



# District Implementation of Youth Protection Policy

2021

- **Every activity conducted or sponsored by Rotary will occur in an environment free of abuse and harassment.**
- **The District's policy complies with the Rotary International Conduct Standards, as adopted by the RI Board of Directors, October 2019.**



Rotary  
International  
Statement  
Of  
Conduct  
October  
2019

**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' spouses and partners, and all other volunteers must safeguard the children and young people with whom they come into contact and protect them from physical, sexual and psychological abuse.**



# Purpose and Overview of Youth Protection Policy

- **Safety of Youth Involvement in all Rotary Programs**
- **Consistent and supportive incident management**
- **Compliance with RI directive**
- **Protection of club members from allegations**
- **Liability protection**
- **Legal reporting requirements,**



# Introduction to Youth Protection Policies and Procedures

**All Rotarians, spouses, partners and volunteers must be trained, understand and follow the policies in the District 6630 Youth Protection Policies and Procedures document.**

**Harassment or abuse by members or those associated with authorized District and Club activities will not be tolerated.**

**Club compliance is supervised by the District Governor; all clubs will be monitored for ALL youth programs.**



# Youth Interactions Defined

**It is everyone's responsibility to safeguard youth from all forms of abuse, regardless of age or gender**

**Youth interactions are defined as:**

- **Casual Contact (incidental and infrequent group contact)**
- **Continued Contact, more than casual, may or may not be in a group setting, and applies to Rotarians generally assigned to support Rotary functions**



# Protecting Rotarians

**Insurance coverage protects the Clubs and District from third party liability claims. Nonetheless:**

- **Clubs must document any event alleging abuse or harassment involving youth.**
- **Clubs should review programs and implement procedures for:**
  - o **Transportation**
  - o **conducting interviews**
  - o **volunteer screening**

**Clubs create action plans for responding to incidents.**



# Protecting the Clubs

**All Clubs participating in Youth Programs will:**

- **Provide the District with a signed Compliance statement.**
- **For Volunteers with Continued Contact, provide confirmation of volunteer screening prior to participating in youth activities**

**Clubs participating in RYE must meet additional requirements regarding training, learning materials, applications, websites and community resources.**



## Youth Protection

### Responsibilities at District Level

- **District Governor oversees YPP policy**
- **District Hearing Committee investigates and makes recommendations for action involving noncriminal complaints.**
- **District Youth Protection Officer oversees Clubs for Compliance.**
- **District Youth Services Committee reviews, updates, and provides training on Youth Protection Policies.**
- **District RYE Chair oversees Rotary Youth Exchange procedures.**





# Youth Protection

## Responsibilities at Club Level

### **The Club President:**

- **Enforces District Policy**
- **Reviews club youth activities**
- **Appoints the Club YPO**
- **Creates youth protection committee if needed**

### **The Club YPO:**

- **Co-ordinates with District leaders for volunteer screening**
- **Annually conducts youth protection training for club membership**

**The Club YPO also Co-ordinates with the District RYE chair, if the Club participates in RYE. (Clubs participating in RYE adhere to additional administrative requirements outlined by the District and O-E Multidistrict)**



# Volunteer Selection, Screening and Training

**All Rotarian and non-Rotarian Volunteers who work with youth must complete the online Youth Protection Awareness Training**

**All Volunteers who have Continued Contact with youth must undergo screening:**

- **Undergo an interview as assigned by the DG**
- **Complete the required volunteer application.**
- **Provide personal references – at least three.**
- **Undergo a criminal background check**

**Any individual who has admitted to, or been convicted of, domestic abuse, sexual abuse or harassment, is ineligible for membership or participation in any Rotary program**



# Procedures for Rotary Youth Exchange

**Rotary Youth Exchange host families must meet district guidelines and O-E Multidistrict guidelines. This applies to all adult residents of the host home.**

**Students in the RYE program will:**

- **Complete the necessary applications**
- **be interviewed at the Club and District levels**
- **Attend and participate in all Club and District orientation and training sessions.**

**Parents and guardians of RYE students will be interviewed at the Club and District level to determine student's suitability for RYE participation**



