

**2013 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.

***What’s the purpose of the new Satellite club policy?***

The new Satellite club policy pro ides 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 members 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 -Henderson] [Additional Qualifier to be decided by the satellite club], State/Province, Country. Example: Rotary Satellite Club of Henderson Evening, West Auckland.

***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***

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

***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. The Henderson membership development committee recommends it is the case.

***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. But will be loaded beside the Henderson clubs goals

***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.

***Is it possible 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. The membership development committee of the Rotary club of Henderson sees the satellite club as a development extension of the existing club and would not recommend independence at this time

***How long can a Satellite club exist?***

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 as a transition from Rotaract to an existing independent Rotary club.

***Who can I contact for more information?***

Contact your Club and District Support representative [insert name here]

***Governance of a Satellite Club of This Club (When Applicable).***

Satellite Club Oversight. The parent club provides general oversight and support of a satellite club as is deemed appropriate by the board.

For the day-to-day governance of a satellite club, it has its own annually elected board drawn from its members and comprising the officers of the satellite club and four to six other members as the bylaws provide. The highest officer of the satellite club shall be the chairman and other officers shall be the immediate past chairman, the chairman-elect, the secretary and the treasurer.

The satellite board is responsible for the day-to-day organization and management of the satellite club and its activities in accordance with Rotary rules, requirements, policies, aims and objectives under the guidance of the sponsor club. It shall have no authority within, or over, this club.

I hope this helps! Please let me know if I can be of further assistance. Warm regards,

Larry Sundram RI

The above was prepared by Larry at RI with some thoughts overlaid by the Membership Development committee of the Henderson Rotary Club

**Supplementary Questions and Answers**

***Can a member of the sponsoring club transfer to the satellite club.***

The Henderson club development committee considered this question and recommend that the sponsoring club board put a moratorium of six months in place.

The whole objective of the exercise is for the new satellite club to create their own culture without being influenced by the existing traditional rotary membership

***Can the Satellite club decide on the projects they should be involved in***

The Satellite club is autonomous in this regard as part of the goal setting exercise they will encouraged to take on projects that they can take ownership of, create a profile and publicity and an opportunity to encourage lager numbers to join them as members or helpers on projects

***What will the Henderson Satellite club look like?***

We talked in the power point presentation about replacing ourselves with people half our age.

We would not like to second guess what the new group will establish as a culture but would imagine key words- flexibility, informality, project driven, and heavy use of social media around organization. These people will be ex Rotators or Rotary youth program alumni they might have limited time to put in and want

to make it count when they do. They might have young families. They will be establishing themselves in the work place

***What are the benefits of a satellite club?***

Satellite clubs can be created for a number of purposes, including:

• To support chartering of a new club

• To accommodate a small population in a rural area or community

• To offer flexibility in a large metropolitan region by allowing a club to provide several meeting times and locations

• To provide an opportunity for a small, weak and struggling club to become connected to a larger, active and vibrant club for ongoing mentoring, support and assistance

• To address the needs of different demographic groups such as young people where the established Rotary club doesn’t fit their requirements or isn’t attractive to them for various reasons. The club’s traditions, culture and dues may be different from those of the parent club to better reflect the need for which the satellite was formed.