

DISTRICT-LED SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION FRAMEWORK

1. Statement of Principles

Rotary International is committed to creating and maintaining a safe environment for all young people participating in its activities. For the RotaKids segment - 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 - safety is the absolute priority. This framework ensures compliance with the national legislation specific to each jurisdiction.

2. The Decentralized Accountability Model (The Shield)

To eliminate legal risks at the global level (Evanston), the RotaKids program operates under the following delegation of responsibility:

- RI's Role: Provides brand authorization (Turquoise, PMS 7466C / Hex #00adbb), the educational framework, and general ethical standards.
- The District's Role: Is the legal authority responsible for implementing and monitoring compliance with local child protection laws (e.g., GDPR in the EU, COPPA in the USA).
- The Sponsor Club's Role: Directly executes safety protocols at every meeting or event.

3. Safety Protocols by Organizational Model

A. School-Based Model

- Delegation of Responsibility: Legal responsibility for the physical and digital safety of minors rests with the educational institution.
- Supervision: At least one Faculty Advisor must be present at every RotaKids activity.
- Standards: The child protection policy of the respective school applies, already approved by the Ministry of Education of the host country.

B. Community-Based Model

- Responsibility: Rests exclusively with the sponsoring Rotary Club.
- Adult Screening: Any Rotarian who interacts directly with RotaKids members must present a valid criminal background check certificate and complete the volunteer screening procedure established by the District.
- The Golden Rule (2-Adult Rule): No adult may be alone with a RotaKid at any time. Every activity requires the presence of at least two verified adults.

4. Data Protection and Digital Identity

In the context of the domain transfer to RI, the following digital protocols apply:

- Local Storage: Member data (name, age, parental contact details) shall NOT be stored on central RI servers. They remain in the secure physical or digital registers of the District or School.
- Public Image: Photographs of RotaKids members may be published on rotakids.net or rotakids.club only with the written consent (consent form) of parents or legal guardians, using the standard template included in this handbook.
- Prohibited: Display of a minor's home address or any direct contact details on public platforms. Success stories submitted for Citation Criterion 4 may utilize group photos without identifiable faces (e.g., hands only, backs of heads, or blurred faces) or generic project imagery if explicit parental consent for online publication has not been secured.

5. Incident Procedure

Any suspected breach of child safety must be reported within 24 hours to:

1. The District Youth Protection Officer.
2. The relevant local legal authorities.
3. The District Governor.

Note: RI receives only annual statistical compliance reports - not the details of individual cases - in order to avoid direct legal liability.

6. Mentor Identification

The official Turquoise color (PMS 7466C / Hex #00adbb) shall be used on all mentor badges and safety materials to visually identify adult persons who have completed the verification process (background check).