

# Statement of Policy Relating to Interact by Board of Directors of Rotary International



1. The Interact program was developed and created by and is an activity of Rotary International, and the authority for the establishment and enforcement of constitutional provisions, organizational requirements and standards of procedure, and for the protection and preservation of the Interact name and emblem is retained by Rotary International.
2. An Interact club is a Rotary club-sponsored organization of young people whose purpose is to provide opportunity for them to work together in a world fellowship dedicated to service and international understanding.
3. The Interact program was originally established as a program for boys only. It still retains a primary emphasis on training in leadership and citizenship. Should local circumstances indicate to the sponsoring Rotary club that good cause would be served by the establishment of an Interact club for girls only or a club of mixed membership, the sponsoring Rotary club is at liberty to use its discretion accordingly.
4. An Interact club is organized, sponsored and supervised by a Rotary club or clubs and is established following the endorsement of the district governor upon certification and recognition by Rotary International; it can be created and sustained in no other way, and its continued existence depends upon the continued sponsorship of its sponsoring Rotary club and continued recognition by Rotary International.
5. Within the framework established by Rotary International, the sponsoring Rotary club is responsible for organizing the Interact club and for providing it with guidance and counsel thereafter and has complete control and supervision over all activities, policies, and programs of the Interact club.
6. Where the Interact club is school-connected, control and supervision by the sponsoring Rotary club shall be exercised in full cooperation with the school authorities, with the understanding that such clubs are subject to the same regulations and policies established by the school authorities for all student organizations and extracurricular activities of the school.
7. All Interact club activities, projects, and programs shall at all times be conducted in harmony with the policies of Rotary International; continued sponsorship of an Interact club by a Rotary club and recognition of it by RI are contingent thereon.
8. There shall be a "Standard Interact Club Constitution" prescribed by Rotary International and subject to amendment only by the Board of Directors of Rotary International. As a prerequisite of its organization and certification, each Interact club shall adopt the "Standard Interact Club Constitution" and shall automatically adopt all amendments thereto subsequently made by the Board of Directors of Rotary International.
9. Each Interact club shall adopt by-laws not inconsistent with the "Standard Interact Club Constitution" and with policy established by Rotary International. Such by-laws shall be subject to the approval of the sponsoring Rotary club.
10. Each Interact club shall be sponsored by the Rotary club whose territorial limits embrace the area of residence of the school(s) from which the Interact members are drawn, unless written authority is granted by the Board of Directors of Rotary International to organize an Interact club outside the territorial limits of the sponsoring Rotary club.
11. An Interact club may be organized and sponsored jointly by more than one Rotary club under the following conditions:
  - a) The district governor must give approval, stating in writing that, in his or her considered judgment, the best interests of the district, the Rotary clubs concerned and the Interact program would be served by the proposed joint sponsorship.

- b) A substantial percentage of the members of the proposed Interact club must be drawn from within the territorial limits of each sponsoring Rotary club.
  - c) The circumstances must be such that the organization of separate Interact clubs, each sponsored by a single Rotary club, would create or result in an artificial division of what is essentially a single body of students within the school or community.
  - d) A joint Interact committee must be created with effective representation from each of the sponsoring Rotary clubs.
12. Each member of an Interact club, by his or her acceptance of membership, agrees to accept and to adhere to the provisions of the constitution and by-laws of his or her Interact club.
  13. Membership in an Interact club shall be evidenced by Interact membership identification cards supplied to Interact clubs through sponsoring Rotary clubs by Rotary International.
  14. The Interact name and emblem, as used in or applied to the Interact program, are the property of Rotary International and shall be preserved for the exclusive use of those involved in the Interact program, including duly established Interact clubs and their members in good standing.
  15. An Interact club member shall be entitled to use and display the Interact name and emblem in an appropriate and dignified manner during the period of membership in an Interact club and he or she shall relinquish such entitlement upon termination of his or her membership in the Interact club or upon the termination of the Interact club itself.
  16. An Interact club may be terminated (a) by Rotary International, with or without the consent, approval or concurrence of the sponsoring Rotary club, for failure to function in accordance with its constitution or for other cause, (b) by its sponsoring Rotary club, or (c) by the Interact club itself upon its own determination.
  17. Upon termination of an Interact club, all rights and privileges relating to the name and emblem shall be relinquished by the club and by its members individually and collectively.
  18. As a matter of policy, the Board does not recognize the right of any individual or organization except RI to circularize Interact clubs for any commercial or other purpose.
  19. District governors are requested to appoint district Interact committees, composed of Rotarians from various parts of the district, to assist the district governor in publicizing the Interact program, promoting the organization of new Interact clubs, and administering the program of Interact within the district. Where feasible and practicable in the appointment of district Interact committees, there should be provision for continuity of membership by appointing one or more members for a second term. Rotary district Interact committees in carrying out their duties might benefit from consultation with members of Interact clubs.
  20. Interact organization and meetings beyond the club level.
    - a) If, within a district of Rotary International, there are five or more Interact clubs, an Interact district may be established, the boundaries of the district to be coterminous with the Rotary International district embracing the respective sponsoring Rotary clubs. The clubs in such Interact district may elect an Interact representative from among their membership. The method of election shall be determined by the district Interact committee. The district Interact representative will be guided and counseled by the Rotary district governor and the Rotary district Interact committee, or other appropriate Rotary district committee, and shall assist the district committee in arranging districtwide meetings and, where possible, shall preside at such meetings, shall give counsel to and provide encouragement and inspiration to the Interact clubs of the district, particularly with respect to broadening and deepening the program of Interact within the district, and shall help focus their attention on the worldwide extent of Interact and the potential and achievements of the program in behalf of international understanding.

