



# Updating Club Constitution and By Laws 10 Mar 2026

PDG Fred Gellert  
D7390 District Learning Facilitator

- RI Governing documents
  - RI Constitution (2022): overall org structure and rules
  - RI Bylaws (2025): more details of how and when procedures
  - RI Code of Policies (2025): codifies RI board and COL decisions
  - RI Manual of Procedure (2025): lots of policies, processes and procedures
  - The Rotary Foundation (TRF) has all the same documents, separate from RI
- Rotary Council of Legislation (COL)
  - Every three years in Chicago, most recent in April 2025
  - Districts send an elected representative
  - Votes on significant changes to governing legislation of RI
- Council on Resolutions
  - Meets annually to vote on proposals to the RI board outside of legislation
  - Districts send an elected representative
- Rotary Standard Club Constitution and Recommended Bylaws
  - Available at [Rotary.org](https://www.rotary.org)

**D7390 Bylaws  
revised 2024**



# Club Governance Documents

District 7390

- Club Constitution
  - Enduring fundamental rules of existence and procedure
  - Must use RI required constitution
  - Can add amendments, e.g. local laws
- Club Bylaws
  - Specific to the club, can change
  - Specifies the overarching details of governance and procedures
  - Start with RI recommended bylaws
- Foundation documents, if applicable

## Recommended Rotary Club Bylaws

Article	Subject	Page
1	Definitions .....	1
2	Board.....	1
3	Elections and Terms of Office .....	1
4	Duties of the Officers .....	2
5	Meetings.....	3
6	Dues .....	3

## Standard Rotary Club Constitution

Article	Subject	Page
1	Definitions .....	1
2	Name.....	1
3	Purposes.....	1
4	Locality of the Club.....	2
5	Object .....	2
6	Five Avenues of Service .....	2
7	Meetings.....	3
8	Membership.....	4
9	Club Membership Composition .....	4
10	Attendance .....	5
11	Directors and Officers and Committees .....	6
12	Dues .....	8
13	Duration of Membership .....	8
14	Community, National, and International Affairs.....	10
15	Rotary Magazines .....	11
16	Acceptance of Object and Compliance with Constitution and Bylaws .....	11
17	Arbitration and Mediation .....	11
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Clubs required to have both a constitution and a bylaws

- Rotary International Dues Increase in per capita dues:
  - 2026–27: \$85.50
  - 2027–28: \$89.25
  - 2028–29: \$93.00
- Reduced membership requirement for new clubs to 15 members
- District Conferences are now optional
- Flexibility in governance models for zone, district, and clubs better serve clubs and members in diverse regions and changing environments
- Enhanced financial transparency for RI's financial planning, including updates on cost-saving measures and external reviews of administrative operations

- Questions to ask:
  - What has changed in the club operations since last bylaws revision?
  - Is a rule or procedure hampering our mission and desired end-state?
  - Do our club leaders and members know their roles and responsibilities?
- Specific items to check:
  - Consistent with RI and TRF documents
  - Use of mandatory words (must, shall, is) vs permissive words (may, can, should)
  - Governance structure – how are decisions made, by whom? Voting procedures? Control of money? Don't be too restrictive but do be clear and specific.
  - Type of memberships, participation requirements, and process for new member approval and removal
  - Term limits – too restrictive?
- Making changes:
  - Get input and reviews. Don't accept "looks OK to me."
  - Consult with your AG and DG (and Melissa too!)
  - Follow your specified procedure for amendments, e.g. notice period, voting threshold