

DISTRICT 5450

Youth & At-Risk Protection Compliance



Essential Guidance for Club Presidents

Compliance Deadline: August 20th | *Protecting our most vulnerable members.*

Who and What Are We Protecting?

DEFINITIONS — UNDERSTANDING THE SCOPE



Protected Individuals

Youth and at-risk individuals — those physically, mentally, or developmentally impaired, or needing supportive care.



Abuse

Treatment a reasonable person would consider harmful: verbal, physical, emotional, sexual, or contributing to the delinquency of a minor.



Cultural Differences

Views on "normal" behavior vary. We encourage common sense and good judgment to bridge these gaps.

Why Youth Protection is Critical

WHY IT MATTERS — PROTECTING YOUTH AND MEMBERS

THE REALITY

Even looking at just child sexual abuse, prevention must be intentional.

1 in 4
girls

child sexual
abuse
by age 18

1 in 13
boys

child sexual
abuse
by age 18

Source statistics cited: CDC and YMCA

POLICY PROTECTS EVERYONE

Strong safeguards are not just compliance requirements — they protect youth, volunteers, members, and clubs.

Sets clear boundaries

Members know expectations before serving.

Screens and trains volunteers

Background checks, mandatory training, supervision, and reporting reduce risk.

Responds quickly and fairly

Clear reporting protects youth and reduces unwanted legal exposure for members.

Bottom line: Youth Protection Policy keeps youth safer and gives members clarity to serve confidently.

Note: volunteer-specific harassment statistics are not consistently isolated; broader youth-serving organization abuse and misconduct data supports robust safeguards.

Why We Prioritize Protection

OUR COMMITMENT



Zero Tolerance

District 5450 strictly adheres to Rotary International's zero-tolerance policy against abuse and harassment.



The Mission

We strive to create and maintain a safe environment for all youth and at-risk individuals who participate in Rotary activities.



Our Duty

As Rotarians, we share a collective responsibility to safeguard children and young people from physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

PRESIDENT AND CLUB ACTION ITEMS

Action Items & Support

NEXT STEPS

Review the website, identify your track, and reach out to the District Youth & At-Risk Protection Officer with any questions.

All ANNUAL CLUB COMPLIANCE AFFIRMATION

Forms are due by August 20th

Form can be completed online: rotary5450.org/sitepage/youth-at-risk-protection

WEBSITE FOR MOR INFORMATION

rotary5450.org/sitepage/youth-at-risk-protection

“Safeguarding our youth is not just a policy — it is our Rotary promise.”



Do You Work With Youth or At-Risk Individuals?

DECISION GATE — ANSWER BEFORE CONTINUING

Do you ever — accidentally or otherwise — work with an at-risk population, such as youth?

NO

Stop here

Go to the Club Compliance form and complete it. You are done.

OR

YES

Continue

Proceed to the next slide to determine the applicable protection track.

When unsure: choose YES and continue — err on the side of caution.

Which Track Applies to You?

COMPLIANCE FLOWCHART — FOLLOW THE PATH

START Does your club work with Interact, Rotaract, or Young Rotary?

YES → Track #2

NO — continue below



#1 Infrequent / Incidental?

Contact is infrequent — a single, non-significant occurrence — or incidental.

YES → Track #1

NO → Track #2

Unsure → See *Grey Area

#2 Frequent / Significant?

Contact is frequent or reoccurring, or one significant occurrence or more.

YES → Track #2

Unsure → See *Grey Area

*** Grey Area** Contact your District Youth & At-Risk Protection Officer — or err on the side of caution and choose Track #2.

Compliance Requirements: Track #1

INFREQUENT / INCIDENTAL CONTACT



Policy Review Policy Review Mandatory review of D5450 & RI policies. This can be a 10 – 60-minute presentation or discussion -club choice and a PowerPoint Presentation, and handouts are available online. Attendance should be taken and a make up available.



Education Request and complete the D5450 Youth Awareness Tutorial / Quiz.



Background Checks Rotarians and non-Rotarian volunteers are encouraged to complete the 5-minute online D5450 background check.



Attestation Complete the Club Compliance & Attestation form online by August 20th.

Compliance Requirements: Track #2

FREQUENT / ONGOING CONTACT • REGULAR YOUTH PROGRAMS



Policy Review Mandatory review of D5450 & RI policies. This can be a 10 – 60-minute presentation or discussion -club choice and a PowerPoint Presentation, and handouts are available online. Attendance should be taken and a make up available.



Education Complete the D5450 Youth Awareness Tutorial / Quiz.



Background Checks Mandatory for all Rotarians and non-Rotarian volunteers involved.



Attestation Submit the Club Compliance & Attestation form online by August 20th.



Specialized Programs Meet separate requirements if your club works with RYE (Youth Exchange) or RYLA (Leadership Awards).

Close With the “NO, NOs”

PROHIBITED — RI / DISTRICT MANDATES

No exceptions: these boundaries protect youth, at-risk adults, volunteers, and clubs.

No Unsupervised One-on-One

Strict RI mandate: no adult should ever be alone with a youth or at-risk adult.

No Private Overnight Stays

Adults may never share a bed or room with a youth, except their own child.

No Grooming or Favoritism

No special gifts, private “secrets,” or treating one individual differently than the group.

No “Off-Book” Communication

No private messaging or social media interaction without parent/guardian or second-vetted-adult inclusion.

If private access could occur, pause and include another vetted adult or parent/guardian.

RI Best Practices vs. Suggested Guidelines

REQUIRED MANDATES VS. RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

Category	RI / District Mandates (Required)	Suggested Best Practices
Supervision	Two-deep leadership: 2 vetted adults present.	Rule of three: 3 people whenever possible.
Communication	Digital contact includes parent/guardian or 2nd adult.	Use official platforms or group chats.
Transport	No solo transport: do not drive youth alone.	Central public drop-off / pick-up.
Environment & Physicality	Observable meetings; zero inappropriate contact.	Public spaces; handshakes/high-fives only.

Why it matters: mandates prevent abuse; best practices add witnesses and transparency.

Important reminder: if status changes to Active, contact District 5450 for required checks and training.

Questions or Compliance Support?

DISTRICT 5450 YOUTH & AT-RISK PROTECTION

IF AN INCIDENT OCCURS

1

First priority: Ensure youth safety. Never ask leading questions leave the interview to law enforcement

2

Emergency: Call local law enforcement.

3

Call your YPO: As soon as possible — ASAP.

4

72-hour rule: Reports must be submitted within 72 hours.

5

Report to: youthprotection@rotary.org | +1 866-976-8279

KEY CONTACTS

Rotary Youth Protection

youthprotection@rotary.org

+1 866-976-8279

District 5450 Youth & At-Risk Protection Officer (YPO)

Michelle Rea-Meredith

youthprotection@rotary5450.org

Submit compliance by August 20th to the Youth Protection Officer.