

Extract from Rotary Code of Policies 2018

42.020. Rotary Fellowships

42.020.1. Terms of Fellowships

A Rotary fellowship is a group of Rotarians who unite themselves to pursue a vocational or recreational activity. The primary purpose of a fellowship shall be to further friendship and fellowship for those who share a common interest. Fellowship activities must be conducted independently of RI, but must be in harmony with RI policy, including the use of the Rotary Marks. Fellowships may not be used to promote religious beliefs, political issues, or other organizations. Recognition of a fellowship by RI in no way implies legal, financial or other obligation or responsibility on the part of RI, or any district or club. A fellowship may not act on behalf of RI, or represent or imply that it has authority to act on behalf of RI. A fellowship is not an agency of RI. Fellowships must be self-sustaining financially, administratively, and otherwise. Fellowships may not exist or function in any country in violation of the laws of such country. Individual Rotary Fellowships are not covered by RI insurance and are encouraged to assess their own risk and secure coverage as appropriate. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*) Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 168; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172; *Amended by* June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 394; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

42.020.2. Organization and Membership

A fellowship shall have a governing document (charter, constitution, bylaws or similar document) which must be consistent with RI policy. All governing documents, and amendments thereto, must be reviewed and approved by the general secretary in consultation with the Global Networking Groups Committee. A fellowship shall be organized with at least three officers, one of whom shall be the chair. The chair must be an active Rotarian. A fellowship's membership shall be open to all Rotarians, family members of Rotarians, program participants and alumni. (*January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113*) Source: March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 169; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; *Amended by* October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 85; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; May 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 184; October 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113 **Cross References** 40.010.1. *Definition of Program Participants* 40.050.1. *Definition of Rotary Alumni*

42.020.3. Criteria for Recognition as a Rotary Fellowship

All fellowships are subject to approval by the general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board, for recognition. The general secretary shall consult with the Global Networking Groups Committee on these decisions. Fellowships formed to promote, participate or be involved in religious or political activities, deal with subjects that negatively affect health or safety, or are not in accord with the Object of Rotary or the overall policy and program of Rotary International shall not be recognized. To be recognized as a fellowship, a fellowship must: 1) Be a group of at least 25 prospective members representing at least five countries who share a common interest in a specific worthwhile activity which advances the Object of Rotary. 2) Not duplicate the purposes of an existing fellowship. Groups that are denied recognition may not reapply for a period of two years from the date of denial. (*January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113*) Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 141; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 66; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 101; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; *Amended by* June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43; October 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113. *See also* November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106

42.020.4. Services

The general secretary provides the following services to a fellowship in good standing: use of the Rotary Marks; listing in the *Official Directory*, program publications, and on the RI website; and provision of a booth and meeting room at the International Convention, on a

space available basis. To maintain its status as a fellowship, a fellowship must 1) Function in accordance with its recognized purpose and in accordance with RI policy 2) Consistently distribute print or electronic communications to all members of the Rotary Fellowship. 3) Hold an annual meeting, in person or online, through which fellowship members in good standing can interact 4) Submit the annual report of activities and finances requested by the general secretary, with a copy to its members, by 1 October. (*January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113*) Source: May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 257; Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; May 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 244; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113

42.020.5. Suspension and Termination of Recognition

The general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board, may suspend services provided to a fellowship, with or without the consent of the fellowship's officers or members, for failure to function in accordance with RI policy. To be reinstated, the fellowship must address the concerns communicated by the general secretary within 12 months of the date of suspension. The general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board, may terminate a suspended fellowship's recognition, with or without the consent of the fellowship's officers or members, for failure to reinstate. The general secretary may, acting on behalf of the Board, terminate a Rotary Fellowship in cases where the group has decided to voluntarily disband. Disbanded and terminated fellowships shall donate any remaining funds to The Rotary Foundation. (*January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113*) Source: November 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 257; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 78; January 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113