- b) If an Interact district has been established, there may be, with approval of the district governor, a district organization which will provide, in addition to the district representative, for a district secretary and two or more zone representatives, each responsible for a certain number of clubs and such other responsibilities as may be assigned by the district representative.
  - c) Within a district of Rotary International, any two or more Interact clubs conveniently located with respect to each other are encouraged to hold meetings with representatives from each club, with the advice, guidance and presence of one or more members of the district Interact committee, in order to increase friendship, exchange ideas, gain inspiration, and strengthen, broaden and deepen the program of Interact within the district. When distances permit, such meetings may be held on a districtwide basis, under the guidance of the district Interact committee, with one or more members of this committee present.
  - d) The purpose of a districtwide Interact meeting is to provide encouragement, enlightenment, and inspiration to the Interact clubs with respect to school and Community Service and to focus attention on the worldwide potential and achievements of Interact in behalf of international understanding.
  - e) No meeting of members of Interact clubs beyond the club level shall have any legislative authority nor shall be so organized or conducted as to give the appearance of having such authority. Nevertheless, such a meeting may include the opportunity for expression of ideas which might be of value as advisory observations to those who are involved at the district or other levels with the administration of Interact.
  - f) All Interact district activities shall be financed by the Interact clubs in the district. No expenses of district Interact meetings or Interact district representatives shall be paid by Rotary International. The cost of such meetings shall be minimal and within the financial means of those participating.
21. Meetings of Interact club members from more than one district, particularly from districts in more than one country, are recommended and encouraged wherever feasible, such meetings to be held under the guidance of the host Rotary district governor and the Interact committee, with one or more members of the committee present and in conjunction with the host Interact district representative and Interact presidents, and subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of RI. Requests to the Board of Directors of RI for holding multidistrict meetings of Interact clubs must be accompanied by:
- a) Information including the date, location, purpose, program and participants of the proposed meeting;
  - b) A copy of the anticipated budget for the meeting with assurance that the sponsors are in a position to and will assume complete responsibility for contractual and financial obligations inherent in the meeting;
  - c) Proof of adequate liability insurance covering the event;
  - d) Assurance that the planning and implementation of the proposed meeting will be carried out under the direct supervision of Rotarians;
  - e) A statement from the Director or immediate past director of RI resident in the area in which the meeting is to be held that he approves the plan for holding such meeting.
22. Financing the cost of the Interact program.
- a) No part of the expenses of Interact district representatives or meetings of Interact clubs or groups of Interact clubs shall be paid by Rotary International.
  - b) Costs involved in arranging any meetings of Interact clubs or groups of Interact clubs should be kept as low as possible consistent with effective meetings and a meaningful program.
  - c) It is the responsibility of the Interact club to raise the funds necessary to carry out the program of the club.
  - d) Rotary clubs sponsoring Interact clubs should not contribute more than occasional or incidental financial assistance to such Interact clubs.

- e) Interact clubs should not make general solicitations for financial assistance from Rotary clubs or from other Interact clubs.
  - f) Interact clubs should not solicit financial assistance from individuals, businesses or organizations in their respective communities without giving something of value in return.
  - g) Any dues or assessments on the membership of any Interact club should be nominal and should be only for the purpose of covering the cost of administering the club; funds for activities and projects undertaken by Interact clubs should be raised by such clubs apart from such dues or assessments.
  - h) Rotary clubs and Rotary district conferences inviting members of Interact clubs to participate in the programs of such clubs and conferences should subscribe to sufficient trip accident and liability insurance to protect the Rotary club or district conference against any possible legal or moral obligation and liability.
23. As a matter of principle, Interact clubs are not authorized to assume membership or merge with other organizations regardless of the purpose of such organizations.