# Club Training

**All Club members must complete Youth Protection training approved by the District. Youth Program leaders will be trained by the District Youth Protection Committee.**

**Training includes:**

- **Recognizing sexual abuse and harassment**
- **How to report incidents to the Club, the District and legal authorities.**

**Training completion records are maintained by the Club YPO and/or District YPO and recorded in the YVM database.**

**Student participants, including Interact and RYLA, will be trained in Youth Protection Awareness as approved by the District Governor.**



# District Training

**The Club YEO, counselors and other youth protection committee members must participate in youth protection training offered by the District**

**The Club YPO attends training as soon as possible after assuming the office and annually thereafter.**

**The RYE Committee provides special training on Rotary Youth Exchange programs for the following:**

- **District Governor**
- **District Youth Exchange officer**
- **Rotarian Counselors**
- **Host families**
- **Students**
- **Rotarian and non-Rotarian participants**



# Allegation Handling

**Any adult to whom a youth reports abuse or harassment, will immediately refer the complaint to the sponsoring Club Youth Protection Officer, but if none, to the Club President.**

**Complaints alleging sexual and physical abuse must be reported to law enforcement immediately.**

**There will be full cooperation with all law enforcement agencies and child protective services.**

**If the complaint involves a RYE youth, the report should be made to the District RYE chair, who assumes the duties of the Club YPO in addition to his own duties under O-E and RI policies**



# Allegation Response

**Upon receiving an allegation:**

- **Respectfully acknowledge every report.**
- **Immediately protect the youth.**
- **Assure privacy but not confidentiality.**

**Non-criminal complaints will be handled at the Club Level and reported to the District Governor within 72 hours.**

**A District level committee will review the complaint and investigate. The committee will make recommendations for action, including terminating club membership.**



# Youth Travel - 1

## Inbound RYE Student travel

- **OUTSIDE** the District requires permission at District level from RYE chair
- Travel within the District is governed by the local club (YEOs and Counselors) and the Host Families, provided the policies therefore are approved by the District RYE Chair

## All other Youth Travel requires:

- permission from parents/legal guardians.
- detailed itineraries for the parents/legal guardians.
- More than 150 miles - requires proof of adequate insurance covering all medical contingencies





## Youth Travel - 2

**All adults supervising youth overnight events must be qualified volunteers that have complied with all requirements for those in Continued Contact.**

**Transportation of youth shall be done only by qualified volunteers (Continued Contact) or under supervision of such volunteer**

**Drivers must take youth directly home and ensure they are delivered to their parent/guardian.**



# Youth Sponsored Programs – Club Level Checklist

**Club President appoints Youth Protection Officer and Youth Protection Committee if needed.**

**Club members, student participants and volunteers complete respective required Youth Protection Training approved by the District.**

**Continued Contact Volunteers within all programs must:**

- **Complete an application**
- **Undergo a criminal background check**
- **Be Interviewed as determined by DG**
- **Provide Personal References – at least 3**



## Implementing the Club Checklist

- **Club President should appoint a Club YPO as soon as practical**
- **Report Club YPO to the District YPO**
- **Select Club YP Committee Members, if applicable**
- **Review District Youth Protection Policy and Procedures Document**
- **Submit completed and signed compliance statement to District YPO (due date TBD)**
- **Identify all youth programs in which the Club participates**
- **Determine if needed Volunteers are Continued Contact or Casual Contact**
- **Complete assigned online Youth Protection Awareness course**



## Other Documents

- Exhibits A&B, summation of policies and procedures for Clubs and Youth Sponsored Programs
- Suggested Best Practices for Youth Programs
- Event Review Checklists with youth participants
- Processing flow of volunteer applications for youth programs
- Incident handling instructions and reporting form



## Resources

- [Rotary International Insurance Website  
https://rotary.ajg.com](https://rotary.ajg.com)
  - [Rotary@ajg.com](mailto:Rotary@ajg.com) password: Rotarian1
  - My Rotary <https://my.rotary.org>>Learning & Reference>Learn by Topic>Youth Protection
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- Rotary District 6630 Youth Protection *Policies and Procedures Manual*

## Group Discussion

## Youth Safety Scenarios – based Training







Questions???