42.020.6. Incorporation of Fellowships

The advisability of incorporation is a matter the members should determine in light of the fellowship's activities. Applications for incorporation must be submitted to and approved by the general secretary. The articles of incorporation, or equivalent corporate document, of a fellowship must include a statement to the effect that the fellowship is not an activity or agency of RI. (*January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*) Source: January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 161; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

42.020.7. Fellowships at RI Conventions

Fellowships are encouraged to arrange pre- and post-Convention activities in connection with the convention each year. The convention committee should assist in organizing such convention-related events and publicizing fellowship activities at the convention. RI will provide gratis booth space and meeting space for Rotary Fellowships in good standing, where possible, with the provisions that no fundraising may take place. (*January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113*) Source: January 1973 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 168; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 257; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; January 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; May 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 244; May 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 277

42.020.8. Fellowship Information in the *Official Directory*

The name, and website of each fellowship, and the name and contact information of the chair of each fellowship, shall be listed in the *Official Directory* each year, provided that such information is submitted by the date set by the general secretary. (*January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*) Source: January 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 193; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

42.020.9. Promotion of Fellowships

Governors are encouraged to promote fellowship activities in monthly letters and to report at the district training assembly or district conference on progress in fellowship activities for the year. Fellowships are encouraged to organize events to increase interest in their activities and in Rotary in general, and to maintain websites that promote their activities and inform their

members. (*January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113*) Source: January 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 129; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113

42.020.10. Statement in Publications

Fellowship newsletters, publications, brochures, and websites must prominently display the statement “This fellowship is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International” or similar language approved by the general secretary. Following is an approved example of how such language may be incorporated into a statement describing the fellowship. “The International Golfing Fellowship of Rotarians is a group of Rotarians dedicated to promoting golfing as an opportunity for fellowship. This fellowship operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International.” (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*) Source: May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

42.020.11. Agreements with Other Parties

Any agreement between a fellowship and other parties must clearly state that the fellowship is not an agency of, or controlled by Rotary International, an Illinois corporation, and that Rotary International is not liable for the activities of the fellowship. Any such agreement must also clearly state that Rotary International is not a party to the agreement, and that Rotary International is not liable for the performance of, or any obligation under, the agreement.

A fellowship may not enter into cooperative relationships with other organizations on behalf of RI. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*) Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

42.020.12. Fellowship Dues

Fellowship dues must be of a reasonable amount and limited to that necessary to cover administrative costs. Each fellowship shall disclose how dues are used in their governing documents, and on their membership application materials. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*) Source: June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 257; Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

42.020.13. Fellowships and Other Organizations

In order to ensure coordination and cooperation with Rotary Entities that may be involved in similar activities and avoid conflicts of interest, Rotary Fellowships approaching other organizations for funds in excess of US\$25,000 or other cooperative relationships shall notify the general secretary in advance of any applications. This provision also applies to funds that will be disbursed to a third party organization working with the group. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*)

Source: June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 258; Amended by March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

42.020.14. Fellowship Circularization Policy

A Rotary Fellowship desiring to request the cooperation of districts, clubs or Rotarians outside of its own membership in connection with any matter whatsoever, by any means, including telemarketing, shall first submit its purpose and plans to the governor or governors of the involved area and secure his, her, or their approval. A Rotary Fellowship(s) engaging in these types of activities must comply with RI policy for use of the Rotary Marks, including use of proper identification and qualifying language regarding the Rotary Fellowship(s). No Rotary Fellowship shall solicit financial assistance or participation in commercial ventures from any Rotary district or club or from individual Rotarians other than its own members unless and until it first secures authorization from the Board. (*January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113*) Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

42.020.15. Youth Protection

Rotary Fellowships must protect the safety and wellbeing of all youth participating in their activities and comply with Rotary International's youth protection policies. A Rotary Fellowship may not grant membership or affiliation to a person who is known to have engaged in sexual abuse or harassment or who is prohibited from being a member of a Rotary club. (Upon obtaining information that a fellowship has knowingly failed to terminate the membership or affiliation of such an individual, the RI Board may terminate the Rotary Fellowship for failure to comply). (*January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113*) Source: May 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 184; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113 **Cross References** 8.020. *Special Observances*
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