

42.020. Rotary Fellowships

42.020.1. Terms of Fellowships

A Rotary fellowship is a group of individuals who globally unite around a common interest, vocation, or recreational activity with the primary purpose to network and further friendship. Membership in a fellowship is open to any interested individual. 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. (*January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 100*)

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; June 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 177; January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 100

Cross References

40.010.1. Definition of Program Participants

40.050.1. Definition of Rotary Alumni

42.020.2. Criteria for Recognition

The general secretary recognizes Rotary Fellowships on behalf of the Board.

To be recognized as a fellowship, a group shall:

- 1) Have at least 25 members representing at least five countries.
- 2) Not duplicate the purposes of an existing fellowship.
- 3) Be led by an active Rotarian, Rotaractor, or Peace Fellow.
- 4) Have governing documents (charter, constitution, bylaws, or similar documents), which shall be consistent with RI policy.
- 5) Propose a web presence strategy (such as a website, social media page, etc.) (*January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 100*)

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; October 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58. See also November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115; January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 100

42.020.3. Maintaining Active Status

The general secretary will promote fellowships as member engagement and retention opportunities.

Fellowships meeting the following criteria will receive promotional preference through Rotary media and at events such as the International Convention, subject to space availability:

- 1) Maintain a web presence (website, social media page) with current information
- 2) Report their chair annually to Rotary International
- 3) Submit an annual report to the general secretary by 1 September
- 4) Respond to inquiries from its members, prospective members, and the general secretary (*January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115*)

Source: January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115

42.020.4. Termination of Recognition

The general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board, may terminate a fellowship, with or without the consent of the fellowship's officers or members, for failure to comply with RI policies.

The general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board, may 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 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115*)

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; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115

42.020.5. Statement in Publications

A prospective Fellowship must prominently identify itself as a “prospective” group.

Rotary Fellowships 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 in newsletters, publications, brochures, and websites. 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.” (*January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115*)

Source: May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115

42.020.6. 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

42.020.7. 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

42.020.8. Fellowships at RI Conventions

RI will provide gratis booth space for active Rotary Fellowships in good standing, on a space available basis and when the budget permits, with the provisions that no fundraising may take place. (*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29*)

Source: May 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 244; Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29

Cross References

8.020. *Special Observances*