

Rotary
District 7090

Role of the President

PELS April 18, 2026


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President

As president, you lead and motivate your club, ensuring that club members feel valuable, inspired, and connected to each other.

What you do

- Implement the strategic direction of the Club as set by the Board
- Preside over club and board meetings
- Appoint committee chairs and members
- Create a budget and manage club finances, including an annual audit (if required)
- Develop a safe environment for youth participants
- Work with your district governor and assistant governor



Rotary
D7090

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President

How to prepare

The year of planning before you take office is crucial to achieving the objectives you set out for your club. As president-elect, you work with your assistant governor and incoming leadership team to set annual goals that support your club's strategic plan. In this year you should:

- Take online courses for club president in the [Learning Center](#)
- Assess your club's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and risks in order to set goals
- Develop an action plan for your annual goals, which support long-term achievements
- Appoint committee chairs
- Ensure continuity in leadership and service projects
- Attend presidents-elect training seminar
- Attend district training assembly



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President

Resources & reference

- **Vibrant Clubs in Action**
- **Membership Growth and Retention Support**
- **The Rotary Foundation Reference Guide**
- **Standard Rotary Club Constitution**
- **Recommended Rotary Club Bylaws**

Tools

- **Pay or view your club invoice (Rotary International dues and fees)**
- **Update your club membership data**
- **Add club officers**
- **Set and track goals in Rotary Club Central**
- **Take a course in the Learning Center**
- **Register for a webinar**



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Learning Centre Courses

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Club President Essentials 1

Learning plan description

Looking for ways to help your club succeed? Get advice on planning for your year, creating an engaging club experience, and working with your leadership team to help your club run smoothly.

Updated June 2025.

Courses in the Learning plan
9 E-learning | 3h 45m average time

- Get Ready: Club President**
Mandatory | EN | E-learning | 15m 00s
- Managing Club Business**
Mandatory | EN | E-learning | 30m 00s
- Working With Other Club Leaders**
Mandatory | EN | E-learning | 30m 00s

- Minimizing Risk**
ENROLLED
Mandatory | EN | E-learning | 15m 00s
- Rotary's Action Plan and You**
ENROLLED
Mandatory | EN | E-learning | 15m 00s
- Best Practices for Engaging Members**
ENROLLED
Mandatory | EN | E-learning | 45m 00s
- Rotary Club Central Resources**
Mandatory | EN | E-learning | 15m 00s
- Managing Prospective Member Inquiries**
ENROLLED
Optional | EN | E-learning | 15m 00s
- Rotary Foundation Basics**
ENROLLED
Mandatory | EN | E-learning | 45m 00s

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Club President Essentials 2


Learning plan description
 Now that you know the basics of your role, learn strategies for making your club vibrant, attracting and engaging members, promoting your club, and more.
 Updated June 2025

Courses in the Learning plan
 9 E-learning | 4h 15m average time

 Is Your Club Healthy? ENROLLED Mandatory EN E-learning 1h 00m	 Promoting Your Club as People of Action Mandatory EN E-learning 15m 00s
 Vibrant Clubs in Action ENROLLED Mandatory EN E-learning 15m 00s	 Fostering Engagement and Belonging ENROLLED Mandatory EN E-learning 15m 00s
 Creating a Club Culture of Belonging Mandatory EN E-learning 15m 00s	 Preventing and Addressing Harassment ENROLLED Mandatory EN E-learning 45m 00s
	 Protecting Personal Data ENROLLED Mandatory EN E-learning 30m 00s
	 Rotary's Change Model ENROLLED Mandatory EN E-learning 30m 00s
	 Protecting Youth Program Participants 2025-26 Mandatory EN E-learning 30m 00s


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Governance and Bylaws

Understanding structure, responsibilities, and best practices for Rotary Clubs

D7090 Governance Committee
 PELS April 18, 2026

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Governance		
OFFICERS	THE BOARD	PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headed by the President and chosen by the Board • Responsible for the operations of the organization • Operate in accordance with the strategic direction and annual plans approved by the Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has overall responsibility and liability for the organization • Chosen by the members and serve for a fixed term • Decisions to be made by the Board acting collectively and after conducting due diligence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervise and choose the members of the executive including their succession • Together with the executive, set the strategic direction and annual operating plan • Provide oversight and monitor
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">11</div>

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Objective of this Presentation

It is important for all Club members to understand why bylaws are important to a Rotary Club.

In this presentation, we will review core components of Rotary Bylaws, learn how Clubs can draft and/or update their bylaws, and offer some guidance based on District 7090 Bylaws.



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What are Bylaws?

They are the governing rules of an organization.

Bylaws define structure, authority, and procedures.

They ensure continuity, accountability, and transparency.

And for us in Rotary, they must align with Rotary International governing documents and local law.



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Hierarchy of Rotary Governance

1 - ROTARY INTERNATIONAL BYLAWS

2 - ROTARY CODE OF POLICIES

3 - DISTRICT BYLAWS (D7090)

4 - LOCAL CLUB BYLAWS



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District 7090 Bylaws

There are several key elements to consider:

- Corporate identity and purpose
- Membership definition and voting rights
- Meetings, notice, quorum, and voting procedures
- Board of Directors authority and composition



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Board Governance

In Rotary, be it Club or District, it is the Board that manages the affairs of the corporation:

- There are clearly defined roles, responsibilities and terms for the Directors
- There is a blend of officers and ex-officio
- The Board is aligned with the Rotary International leadership structure



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Annual and Special Meetings

The Bylaws are to define clearly:

- Notice requirements
- Quorum thresholds established
- Remote / electronic participation established (and in the case of D7090, permitted)



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Officers and Committees

The Officers are tied to Rotary International roles

There are defined duties and succession

Standing and special committees authorized

Committees support, but do not replace, the authority of the Board



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Policies Embedded OR Required

Conflict of Interest policy

This policy, for any organization and especially Rotary, is essential to protect an organization's integrity, reputation, and legal standing by ensuring decisions are made in the best interest of the entity rather than for personal gain



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Policies Embedded OR Required

Harassment, discrimination, and abuse prevention

This policy is essential to foster a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment, protecting members' physical and psychological well-being while ensuring legal compliance.



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Policies Embedded OR Required

Whistleblower protection

This policy is crucial to encourage internal reporting of misconduct, reducing organizational risk, and preventing illegal retaliation against members.



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Policies Embedded OR Required

Financial oversight and audit requirements

Rotary Clubs must maintain rigorous financial controls. This includes, but is not limited to, written management plans, distinct bank accounts for grants, and, in many jurisdictions (Ontario for example), mandatory audits or review engagements for revenues over \$100,000. This includes segregating duties, retaining records for a least five years, and complying with tax laws.



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Why does this matter?

All clubs face similar compliance and governance needs – no need to reinvent the wheel (yes, pun intended 😊):

- Clear bylaws prevent disputes and confusion
- Supports leadership transitions
- Protects the club and its leaders



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Creating or Updating Club Bylaws

You are encouraged to start with the Rotary International Model Club Bylaws:

- Ensure consistency with district bylaws
- Adapt for club size and local practices
- Research and confirm compliance with state or provincial law



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Amending Club Bylaws

It is important to follow Club notice and voting requirements – with any Bylaw decision(s), make sure you:

- Engage members early
- Document changes carefully
- Maintain updated copies for members



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Key Takeaways

Bylaws are not just a legal document – they are a leadership tool for your Club:

- They ensure and document alignment with Rotary International and District rules (this is essential)
- Well-written bylaws strengthen club effectiveness
- Regular review ensures relevance and compliance



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Questions?



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