

**2016 COUNCIL OF LEGISLATION**

**NEW PROVISIONS FOR ROTARY CLUBS**

**BEGINNING July 1, 2016**

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| **Article** | **New provisions for all clubs** | **Details** |
| SC6-3 | **New**  To provide for written board meeting minutes:  ***Board Meetings. Written minutes should be provided for all board meetings. Such minutes should be available to all members within 60 days of said meeting.*** | Inluding special and extraordinary meetings.  (318-136) |
| SC10-4 | **New**:  To provide that the club treasurer shall be a member of the board | (379-72) |
| SC10-7 | **New**:  To provide for committees in clubs  ***Additional committees may be appointed as needed.*** | + Change Public Relations for Public Image  *(238-213)* |
| SC6 | **New**:  To define the purpose of Rotary clubs  ***The purpose of this club is to pursue the Object of Rotary, carry out successful service projects based on the Five Avenues of Service, contribute to the advancement of Rotary by strengthening membership, support The Rotary Foundation, and develop leaders beyond the club level.*** | The current Standard Rotary Club Constitution lacks such a provision.  Present a clear direction for club activity and orientation in the constitutional documents;  Establish mutual relevance between RI policy and the Standard Rotary Club Constitution.  (236-217) |
| RI4-11 | **New**:  To remove admission fees for club members.  ***By payment of ~~an admission fee~~ and dues, a member accepts the principles of Rotary as expressed in its object and submits to and agrees to comply with and be bound by the constitution and bylaws of this club*** | The admission fee concept does not project a modern image of Rotary  Our image should be built on a dynamic membership  expand our pool of potential Rotarians instead of driving away individuals who share our ideals but cannot afford the cost of joining Rotary  (232-228) |
| SC5-2 | **New**:  To amend the second Avenue of Service  Vocational Service  Add:  ***and lending one’s vocational skills to club-developed projects in 15 order to address the issues and needs of society.*** | Define the actions that the members should take within their clubs.  (254-210) |
| SC6-7 | **New**:  To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance | ***Clubs will have the option to :***   * ***Determine when and how often the club meets*** * ***• Set applicable attendance*** * ***requirements*** * ***• Modify or eliminate termination*** * ***policies for non-attendance*** * ***If a club chooses to disregard this additional flexibility, the existing constitutional requirements will remain in effect for that club.***   ***Clubs are in the best position to understand and determine financial and time commitments for current and prospective members in their communities while retaining the quality and value of Rotary membership. For example, a club might meet more or less than weekly if such regular meeting frequency meets their members’ needs***  ***Without this flexibility, Rotary may continue to experience a declining and aging membership base in the coming years, potentially reaching a point of such dramatic demographic change that membership decline may become irreversible***  ***Clubs can:***   * ***Continue as before*** * ***Increase / decrease standards*** * ***Adjusting to market*** (392-82) |
| SC6-1 | **New**:  To amend the provisions for canceling a meeting  ***Cancellation. The board may cancel a regular meeting if it falls on a legal holiday, including a commonly recognized holiday, or during the week which includes a legal holiday, including a commonly recognized holiday,*** | Not meeting on a legal holiday is allowed without being counted as a cancellation. ***But still we must keep at least 2 meetings per month.***  Note :  ***The club may use SC 6-7 (Previous) to change if necessary)***  (272-222) |
| SC6-1 et  SC6-9 | **New :**  To revise attendance provisions to allow for both in-person and online meeting participation. ***Club must keep at least 2 meetings per month***  ***Member is present in person or an online connection for at least 60 percent of the meeting,*** | In traditional Rotary clubs, members are often prevented from participating in meetings because of business, traveling or health reasons.  ***The club may use SC 6-7 (Previous) to change if necessary)***  (322-188) |
| SC9-3a | **New :**  To amend the provisions for excused absences.  ***However, if the leave is for a medical reason or after the birth of a child that extends for more than twelve months such leave may be renewed by the board for a period of time beyond the original twelve monthsl*** | Rotary clubs need to attract and retain a significant number of younger members, both women and men to create a successful and sustainable development of Rotary International. After having formed a family, younger members often find it difficult to combine work and family life with the attendance rules of Rotary  (395-97) |
| SC9-3b | **New :**  To amend the provisions for excused absences.  **Excused Absences**.  ***A member’s absence shall be excused if b)the aggregate of the member’s years of age and years of membership in one or more clubs is 85 years or more, the member has been a member of one or more clubs for at least 20 years, and the member has notified the club secretary in writing of the member’s desire to be excused from attendance and the board has approved***. | Example :  If a new club member is already 85 years old, this provision can be applied to him/her, and if he/she requests an absence and it is approved, there is a possibility that he/she might not participate in Rotary activities at all.  Therefore, this enactment calls for adding 20 years of membership in the provision to avoid the possible situation stated above.  (334-170) |
| SC5-3  SC4.110  SC9 | **New :**  To allow for flexibility in membership and classification  ***Exceptions to Provisions on Membership and Classification. 7 A club may adopt rules or requirements regarding membership that are not in 8 accordance with section 2(b) of this article. Such rules or requirements shall 9 supersede the rules or requirements of these sections of this constitution.*** | ***This proposed enactment is intended to provide individual Rotary clubs the flexibility to remove or modify the membership classification system in their club bylaws and to modify some of the provisions regarding membership. However, section 4.070, which prohibits clubs from limiting membership on the basis of gender, race, color, creed, national origin, or sexual orientation, remains in effect. This enactment gives clubs the flexibility to retain the classification system as it currently exists, eliminate it entirely for the purposes of membership qualification, or revise it to be either more or less stringent.***  ***Individual clubs are in the best position to determine if the classification system helps or hinders membership attraction and retention in the community it serves. If a club chooses to disregard this additional flexibility, the existing constitutional rules and requirements will remain in effect for that club.***  ***Examples of such flexibility might include:***  ***• Eliminating the classification system and allowing quality individuals to be considered for membership based on criteria that is representative of the community and best fits the club’s strategic vision***  ***• Allowing Rotaractors who meet the club’s criteria for membership to join a Rotary club while retaining their membership in Rotaract as well***  (386-75) |
