

# STATEMENT OF POLICY RELATING TO INTERACT BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

*This is a structured program of Rotary International, adopted by the Board in June 1962.*

*Note: The Board regularly reviews and, as necessary, amends the Interact “Statement of Policy,” “Standard Interact Club Constitution” and “Standard Interact Club Bylaws.”*

1. The Interact program was developed and created by and is an activity of Rotary International, and the authority for the establishment and enforcement of constitutional provisions, organizational requirements and standards of procedure, and for the protection and preservation of the Interact name and logo is retained by Rotary International.
2. An Interact club is a Rotary club sponsored organization of young people, ages 12 to 18, whose purpose is to provide opportunity for them to work together in a world fellowship dedicated to service and international understanding and leadership development skills.
3. An Interact club is organized, sponsored and supervised by a Rotary club or clubs and is established following the endorsement of the governor and upon certification and recognition by Rotary International; it can be created and sustained in no other way, and its continued existence depends upon the continued sponsorship of its sponsor Rotary club and continued recognition by Rotary International.
4. Each Interact club shall be strongly encouraged to mention after its own name “sponsored by the Rotary club of (name).”
5. Within the framework established by Rotary International, the sponsor Rotary club is responsible for organizing the Interact club and for providing it with guidance and counsel thereafter and has complete control and supervision over all activities, policies, and programs of the Interact club; sponsor Rotary clubs shall determine the meeting format of the Interact club and approve any changes in meeting format.
6. Where the Interact club is school-connected, control and supervision by the sponsor Rotary club shall be exercised in full cooperation with the school authorities, with the understanding that such clubs are subject to the same regulations and policies established by the school authorities for all student organizations and extracurricular activities of the school.
7. All Interact club activities, projects, and programs shall at all times be conducted in harmony with the policies of Rotary International; continued sponsorship of an Interact club by a Rotary club and recognition of it by RI are contingent thereon.
8. All on-line activities, such as the club website and social media pages, shall be operated in accordance with applicable law and regulations; sponsor Rotary clubs shall obtain written consent of Interactors’ parents or legal guardians in advance of Interact participation as necessary.
9. Rotary clubs and Interact clubs should meet jointly at least annually for the purpose of discussing plans and objectives for the upcoming year.
10. There shall be a “Standard Interact 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 Interact club shall adopt the “Standard Interact Club Constitution” and shall automatically adopt all amendments thereto subsequently made by the Board of Directors of Rotary International.

11. Each Interact club shall adopt by-laws not inconsistent with the “Standard Interact Club Constitution” and with policy established by Rotary International. Such by-laws shall be subject to the approval of the sponsor Rotary club.
12. Interact clubs shall be sponsored only by Rotary clubs within the boundaries of the district in which they are located.
13. An Interact club may be organized and sponsored jointly by more than one Rotary club under the following conditions:
  - a) The governor must approve in writing that, in the governor’s considered judgment, the best interests of the district, the Rotary clubs concerned and the Interact program would be served by the proposed joint sponsorship.
  - b) A substantial percentage of the members of the proposed Interact club must be drawn from the local community.
  - c) The circumstances must be such that the organization of separate Interact clubs, each sponsored by a single Rotary club, would create or result in an artificial division of what is essentially a single body of students within the school or community.
  - d) A joint Interact committee must be created with effective representation from each of the sponsor Rotary clubs.
14. Each member of an Interact club, by his acceptance of membership, agrees to accept and to adhere to the provisions of the constitution and by-laws of his Interact club.
15. On 30 June of the Rotary year in which a member becomes 18 years old, his or her Interact membership will end.
16. Membership in an Interact club shall be evidenced by Interact membership identification cards that include the name of the sponsor Rotary club supplied to Interact clubs through sponsor Rotary clubs by Rotary International.
17. The Interact name and logo, as used in or applied to the Interact program, are the property of Rotary International and shall be preserved for the exclusive use of those involved in the Interact program, including duly established Interact clubs and their members in good standing.
18. An Interact club member shall be entitled to use and display the Interact name and logo in an appropriate and dignified manner during the period of his membership in an Interact club and he shall relinquish such entitlement upon termination of his membership in his Interact club or upon the termination of his Interact club.
19. An Interact club may be terminated (a) by Rotary International, with or without the consent, approval or concurrence of the sponsor Rotary club, for failure to function in accordance with its constitution or for other cause, (b) by its sponsor Rotary club, or (c) by the Interact club itself upon its own determination.
20. Upon termination of an Interact club, all rights and privileges relating to the name and logo shall be relinquished by the club and by its members individually and collectively.
21. As a matter of policy, the Board does not recognize the right of any individual or organization except RI to circularize Interact clubs for any commercial or other purpose.
22. Governors are requested to appoint district Interact committees, composed of Rotarians and Interactors to assist the governor in publicizing the Interact program, promoting the organization of

new Interact clubs, and administering the program of Interact within the district. Where feasible and practicable in the appointment of district Interact committees, there should be provision for continuity of membership by appointing one or more members for a second term. Rotary district Interact committees in carrying out their duties should regularly consult with members of Interact clubs.

