



# STANDARD ROTARACT CLUB CONSTITUTION

[Revised by the RI Board of Directors, Decision C-1, June 2017]

## Article 1 – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Rotaract Club of

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This organization shall be sponsored by the Rotary Club(s) of

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## Article 2 – Purpose

The purposes of this club are for:

Rotary members to recognize the positive change implemented by youth and young adults as the fifth Avenue of Service, Youth Service, through an active and personal commitment to empower young adults and young professionals to take action through community and international service, develop leadership skills through professional development, and gain a global perspective that fosters world peace and cultural understanding as partners in service; and for

Students and young professionals to take action through community and international service that creates sustainable solutions to local and global challenges, connect with the global community of Rotary to expand professional networks, exchange ideas with leaders, and cultivate lifelong friendship around the world, develop skills to become community and global leaders, make friends locally and globally, and have fun while recognizing the importance of *Service Above Self*.

## Article 3 – Sponsorship

1. The Rotary club sponsor(s) of this Rotaract club, through a committee of Rotarians, the number of which shall be determined by the club, shall provide guidance and support to this Rotaract club.

2. This club is not a part of, and neither this club nor its members have any rights or privileges with respect to, the sponsor Rotary club(s).
3. This club is a non-political, non-sectarian organization.
4. This Rotaract may be university-based\* or community-based. Where the Rotaract club is university-based, control and counsel by the sponsor Rotary club(s) shall be exercised in full cooperation with university authorities, with the understanding that such clubs are subject to the same regulations and policies established by the university authorities for all student organizations and extracurricular activities of the university.
5. To maintain active certified status from RI, this club's president shall update club and membership information to RI each year no later than 30 June. Failure to submit updated club and membership information to RI in a two-year period will result in termination.
6. This Rotaract club depends upon the continued active personal participation of the sponsor Rotary club(s). In the event that the sponsor Rotary club is terminated, the governor of the Rotary district must install another sponsor Rotary club; if one cannot be found and reported to RI within 180 days, the Rotaract club will be terminated.

\*As used in this constitution, the term "university" is intended to include all institutions of higher education.

#### **Article 4 — Membership**

1. Eligible members should be students and young professionals of good character and leadership potential aged 18 to 30.
2. The method of admitting new members to this club, as provided in the bylaws, shall be determined by this club in consultation with the sponsor Rotary club(s). The method of admitting new members of university-based Rotaract clubs shall have the approval of the appropriate university authorities.
3. Membership shall automatically terminate (a) upon reaching 31 years of age, without contradicting regulations and policies established by the university authorities for university-based clubs; or (b) upon termination of the club; or (c) upon failure to meet attendance requirements unless excused by the board of directors of this club for good and sufficient reason.
4. Membership may be terminated for cause, as determined by this club by vote of not less than 2/3 of all the members in good standing.

## **Article 5 – Meetings**

1. The club shall meet as provided in the bylaws, at a time and place suited to the convenience of the members.
2. Attendance may be in person, through online meetings, or using online connections for members whose attendance otherwise would be precluded.
3. The board of directors shall meet as provided in the bylaws.
4. Meetings of the club and of the board of directors may be cancelled during holiday or vacation periods or for cause at the discretion of the board of directors.

## **Article 6 – Committees**

The president, with the approval of the board, may appoint standing or special committees as necessary or convenient for the administration of the club, citing their duties at the time of appointment. All special committees shall lapse upon the completion of their duties or upon discharge by the president.

## **Article 7 – Officers and Directors**

1. The officers of this club shall be a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and such additional officer(s) as provided in the bylaws.
2. The governing body of this club shall be a board of directors composed of the president, immediate past president (if available), vice president, secretary, treasurer, and additional directors whose number shall be determined by this club, all to be elected from among the members in good standing. All decisions, policies, and actions of the board and of the club shall be subject to the provisions of this constitution and policy established by Rotary International.

If university-based, this club shall be subject to the same regulations and policies established by the appropriate authorities for all student organizations and extracurricular activities of the university.

