

Satellite Club FAQ

The 2013 COL enactment establishing Satellite clubs raised a number of questions, so the CDS managers worked with the Membership Department to create the following FAQ. Additional questions and answers will be added as needed. Where the new policy is silent, it will be up to clubs and districts to decide how to proceed.

Does this new policy replace the Satellite club pilot project?

No. The satellite club pilot project is different than the new Satellite club policy. The pilot continues through 2014 and is testing multiple meeting times and/or places for one Rotary club.

Can a club switch from the pilot project to become a new Satellite club?

Clubs in the pilot project are encouraged to remain in the pilot through its end in 2014. However, an existing pilot club can ask to be removed from the pilot project to better accommodate their members' needs and interests.

What's the purpose of the new Satellite club policy?

The new Satellite club policy provides a new way to create Rotary clubs. A Satellite club functions as a short-term, transitional step on the path to becoming a full, independent Rotary club.

How does a club apply to have a Satellite club?

An application is sent to Club and District Support via the sponsor club president.

Is there a minimum or maximum number of members of a Satellite club?

There is a minimum number of 8 needed to start a Satellite club. There is also no maximum number of members.

How are Satellite clubs named?

Satellite clubs are named: Rotary Satellite Club of [Sponsor Club Name] [Additional Qualifier], State/Province, Country. Example: Rotary Satellite Club of Bangkok North Evening, Thailand.

Can a Satellite club transfer to a different sponsor club?

No. The sponsor and Satellite club are permanently linked. The Satellite club would need to be terminated and the members would have to start a new satellite club with the new sponsor club.

Can a Satellite club be an E-club?

Yes. You would name your club: Rotary Satellite E-Club of [Sponsor Club Name] [Additional Qualifier Wording to Distinguish your Club], State/Province, Country. Example: Rotary Satellite E-Club of Bangkok North Evening, Thailand.

If the sponsor club is terminated, does the Satellite club need to close as well?

Yes, satellite clubs are terminated with the sponsor club.

Can Satellite clubs create a separate board with a different set of officers than the sponsor club?

Satellite clubs set up their own board and have their own officers. However, instead of a president, a satellite club has a chair.

If there are two boards, how are any disagreements handled?

The board of the sponsor club has the final authority when there are disagreements.

Does the leadership of the Satellite club have a position on the Board of the main club?

This is not required, but is highly recommended.

Are Satellite club members Rotarians?

Yes, they are Rotarians and members of the sponsor club.

Do Satellite club members pay RI dues?

Yes, they are Rotarians and so pay the same Rotary dues as other Rotarians.

Can a Satellite club have a separate dues structure and bylaws?

Yes. The Satellite club determines its dues structure and bylaws in collaboration with its sponsor club.

Who decides on the Satellite club's meeting place and time?

The Satellite club.

Will the Satellite need to set goals as well? Will they be able to use Rotary Club Central for this purpose?

All clubs, including Satellite clubs, are strongly encouraged to set goals to achieve success. Rotary Club Central cannot accommodate Satellite club goals at this time.

Does someone who has only served as the chair (president) of a Satellite club meet the qualifications for a DGN?

No, but the district can ask Rotary's President to waive this requirement.

If an existing weak club becomes a Satellite club, what are the criteria to revert back to autonomous club status?

Satellite clubs are a new way to start a Rotary club. When a Satellite club is ready, it may apply to Rotary for regular club status.

How does a Satellite club apply to become a new, independent club?

The Satellite club works with the sponsor club and district governor to complete Rotary's new club application.

How long can a Satellite club exist?

Satellite clubs are intended as a temporary step on the way to becoming a full, independent Rotary club. However, there is no time limit on these clubs.

Could Rotaract clubs be converted into Satellite clubs as a transition to becoming a full Rotary club?

Some or all of the members of a Rotaract club may form or join a Satellite club.

Who can I contact for more information?

Contact your Club and District Support representative