

CHAPTER I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Articles

Article 1. The Code

ARTICLE 1. THE CODE

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1.010. Purpose

The purpose of this *Rotary Code of Policies* is to establish a comprehensive document containing all of the general and permanent policies of Rotary International. All policies of a general and permanent nature adopted by the RI Board or the RI Council on Legislation after the effective date of this *Rotary Code of Policies* will be added to the Code in order for it to remain a single collection of such policies. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

1.020. Citation

The policies contained in this *Rotary Code of Policies* shall constitute and be designated the *Rotary Code of Policies* and may be so cited. Such policies may also be cited simply as the "Code of Policies" or the "Code." Revised editions, as prepared and authenticated from time to time in accordance with this article, shall be designated by listing the year of the revision and adding the word "revised" to the title. For example, a revised edition of the Code in 2002 would be designated as the "2002 Revised Code of Rotary Policies." Such a revised edition also may be cited simply as the "2002 Revised Code" or the "2002 Code." *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

1.030. Rules of Construction

All general provisions, terms, phrases and expressions contained in this Code are to be construed in a manner that allows for the implementation of policies. Words and phrases are to be taken in their plain or usual sense, but technical words and phrases having a particular or appropriate meaning in law or in the constitutional documents are to be understood according to their technical import. As used in this Code, the words "shall," "is," and "are" are mandatory, and the words "may" and "should" are permissive. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

1.040. Definitions

In the construction of this Code, the following definitions are to be observed unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

- **Adult person:** In the context of Rotary club membership, a person at least 18 years old.
- **Board:** The Board of Directors of Rotary International.
- **Club:** A Rotary club.
- **Code or Code of Policies:** The *Rotary Code of Policies* as contained in this article and the other articles of this document.
- **Constitutional Documents:** The Constitution and Bylaws of Rotary International and the Standard Rotary Club Constitution.
- **Councils:** The RI Council on Legislation and Council on Resolutions.
- **Foundation:** The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.
- **General Officers of RI:** The president, president-elect, vice-president, treasurer, other directors and the general secretary.
- **General Secretary:** The duly elected or acting general secretary of Rotary International.
- **Governor:** A governor of a Rotary district.
- **Legislation:** Enactment and position statement proposed for the Council on Legislation
- **Member:** A member, other than an honorary member, of a Rotary club.
- **Partner:** One of a couple of the same or opposite sex, with legally married or civil union status or in a mutually recognised relationship.
- **Presidential Initiative:** Added events, programmatic elements, projects, or messaging campaigns for Rotary and Rotaract members and participants suggested by the president.
- **Rotaract club:** A club of young adults.
- **Rotaractor:** A member of a Rotaract club.
- **RI:** Rotary International.
- **Rotary Entity/Rotary Entities:** Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation, a Rotary club or group of clubs, a Rotary district or group of districts, a Rotary Fellowship, Rotary Action Groups, and administrative territorial units of Rotary International. Individual RI Programs are not considered Rotary Entities.
- **Rotary Marks:** The intellectual property owned by RI. See Section 34.005.

- **Rotary Senior Leaders:** Those individuals serving as current, incoming, and past RI presidents; current, incoming, and past RI directors; and current, incoming, and past Foundation trustees.
- **Secretariat:** The world headquarters and international offices of Rotary International.
- **Staff:** The employees of Rotary International.
- **TRF:** The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.
- **Trustees:** The Trustees of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

(January 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 73)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348

Amended by October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 30; January 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 73

1.050. Relationship to the Constitutional Documents

This Code is supplemental to the constitutional documents and should be construed in harmony with them. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of the constitutional documents and the provisions of this Code, the constitutional documents take precedence and thereby modify the conflicting provisions of the Code. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

1.060. Severability

The chapters, articles, sections, and subsections of this Code are severable. If any chapter, article, section, or subsection of this Code is declared invalid by the judgment of any court or other agency of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining chapters, articles, sections, or subsections of this Code. If any part of this Code is declared invalid by any court or agency of competent jurisdiction, it shall be invalid only within the jurisdiction of such court or agency. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

1.070. Repeal of Policies

When an action repealing a former policy is itself repealed or rescinded, such repeal or rescission shall not be construed to revive the former policy, unless such policy is expressly reinstated. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

1.080. Implementation of Policies

Unless noted to the contrary in a particular provision, the general secretary shall have both the duty and the authority to implement the policies set forth in this Code. For that purpose, the general secretary may prepare and approve policies, procedures, guidelines, rules, schedules and other documents to implement the policies. The general secretary also may delegate authority for the implementation of various policies to one or more members of the staff, either by name or title. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

1.090. Amendments

Amendments to this Code may be made through action of a Council on Legislation, in accordance with the provisions of the constitutional documents for actions by the Council on Legislation. Amendments to the Code also may be made by the Board, in accordance with the constitutional documents for actions by the Board. Amendments made by a Council on Legislation shall become effective on 1 July following the action, subject to the limitations of the constitutional documents. All other amendments shall become effective upon their adoption by the Board, unless a later date is specified in such action. When appropriate, the Board will delay the effective date of amendments to the Code in order to provide adequate notice of the changes or additions to the policies.

When amending this Code, the Board shall endeavor to specify the chapter, article, section, or subsection being amended or to designate the place in the Code for the new policies to be inserted. Failure to make such references shall not affect the validity of actions by the Board to adopt new or different policies. The general secretary has the duty and authority to make technical corrections in the amendments adopted by the Board and to incorporate such corrections into the Code. Such corrections, if any, shall be reported to the Board at its next meeting. *(September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 28)*

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348

Amended by February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275, August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 42, September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 28

1.100. Annual Supplements

This Code shall be updated by the general secretary after each board meeting. An annual cumulative supplement to this Code shall be prepared by the general secretary following the end of each Rotary year. Such cumulative supplements shall contain all amendments to the Code, and all other changes or additions of general and permanent policies, since the Code's adoption or its last revision. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

1.110. Revised Editions

Revised editions of this Code shall be prepared by the general secretary from time-to-time, but not less than once every four years. Revised editions shall merge the Code (or the latest revised edition), the latest cumulative annual supplement and any subsequent amendments of the Code, and all other changes or additions of general and permanent policies, into a single integrated document. Revised editions of the Code will bear the year of publication as part of the title, such as the 2001 Revised Code of Rotary Policies. Revised editions, when duly prepared and authenticated, will replace earlier editions of the Code. When a revised edition of the Code is prepared and authenticated, the revised edition shall be presented to the Board at a regular meeting, and its receipt shall be noted in the minutes.

The new edition of the Code will become effective at the time of such presentation to the Board with the proviso that any policies inadvertently omitted or altered in their transfer from

the previous edition of the Code to the new edition will remain effective as stated in the earlier edition for six-months. During the six-month period after its presentation to the Board, the new edition may be corrected by the general secretary to reflect accurately the transfer of policies from the previous edition, and such corrections shall be reported to the Board at its next meeting. After the expiration of the six-month period, the new edition will become as fully effective as if adopted in toto by the Board, and the text of the policies in such revised edition may not be changed thereafter except by action of the Board. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

1.120.

Authentication

The general secretary has the duty to prepare, and the authority to authenticate, the cumulative annual supplements and the revised editions of the Code as they are issued in accordance with this article. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)
