

Newly Revised Rotary District 9685 Youth Protection Policy

Important information about insurance for 2021-2022

Key points:

1. District 9685 has a newly revised Youth Protection Policy which should be read and understood by all Club Presidents and Committees.
2. The Youth Protection Policy has a revised process for assessing the eligibility of volunteers who will be working on projects likely to involve youth and young adults. It is critically important that these procedures are understood and adopted.
3. There are important restrictions on the insurance cover available under the 2021-2022 insurance program. These need to be understood, especially when projects and activities involving young people are involved.

Revised Youth Protection Policy

I am pleased to advise the Committee of the Association (COTA - essentially the Board of Directors for District 9685) has approved a revised Youth Protection Policy for District 9685. This has been revised and updated to take account of all current developments regarding the protection of children and young people, and also sets out clear steps that must be undertaken when an incident has occurred, including reporting the incident to Rotary, the Police and, where appropriate, to our insurers.

The Youth Protection Policy also sets out in detail the procedures that need to be followed in order to verify the background of anyone who will act as a volunteer at a Rotary event or project involving children or young people.

The new Youth Protection Policy and the related documents are attached for your attention. I suggest this matter be an agenda item at your next Board meeting, in order to ensure there is a good understanding of the new policy and procedures that it requires. The Policy and related documents will also be placed on the District web site for ease of reference.

The key documents are:

- Youth Protection Policy, as approved by COTA, May 2021: this demonstrates our District's commitment to protecting Rotary youth program participants and all young people attending Rotary events and activities.
- Attachment A: Rotary Youth Protection Incident Report – complete this report after every incident and email to Rotary within 72 hours and update the District Governor and District Youth Protection Officer (DYPO).
- Attachment B: Rotary Abuse and Harassment Allegation Reporting Guidelines – statement of conduct for working with youth. District strives to create and maintain a safe environment for all youth who participate in Rotary activities.
WHAT TO DO on receiving a report of abuse or harassment.
- Attachment C: Rotary Youth Program Volunteer Application and Declaration – applicant's consent and permission (previously Form 3).

Insurance issues 2021 – 2022

Rotary's Zone Insurance Manager, Peter Kaye, has recently advised me as follows:

QBE, our Liability insurer, has questioned our training processes in relation to youth protection, and in particular reporting requirements. All complaints / incidents are required to be reported to Aon via District Officers, and to Rotary International within 72 hours of receipt of the complaint. This year's liability renewal declaration from a District revealed several incidents had occurred but were not reported to District by the club. Non-disclosure such as this demonstrates club education requires urgent review. (See important Policy Exclusion below)

This revelation, in conjunction with a hardening market in respect of molestation/sexual abuse cover, has prompted QBE to double the excess applicable to such claims to \$50,000, and quadruple the excess to \$100,000 for claims resulting from a known perpetrator. (Refer definition of known perpetrator).

Known Perpetrator: -

means any representative, member, Employee, volunteer, or intern (whether paid or not) of the Insured, that the Insured knew or ought reasonably to have known (including knowledge that could be readily acquired by conducting a basic name search online) that that person had previously:

- i. committed Sexual Abuse: or
- ii. has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of Sexual Abuse anywhere in the world; or
- iii. whilst being a representative, member, Employee, volunteer, intern (whether paid or not) or service provider of the insured who is a Person in a Position of Trust, had been the subject of a prior complaint in respect of Sexual Abuse.

Exclusion

Policy does not provide indemnity for Claims arising from Sexual Abuse, where a representative, member, Employee, volunteer, or intern (whether paid or not) of the Insured, had been the subject of a prior complaint in respect of Sexual Abuse, which has not been appropriately, properly, or adequately investigated by the Insured in accordance with statutory requirements or the Insured's own internal policies and procedures.

While I do not wish to unduly burden Clubs and project organisers with excessive process, it is clear from this message that our Youth Protection processes and procedures must be strictly observed at all times, and for all projects and activities. If we don't do things properly, the exclusion clause may well be applied.

Information about what is required is set out in the attached Youth Protection Policy, and in the Aon **Rotary Risk Management and Insurance Club Handbook**, which is available on the D9685 web site.

Education and Compliance

District Youth Service Directors/Chairs will be required to attend District Assembly or a special seminar for information/training session on Youth Protection and Insurance issues – MOU required similar to Foundation requirements will be put in place.

Further, all future Youth programs proposed by Rotary Clubs are to be referred to the District Youth Protection Committee (DYPC) for assessment and recommendation to the District Governor.

As noted above, could you please discuss these matters at a forthcoming meeting of your Club Board, and let me know if there are any issues or concerns you wish to raise on any of these matters.

I would like to thank;

- Paul Rogers, District Youth Protection Officer
- Dallas Booth, District Risk Management Officer
- PDG John Wakefield OAM, former District Youth Protection Officer

for their assistance with these matters.

Yours faithfully



Lindsay May OAM
District Governor 9685