| SRI-5-2  SC7-1 | **Nouveau :**  To revise the provisions for membership  **Composition of Clubs**.   1. ***A club shall be composed of ~~active members each of whom shall be an adult person of good character and good business, professional and/or community reputation~~, adult persons who demonstrate good character, integrity, and leadership; possess good reputation within their business, profession, and/or community; and are willing to serve in their community and/or around the world.***   ***Membership General Qualifications.***   1. ***This club shall be composed of adult persons ~~of good character and good business, professional and/or community reputation~~ who demonstrate good character, integrity, and leadership; possess good reputation within their business, profession, and/or community; and are willing to serve in their community and/or around the world***. | This enactment seeks to revise the requirements regarding the composition of Rotary clubs and the qualifications for club membership. It is intended to enhance Rotary’s ability to retain membership and to attract the next generation. It would simplify the definition of a Rotarian and give club boards more flexibility to select members, while maintaining Rotary’s core values and the high standards sought in members. In addition, it would maintain the focus on a balance in classifications among members by encouraging clubs to mirror the composition of their community relative to business, professions, and community organizations. This enactment would help to foster greater club autonomy, membership retention, and recruitment (426-89) |
| SRI5-2a)  SRI5-2b)  SRI4.040  SRI7-6  SRI8-2 | **New :**  ***To allow Rotaractors to be active members***  (Numbers of the Articles indicated on the left side indicate where the text will be modified) | This proposed enactment explicitly qualifies Rotaractors for membership in a Rotary club and provides a pathway to membership for Rotaractors who wish to join RI. This amendment recognizes the special skills of Rotaractors who may already have up to twelve years of Rotary experience in leadership and service projects through Rotaract.  The effect of this enactment is to establish a stronger relationship between 8 Rotaractors and RI and strengthen both the Rotaract movement and RI. Program participants will be able to have simultaneous affiliations with a Rotary club and a Rotaract club. As members of the family of Rotary, Rotaractors are committed to the world community, share Rotary’s vision of furthering service, world understanding, and peace, and may more easily transition to RI membership.  (413-97) |
| RiRI4.050.1  RiRI7a) | **New :**  To amend the provisions for honorary membership  ***Eligibility for Honorary Membership. Persons who have distinguished themselves by meritorious service in the furtherance of Rotary ideals and those persons considered friends of Rotary for their ~~permanent~~ support of Rotary’s cause may be elected to honorary membership in more than one club. The term of such membership shall be as determined by the board of the club in which they hold membership.*** | This enactment seeks to remove from the eligibility for honorary membership provision in subsection 4.050.1. of the RI Bylaws and Article 7, Section 7 of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution the requirement for a person’s support of Rotary’s cause to be permanent.  Prior and ongoing support of Rotary’s cause is all a club is 3 reasonably able to determine.  (417-89) |
| SRC12.10d) | **New :**  To amend the provisions for suspension of membership  ***In the best interests of the club and without any vote being taken as to his or her membership, the member’s membership should be temporarily suspended and the member should be excluded from attendance at meetings and other activities of this club and from any office or position the member holds within the club. ~~For the purposes of this clause, the member shall be excused from fulfilling attendance responsibilities;~~ the board may, by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the board, temporarily suspend the member as aforesaid for such period and on such further conditions as the board determines, albeit for a period no longer than is reasonably necessary in all the circumstances. For the purposes of this clause, the member shall be excused from fulfilling attendance responsibilities.*** | There must be a nexus between the actions a board may take and the matters (in the four subsections) it must firstly consider.  (442-44) |
| SRC12-10d) | **New :**  To amend the provisions for suspension of membership  ***In the best interests of the club and without any vote being taken as to his or her membership, the member’s membership should be temporarily suspended and the member should be excluded from attendance at meetings and other activities of this club and from any office or position the member holds within the club. For the purposes of this clause, the member shall be excused from fulfilling attendance responsibilities; the board may, by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the board, temporarily suspend the member as aforesaid ~~for such period and on such further conditions as the board determines, albeit for a period no longer than is reasonably necessary in all the circumstances~~ for a reasonable period of time not to exceed 90 days and on such further conditions as the board determines. After the expiration of the suspension period, the board must either proceed to terminate the membership of the suspended Rotarian or reinstate the suspended Rotarian to full regular status.*** | If the purpose of suspension is to determine facts for termination, an indefinite period of time is not recommended.  (440-66) |
| SRC12-10d) | **New :**  To amend the provisions for suspension of membership  **Add at the end of text :**  ***A suspended member may appeal, mediate, or arbitrate the suspension as provided in article 12, section 6.*** | When a member is suspended, there is no method to appeal the suspension  (410-96) |
| RiRI4.030  RiRI47-4a-b) | **New :**  To amend the provisions for transferring and former Rotarians  **Add :**  ***Potential members of a club who have debts to another club are ineligible for membership.***  ***~~The transferring or former members changing clubs should be asked to bring a letter of recommendation from their previous club~~. A club shall provide a statement whether debts/money is owed when requested by another club with respect to its current or former member being considered for membership in the other club. If such a statement is not provided within 30 days of being requested, it shall be assumed that the member does not owe any money to the club.***  **Enlever l’article au complet** | The proposed enactment is intended to merge the two and bring uniformity to the provisions.  (452-53) |