



## DISTRICT 7010 ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS POLICY

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### TERMS OF FELLOWSHIPS

A Rotary fellowship is a group of individuals who 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 District 7010 and RI but must be in harmony with District 7010 and RI policies, 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 District 7010 in no way implies legal, financial, or other obligation or responsibility on the part of District 7010 and RI, or any club. A fellowship may not act on behalf of District 7010 or RI or represent or imply that it has authority to act on behalf of District 7010 or RI. A fellowship is not an agency of District 7010 or RI. Fellowships must be self-sustaining financially, administratively, and otherwise. Individual Rotary Fellowships are not covered by District 7010 or RI insurance and are encouraged to assess their own risk and secure coverage as appropriate.

### CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION

The Fellowship Chair represents District 7010 Fellowships on behalf of the District Executive.

To be recognized as a fellowship, a group shall:

- 1) Have at 8 members representing at least 3 Clubs.
- 2) Not duplicate the purposes of an existing fellowship.
- 3) Be led by an active Rotarian, Rotaractor, or Peace Fellow.
- 4) Have governing documents (bylaws), which shall be consistent with District 7010 policy.
- 5) Propose an online presence strategy (such as a website, social media page, etc.).

### 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.

### MAINTAINING ACTIVE STATUS

The Fellowship Chair 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 District 7010 Convention, subject to space availability:

- 1) Maintain a web presence (website, social media page) with current information.
- 2) Report their chair annually to District 7010.
- 3) Submit an annual report to the Membership Chair by June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 4) Respond to inquiries from its members, prospective members, and the Fellowship Chair.

### TERMINATION OF RECOGNITION

The Fellowship Chair, acting on behalf of the Executive Committee, may terminate a fellowship, with or without the consent of the fellowship's officers or members, for failure to comply with RI policies. The Fellowship Chair, acting on behalf of the Executive Committee, 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.

### 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 District 7010 or Rotary International” or similar language approved by the Fellowship Chair 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 District 7010 policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary District 7010 or Rotary International.”

### 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 District 7010 or Rotary International, an Illinois corporation, and that District 7010 or 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 District 7010 or RI.

### YOUTH PROTECTION

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 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 District 7010 Board may terminate the Fellowship for failure to comply).

### 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 Fellowship Chair in advance of any applications. This provision also applies to funds that will be disbursed to a third-party organization working with the group.

### 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.

#### BRANDING

Branding is to be as per the [Rotary Fellowships Visual Identity Guidelines](#).