23. Interact organization beyond the club level

- a) A district with two or more Interact clubs may elect a district Interact representative from among its membership. The method of election shall be determined by the district Interact committee and district governor in advance of elections.
- b) All election disputes shall be resolved locally by the district governor based on district policy in consultation with the district Interact chair. RI will not intervene.
- c) The district Interact representative will be guided and counseled by the district governor and the district Interact committee, or other appropriate district committee, shall give counsel to and provide encouragement and inspiration to the Interact clubs of the district, particularly with respect to broadening and deepening the program of Interact within the district, and shall help focus their attention on the potential and achievements of the program in support of international understanding.

24. Interact meetings beyond the club level

- a) District Interact conferences may be held, under the guidance of the district Interact committee, with one or more members of this committee present. The district Interact representative shall assist the district committee in arranging these meetings and, where possible, shall preside at such meetings.
- b) The purpose of a district Interact conference is to provide training, encouragement, enlightenment, and inspiration to the Interact clubs with respect to school and Community Service and to focus attention on the worldwide potential and achievements of Interact in behalf of international understanding.
- c) No meeting of members of Interact clubs beyond the club level shall have any legislative authority nor shall be so organized or conducted as to give the appearance of having such authority. Nevertheless, such a meeting may include the opportunity for expression of ideas which might be of value as advisory observations to those who are involved at the district or other levels with the administration of Interact.
- d) No expenses of district Interact meetings or district Interact representatives shall be paid by Rotary International. The cost of such meetings shall be minimal and within the financial means of those participating.

25. Financing the cost of the Interact program

- a) All district Interact activities shall be financed by the Interact clubs in the district.
- b) No part of the expenses of district Interact representatives, district Interact conferences, meetings of Interact clubs, or groups of Interact clubs shall be paid by Rotary International.
- c) Costs involved in arranging any meetings of Interact clubs or groups of Interact clubs should be kept as low as possible consistent with effective meetings and a meaningful program.
- d) It is the responsibility of the Interact club to raise the funds necessary to carry out the program of the club.
- e) Rotary clubs sponsoring Interact clubs should not contribute more than occasional or incidental financial assistance to such Interact clubs.

- f) Interact clubs should not make general solicitations for financial assistance from Rotary clubs or from other Interact clubs.
- g) Interact clubs should not solicit financial assistance from individuals, businesses or organizations in their respective communities without giving something of value in return.
- h) Any dues or assessments on the membership of any Interact club should be nominal and should be only for the purpose of covering the cost of administering the club; funds for activities and projects undertaken by Interact clubs should be raised by such clubs apart from such dues or assessments.
- i) Sponsor Rotary clubs should establish financial guidelines for Interact clubs to ensure that all funds are managed in a responsible and transparent manner, consistent with laws and banking regulations in the country. This should include providing oversight for an adult signatory on all accounts, and plans for disbursement of funds should the Interact club disband or be terminated. Additionally, these guidelines should include financial stewardship plans for all monies collected to support service projects.

#### 26. Multidistrict Interact Meetings

Meetings of Interact club members from more than one district, particularly from districts in more than one country, are recommended wherever feasible. Such meetings are to be held under the guidance of the host governor and the district Interact committee, with one or more members of the committee present and in conjunction with the host district Interact representative and Interact club presidents. Such meetings are subject to RI youth protection policies outlined in the *Rotary Code of Policies* and the advance approval of the governors of the districts involved. Invitations to governors to hold multidistrict Interact meetings must be accompanied by

- a) information including the date, location, purpose, 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) plans for adult supervision of Interactors and details about appropriate sleeping accommodations
- d) assurance that the planning and implementation of the proposed meeting will be carried out under the direct supervision of Rotarians

The host club or district must maintain liability insurance for multidistrict Interact 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.

#### 27. Travel Insurance for Interactors

Clubs and districts inviting members of Interact clubs to participate in the programs or activities of such clubs or districts outside of their local community should, when Interactors are traveling 150 miles away from home residence or out of the home country, require the parents or legal guardians of each Interactor to provide travel insurance for the Interactor, 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 event, with coverage from the time of the Interactors departure from home until the return home.

- 28. As a matter of principle, Interact clubs are not authorized to assume membership in or merge with other organizations regardless of the purpose of such organizations.

## **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' spouse, and partners, and other volunteers must safeguard the children and young people they come into contact with and protect them from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.