



SATELLITE CLUB FAQ

What is a satellite club?

Satellite clubs provide another option for creating Rotary and Rotaract clubs.

Interested individuals can form a satellite and become full members without meeting the requirement of having at least 20 people to organize a separate Rotary club, or the recommended 12 to organize a separate Rotaract club. Satellite clubs can offer an alternative meeting time, place or approach while maintaining close ties with the sponsor club. A satellite club can also function as a transitional step on the way to becoming an independent club.

STARTING A SATELLITE CLUB

How does a club apply to have a satellite club?

For Rotary clubs, the sponsor club president sends an [application](#) to [Club and District Support](#). A process is being developed to report Rotaract satellite clubs to Rotary International and more information will be provided as soon as it is ready.

Is there a minimum or maximum number of members for a satellite club?

In order to satisfy the requirements of their respective standard club constitutions, Rotary club satellites must have a minimum of 8 members and Rotaract club satellites must have a minimum of 4 members at the time they form. There is no maximum number of members.

Is there a minimum number of members for the sponsor club?

No. Clubs with fewer than 20 members can form a satellite club.

Do all the satellite club members have to be members of the sponsor club?

While satellite clubs may only have one sponsor club, members of the satellite may come from more than one Rotary or Rotaract club. For dues and invoices:

- Satellite club members who are members of the sponsor club will be counted and billed as members of the sponsor club
- Satellite club members who are not members of the sponsor club will be counted and billed with their respective clubs.

See this illustrated in the table below:

Zone	District	Clubs	Members in Satellite	Members Counted	RI Dues (Invoice)	District Dues
Zone 1	District 1	Club 1 (Sponsor Club)	3	3	3	3
	District 2	Club 2	2	2	2	5
		Club 3	3	3	3	
Zone 2	District 3	Club 4	2	2	2	2

Can a satellite club have members from both Rotary and Rotaract clubs?

All members of a satellite club must be the same type as the sponsor club. If the satellite club is sponsored by a Rotary club, all the members must come from Rotary clubs. If the satellite club is sponsored by a Rotaract club, all the members must come from Rotaract clubs.

Can a struggling club convert to a satellite club and retain its charter and history?

Satellite clubs are meant to provide flexibility and an additional club experience option. If members of the struggling club still wish to do so, they can convert to a satellite once they resign their charter and become members of other clubs. If a club needs extra guidance and support, a district governor may assign a stronger club or a special representative as a mentor.

Can Rotaract clubs be converted into satellite clubs as a transition to becoming an independent Rotary club?

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

How are satellite clubs named?

Satellite clubs use the name of the sponsor club plus a qualifier that distinguishes it from the sponsor, for example:

If the sponsor and satellite clubs meet at different times

Sponsor: Rotary Club of Bangkok North

Satellite: Rotary Satellite Club of Bangkok North Evening

If the sponsor and satellite clubs have different meeting locations

Sponsor: Rotary Club of Chicago Lakeview

Satellite: Rotary Satellite Club of Chicago Lakeview Broadway

How do satellite clubs change their names?

The sponsor or satellite club should contact [Club and District Support](#). The CDS representative will confirm the name change in writing with the sponsor club president and satellite club chair. No change will be made unless they agree.

BOARD AND GOVERNANCE

Can satellite clubs create a separate board with a separate set of officers from 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 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 sponsor club's board?

This is highly recommended, but not required.

Can a satellite club have separate bylaws?

Yes. The satellite club determines its own bylaws in collaboration with its sponsor club.

Who decides where and when the satellite club meets?

The satellite club determines its meeting place and time in consultation with its sponsor club.

Does the satellite club meet with the sponsor club?

While a satellite club holds its regular meetings separately from its sponsor club, it is recommended they occasionally hold a joint meeting to discuss their annual goals and reaffirm their relationship.

Can satellite clubs sponsor Interact or Rotaract clubs?

No. But if the satellite's sponsor club sponsors an Interact or Rotaract club, it may appoint a satellite club member to serve as the contact and mentor for the Interact or Rotaract club.

Do satellite clubs need to set goals? Can they set goals in Rotary Club Central?

All clubs, including satellite clubs, are strongly encouraged to set goals to achieve success. However, Rotary Club Central cannot accommodate Rotaract club goals or any satellite club goals at this time.

Does someone who has only served as the chair of a satellite club meet the qualifications for district governor-nominee?

No, only Rotary club presidents can be nominated for district governor.

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Are satellite club members Rotarians/Rotaractors?

Yes, they are members of a Rotary or Rotaract club.

Does the sponsor club need to approve new satellite club members?

The sponsor and satellite clubs should work out a process for adding new satellite club members at the time the satellite is being formed. The sponsor club should also add that process to its bylaws. If a conflict arises with satellite club members, the sponsor club has the final say. Satellite club members are subject to the authority of the sponsor club's board.

Do satellite club members pay Rotary and district dues?

Yes. Satellite club members are Rotarians and Rotaractors and pay the same Rotary and district dues as the club in which they are a member. However, the sponsor club may agree to set different club dues for the satellite club members in consultation with the satellite club's board.

Do satellite clubs receive a dues invoice?

No. The satellite club members are included on their respective club's dues invoice.

Can a satellite club have a separate club dues structure?

Yes. The satellite club determines its non-Rotary, non-district dues structure in collaboration with its sponsor club.

CHANGES IN SATELLITE CLUB STATUS AND SPONSORSHIP

How long can a satellite club exist?

There is no time limit on the life of a satellite club.

How does a satellite club apply to become a new, independent Rotary or Rotaract club?

The satellite club works with the sponsor club and district governor to complete a new club application.

Can a satellite club transfer to a different sponsor club?

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

How does a sponsor club terminate a satellite club?

Rotaract satellite clubs can be terminated by the Rotaract club board. To terminate a Rotary satellite club, the sponsor club president or secretary follows Article 15 of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution and terminates each satellite club member who is a member of the sponsor club. The sponsor club president or secretary also removes terminated members from the club roster in My Rotary or by emailing data@rotary.org and then notifies [Club and District Support](#) who finish the termination process and notify the sponsor club president when the process is complete.

If the sponsor club is terminated, can the satellite club continue separately?

No, the satellite club is terminated with the sponsor club.

If a struggling club becomes a satellite club, can it revert to autonomous club status?

When a satellite club is ready, it may apply to become a new, independent Rotary or Rotaract club.