The board of directors shall have general control over all officers and committees and may, for good cause, declare any office vacant. It shall constitute a board of appeals from the rulings of all officers and actions of all committees.

3. Elections of officers and directors shall be held annually by methods compatible with local customs and procedures, as provided in the bylaws, but in no case shall more than simple majority of the members present and in good standing be required for elections.

The term of office of all officers and directors shall be one year, unless a shorter term is provided in the bylaws.

4. All incoming Rotaract club officers, directors, and committee chairs shall be provided with leadership training from the district Rotaract committee.

### **Article 8 — Activities and Projects**

1. This club shall be responsible for planning, organizing, financing, and conducting its own activities and shall itself supply money, labor, and creative imagination necessary thereto, except in the case of joint projects or activities undertaken in cooperation with other organizations, such responsibility shall be shared with such other organization(s).
2. This club shall undertake among its activities at least two major service projects annually, one designed to serve the community and the other designed to serve the international community, and each shall involve all or most of the members of the club.
3. It is the responsibility of the club to raise the funds necessary to carry out its program. It should not solicit or accept more than occasional or incidental financial assistance from Rotary club(s) or other Rotaract clubs. Sponsor clubs may provide financial support when mutually agreed upon. All funds raised for service projects must be expended for that purpose.

### **Article 9 — Fees and Dues**

1. All sponsor Rotary club(s) must pay a certification fee to Rotary International, set by the RI Board of Directors, for new or reinstated Rotaract clubs.
2. Fees, dues, or assessments on the membership of the club may be levied for the purpose of meeting the administrative costs of the club. Funds for activities and projects undertaken by the club shall be raised apart from such fees, dues, or assessments and shall be placed into a separate account. A thorough audit by a qualified person shall be made once each year of all the club's financial transactions.

3. Rotaract clubs should establish financial guidelines to ensure that all funds are managed in a responsible and transparent manner, including all monies collected to support service projects, consistent with laws and banking regulations in the country, including plans for disbursement of funds should the Rotaract club disband or be terminated.

### **Article 10 — Acceptance of Constitution and Bylaws**

Every member of the club, by acceptance of membership, thereby accepts the principles of Rotaract as expressed in its purpose and agrees to comply with the constitution and bylaws of this club, and on these conditions alone is entitled to the privileges of the club. No member shall be absolved from the observance of the constitution and bylaws on the plea that a copy of them has not been received.

### **Article 11 — Bylaws**

The club shall adopt bylaws, together with such amendments as are not inconsistent with this constitution and which may be deemed necessary or convenient for the governance of the club, provided that such amendments are adopted in accordance with the amendment procedure prescribed in the “Recommended Rotaract Club Bylaws.”

### **Article 12 — Name and logo**

The name and logo of Rotaract shall be used exclusively by Rotaract members. Each member of this club shall be entitled to wear or otherwise display the Rotaract name and logo in a dignified and appropriate manner during the period of membership. Such entitlement shall be relinquished upon termination of membership or termination of this club.

### **Article 13 — Duration**

This club shall exist so long as it continues to function in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and policy relating to Rotaract established by Rotary International, or until it is terminated:

- a) by Rotary International, with or without the consent, approval or concurrence of the sponsor Rotary club, for:
  - 1) failure to function in accordance with its constitution
  - 2) initiating, or maintaining, or retaining in its membership an individual who initiates or maintains litigation against a Rotary district, Rotary International, or The Rotary Foundation, including their directors, trustees, officers, and employees, or
  - 3) for other cause
- b) by its sponsor Rotary club(s), or
- c) by the Rotaract club itself upon its own determination.

Upon termination of this club, all rights and privileges relating to the Rotaract name and logo shall be relinquished by the club and by its members individually and collectively.

#### **Article 14 – Administration**

This constitution shall be amended only by the Board of Directors of Rotary International, and all amendments to this prescribed “Standard Rotaract Club Constitution” shall be automatically adopted by each Rotaract club.

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