limits appropriate for the geographic location. Evidence of such coverage must be provided to RI or the governor of any participating district upon request.
3. The district Rotaract representative shall inform the RI director(s) for the zone(s).

(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57)

Source: June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 214

Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57

12.100.2. Multidistrict Rotaract Service Projects

Rotaract service projects involving clubs in two or more districts may be implemented provided that such projects:

1. are, in nature and scope, within the capability of the clubs and Rotaractors in the districts to undertake successfully without interfering with or detracting from the scope and effectiveness of club activities;
2. shall not be undertaken initially unless each district Rotaract representative concerned has agreed to such a joint project and then, only after approval of two-thirds of the clubs in each district;
3. shall be undertaken with the approval of the governors concerned;
4. shall be under the direct supervision of the district Rotaract representative concerned; the custody of all funds contributed or collected for such projects shall be the responsibility of the district representatives concerned, through a committee of Rotaractors from within the districts involved, who may be appointed to assist in administering any such project and related funds;
5. shall involve the participation by Rotaract clubs and/or individual Rotaractors on a voluntary basis, clearly presented as such; the cost of participation by a club or individual Rotaractor, if any, should be kept to a minimum, and not be implicitly or directly made an obligation in the form of a per capita tax, or assessment or otherwise.

(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57)

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 229;

Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57

12.100.3. INTEROTA

1. INTEROTA is not an official meeting of Rotary International, but RI provides support to INTEROTA through approval of its program content and by supplying representation of RI leadership at this event.
2. Rotaractors, prior to making a bid to host an INTEROTA meeting, shall obtain approval from the host district governor(s), district governor(s)-elect, and district governor(s)-

nominee. The winning INTEROTA bid shall be submitted by the host district Rotaract representative to the general secretary for approval on behalf of the Board no later than one year prior to the event. Complete proposals shall include:

- a. written approval of the host governor(s) and the RI director for the region
 - b. information including the date, location, facilities, program, bidding process, and participants
 - c. a copy of the anticipated meeting budget with assurance that the sponsors are in a position to and will assume complete responsibility for contractual and financial obligations inherent in the meeting
 - d. assurance that the planning and implementation of the proposed meeting will be carried out under the direct supervision of Rotaractors or Rotarians
3. The host district(s) must maintain liability insurance for INTEROTA with coverage and limits appropriate for the geographic location. Evidence of such coverage must be provided to RI or the governor of any participating district upon request.

(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57)

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 238;

Amended by June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 214; January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 136. **Affirmed by** February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 306; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57

12.110. Rotaract Leadership Learning Seminars

12.110.1. Learning and Support by the Sponsor Rotary Club

An effective Rotaract club depends on the guidance, support, and active participation of the sponsor Rotary club(s). Rotarians should be involved in the learning events of Rotaractors, Rotaract club officers, directors, and committee chairs.

Sponsor Rotary clubs should:

- appoint Rotarian mentors to Rotaractors in their sponsored Rotaract clubs
- promote district, multidistrict, and international learning opportunities for Rotaractors, including the Rotaract Preconvention.

(April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119)

Source: October 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92;

Amended by January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 136; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57; April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106; April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119

12.110.2. Learning and Support by the Rotary District

1. An effective Rotaract club also depends on the support of the Rotary district. The district Rotaract representative, in conjunction with the district Rotaract committee chair, the district learning facilitator, the district governor-elect, and the district governor, shall promote Rotaract needs during planning for Rotaract learning events, and other district events.
2. The district Rotaract representative should organize a Rotaract district conference to promote service, increase international understanding, enhance professional development, and build friendship and connection. Where possible, the Rotaract district conference should occur in conjunction with the Rotary district conference and include at least one joint session.
3. The chair of the district Rotaract committee and the district Rotaract representative shall facilitate a one to two-day leadership learning event for all incoming Rotaract club officers, directors, and committee chairs.

(April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119)

Source: October 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92;

Amended by January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 136; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57; April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106;
April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119

12.110.3. Rotaract Preconvention

1. The Rotaract Preconvention brings Rotaractors together to inspire and inform them to develop strong clubs and districts, build international friendships, and enhance the connections between Rotaract and Rotary at an international level. Through a variety of sessions, the preconvention:
 - a. Provides learning, encouragement, and motivation to Rotaract representatives to advance Rotaract in their districts and to strengthen their connection to Rotary
 - b. Facilitates sharing between Rotarians and Rotaractors, including past club presidents, district Rotaract representatives, and multidistrict leaders as well as those new to Rotaract
2. Rotary districts shall pay for the attendance of district Rotaract representatives at district, multidistrict, or international leadership learning seminars. District governors are encouraged to defray all or part of the costs associated with the attendance of district Rotaract representatives-elect at the Rotaract Preconvention Meeting.

(April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119)

Source: October 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92;

Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57; April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119

12.120. Grow Rotaract Membership Operational Plan

An emphasis on growing Rotary's member and participant-base is a key element of the RI Strategic Plan. The Grow Rotaract Operational Plan endeavors to align operations and resources to Rotary's strategic priorities in order to achieve long-term membership sustainability and growth of Rotaract, while also facilitating a smooth transition from Rotaract to Rotary club membership.

This plan supports our existing Rotaract clubs' efforts to remain relevant and attractive to new members and deliver an experience that engages and retains existing members, while also strengthening the collaboration between Rotary and Rotaract clubs.

The plan also seeks to expand Rotaract's reach with innovative models that welcome more participants and gives them meaningful ways to unite and take action.

Priority: Increase Impact

Membership Initiatives:

- Ensure a consistent message that Rotaract is a unique and valued membership type for young adults.
- Foster a perception shift, where Rotarians see value in Rotaract and believe their Rotary experience is better as a result of collaboration with Rotaractors.
- Expand the awareness and understanding of The Rotary Foundation for Rotaractors, including access to funding and evaluation of the success and sustainability of their district and global grant projects.
- Encourage greater giving to and fundraising for The Rotary Foundation by Rotaract based on a tailored donor engagement and recognition strategy that resonates with this target audience.
- Improve Rotaractors' ability to achieve and measure greater impact through hands-on-service projects.

Priority: Expand Reach

Membership Initiatives:

- Over the next 5 years, achieve sustainable growth in Rotaract membership
- Develop new clubs and other opportunities to participate with Rotary that appeal to younger and diverse participants.
- Leverage the experience of the family of Rotary as opportunities to better connect with existing and prospective Rotaractors and participants.
- Encourage, monitor, and measure transitions from Rotary's youth programs to Rotaract club membership.
- Encourage, monitor, and measure transitions from Rotaract club membership to Rotary club membership.

Priority: Enhance Engagement

Membership Initiatives:

Rotary International Code of Policies
June 2025

- Encourage Rotary and Rotaract clubs to offer opportunities for greater collaboration to improve membership experiences for both Rotarians and Rotaractors
- Increase awareness of membership and service recognition opportunities available to Rotaract clubs and members.
- Better define the value and member benefits of Rotaract while creating a distinctly appealing, flexible, and innovative club experience tailored for young adults
- Strengthen Rotary's learning opportunities, including in-person volunteer-led events, to support the Rotaract club experience.

Priority: Increase Ability to Adapt
Membership Initiatives:

- Update RI Code of Policies to fully integrate Rotaract as a membership type, while providing sufficient distinction between Rotary and Rotaract clubs as unique member experiences.
- Continue to promote active participation of Rotaractors in committees and other leadership appointments.

(October 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52)

Source: April 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 138

Amended by April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119; October 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52
