

## ROTAKIDS STATEMENT OF POLICY

### 13.010. Purpose of RotaKids

RotaKids is an authorized district-led Rotary family youth program for children aged 7 to 12, with a one-year extension in either direction permitted upon approval of the sponsoring Rotary Club and in accordance with applicable local law. The purpose of the program is to introduce children to the concept of Service Above Self, foster the development of leadership skills, encourage ethical behavior through the application of the RotaKids Pledge.

### 13.020. District-Led Governance Model

Unlike centrally managed programs, RotaKids operates under a District-led model.

1. Authorization: The RI Board authorizes the use of the RotaKids brand name and logo by Rotary districts worldwide.
2. Liability: Rotary International assumes no legal or financial liability for the activities of RotaKids clubs. The responsibility for safeguarding, insurance, operational supervision, and legal compliance rests with the sponsoring Rotary Club and the respective District, in accordance with applicable local law and any formal agreement with a host school or community partner.
3. Certification: The District Governor, or in their absence the Chair of the District RotaKids Committee, is responsible for certifying new clubs and ensuring their adherence to the Standard RotaKids Club Constitution.
4. Sponsorship Models: A RotaKids club may be sponsored by one Rotary Club or co-sponsored by two or more Rotary Clubs, subject to District approval. A Rotary Club or a group of Rotary Clubs may sponsor more than one RotaKids club. In all co-sponsorship arrangements, one lead sponsoring Rotary Club shall be designated for certification, reporting, safeguarding coordination, financial oversight, and communication with the District.

### 13.030. Membership and Age Limits

1. Membership is open to children aged 7 to 12, with a one-year extension in either direction permitted upon approval of the sponsoring Rotary Club and in accordance with applicable local law.
2. Members approaching the upper age limit are encouraged to transition into an Interact club at the end of the Rotary year in which they reach the age of 13, ensuring continuity within the Rotary family.

### 13.040. Branding and Visual Identity

1. **Official Color:** The primary brand color for RotaKids is Turquoise (PMS 7466C / C96 M1 Y31 K0 / Hex #00adbb / R0 G173 B187). This color is mandatory for the official RotaKids logo. For one-color applications, the logo may be reproduced in white, consistent with Rotary International's brand guidelines for one-color use.
2. **Promotional Materials:** The use of Turquoise is recommended but not mandatory for banners, apparel, and other promotional materials. Clubs and districts are encouraged to maintain visual consistency with the official color.
3. **Brand Protection:** Upon authorization or recognition by Rotary International, the RotaKids name and official logo shall be treated as protected Rotary programme marks, subject to RI brand rules. No RotaKids club or district shall use the brand in a way that implies a legal partnership with RI beyond the authorized district-led youth program framework.
4. **Heritage Logo:** The original RotaKids logo, created by Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland, is recognized as the official Heritage Logo of the RotaKids programme. Its use is authorized alongside the Official Logo, in accordance with the visual identity guidelines established in Annex A.

### 13.050. The Gear of Service (Developmental Framework)

RI recognizes the Gear of Service as the official progression system for RotaKids. This three-level model focuses on personal growth and community service and is reflected on the member's badge through two marker systems: Level Markers and Progress Markers.

- I. **Level I - The Solid Wheel ("TO BE" / Belonging):** Recognition through progressive completion of the Progress Markers while the member is in Level I.
- II. **Level II - The Spoked Wheel ("TO DO" / Direction):** Recognition through formal advancement to the Level II badge version and progressive completion of the Progress Markers within that level.
- III. **Level III - The Cogwheel ("TO MULTIPLY" / Leadership):** Recognition through formal advancement to the Level III badge version and progressive completion of the Progress Markers within that level.

The color used to fill the circle markers is at the discretion of the RotaKids club, subject to approval by the sponsoring Rotary Club, consistent with the uniform color guidelines established in Annex A.

Districts have the authority to define the specific volunteer hour or activity requirements for each Progress Marker, in accordance with local educational and legal frameworks.

### 13.060. Financial Policy

1. **RI Fees:** No dues or fees shall be collected by Rotary International from RotaKids clubs or their members.

2. District Funding: Districts and sponsoring clubs shall determine local funding models. RotaKids clubs are encouraged to engage in service-learning fundraising to finance their own projects.

#### 13.070. Digital Infrastructure and Data Privacy

1. To support global coordination, the Rotary community may utilize the RotaKids Global Digital Hub (including *rotakids.net*, *rotakids.org*, *rotakids.com*, and *rotakids.club*), subject to stewardship, governance, privacy, and technical arrangements acceptable to RI and the relevant Districts.
2. Development Status: The RotaKids Global Digital Hub is offered as an existing foundational infrastructure asset. Its current components may include functional documentation pages, manually administered registry tools, prototype interfaces, and placeholder pages. No component shall be treated as an official RI-operated production service unless and until it has passed technical, safeguarding, privacy, and governance review under arrangements acceptable to RI and Districts.
3. Privacy: Districts must ensure that no personal data of minors is shared globally or published without written parental consent. Data storage must comply with local privacy regulations (e.g., GDPR, COPPA).

#### 13.080. Relationship and Transition to Interact

1. RotaKids is recognized as the foundational tier of the Rotary Youth Service pipeline. Members who transition from RotaKids upon reaching the applicable age limit are eligible for Interact membership, as Interact accepts members from age 12, ensuring continuity within the Rotary family.
2. Sponsoring Rotary clubs are encouraged to facilitate this transition without imposing additional membership barriers on RotaKids alumni, recognizing that participation in the RotaKids programme already constitutes meaningful preparation for Interact.
3. The following framework applies to RotaKids alumni seeking Interact membership:
  - a. Direct eligibility: A RotaKid who has completed at least one full level of the Gear of Service has accumulated verified volunteer hours equivalent to or exceeding the volunteer commitment required during a standard Interact aspirant period (based on a reference framework where a completed level represents substantive and sustained engagement equivalent to the preparation expected for Interact membership; specific hourly requirements are defined at District level per Bylaws Art 6.5), and such a member may be considered eligible for direct Interact membership, without a mandatory probationary or aspirant period, at the discretion of the receiving Interact club and its sponsoring Rotary club.
  - b. Standard eligibility: A RotaKid who has not completed a full Gear of Service level shall be subject to the standard membership process of the receiving Interact club, consistent with local practice and RI guidelines.

4. The Gear of Service badge carried by the incoming member, together with the RotaKids Programme Graduation Certificate, shall serve as a verifiable record of volunteer hours accumulated, supporting but not replacing the receiving Interact club's assessment of readiness.
5. Nothing in this article shall be construed as mandatory. The final decision on membership eligibility rests with the receiving Interact club and its sponsoring Rotary club, in accordance with the Standard Interact Club Constitution and applicable local regulations.

#### 13.090. RotaKids Citation

To encourage excellence and consistency, the District Governor, in coordination with the District RotaKids Committee, is authorized to issue an annual "RotaKids Citation" to clubs that achieve a set of pre-defined goals in service, leadership development, and transition to Interact. RI encourages the eventual integration of this recognition into the official Rotary Citation framework.