

CLUB TYPES, FORMATS, AND MODELS

All Rotary and Rotaract clubs share similar values and a passion for service, but each offers a unique experience. When you start a club, you'll need to choose a club type, a meeting format, and a club model. Look at the needs of your community and the club's prospective members to decide which kind of club would be best.

CLUB TYPES: First, determine whether your new club will be a Rotary club, a Rotaract club, or a Satellite club or Companion club.

Club Types	Description	Appeals to	Charter member minimum
Rotary club	Professionals and other leaders who meet regularly for service, connection, and personal growth.	People who are looking for networking, fellowship, friendship and service opportunities.	20 required
Satellite club	A section of a Rotary club that has its own meetings & projects run in collaboration with its sponsor club. May have its own bylaws and/or board, May decide to charter as an independent Rotary Club in the future.	Those who want a club experience, a meeting format or time other than what's offered by other clubs in the area but appreciate the support and partnership of another club	8 for a satellite Rotary club; no minimum for a satellite Rotaract club
Companion club	A type of Satellite club with no intent to separate from the Host Club	Similar to Satellite	12-15 recommended
Rotaract club	Young adults who take action through community and international service, learn leadership skills, and develop professionally.	Young professionals and university students who want to meet new people, find innovative solutions to pressing issues in their community, develop leadership skills, and have fun through service. Networking and meeting other community leaders can enhance personal growth	12 recommended

MEETING FORMATS: Next, determine whether your club will meet in person, online, or both.

Meeting Format	Description	Appeals to
In person	A club that traditionally meets in person-once a week. Some Clubs are switching to a blend of meetings, socials and service projects, or meeting only twice a month with meals optional or a combination of meetings, socials, and service projects.	Those who consider face-to-face interactions an important part of the meeting experience or who aren't comfortable with or don't enjoy online meetings
Virtual/E-Club	A club that meets primarily online, sometimes known as an E-Club	People who travel frequently, have circumstances that make it difficult to meet in person, or prefer an online experience
Hybrid	A club that holds some meetings in person and others online, or one that holds in-person meetings that some members attend virtually	Those who need flexible meeting options or who want a mix of meeting experiences

CLUB MODELS & MEMBERSHIP TYPES

CLUB MODELS: Finally, determine the approach or elements your club will offer. You can choose a model below or design your own.

Club Models	Description	Appeals to
Traditional	The traditional club meets weekly for a meal, a speaker, and the practice of traditions that members value; traditional clubs often have higher costs because of venue and meal costs. Some traditional Clubs are switching to twice a month with meals optional or a combination of meetings, socials, and service projects.	People who want to network with community leaders and socialize over a meal while learning about a new topic or an opportunity to serve the community
Cause-Based /Interest Based	A club whose members are passionate about a particular cause or interest and focus their service efforts in that area. No regular meals provided	People who want to network and connect with others while addressing a particular cause or interest to provide solutions or assistance. Time and expense of regular meetings may make this a better option.
IMPACT or “Service-Only”	The club’s primary mission is community service, perhaps seen as a “service-only” club without a commitment to traditional meetings, speakers, meals, etc.	An IMPACT club’s service-only focus without meeting requirements offers Rotary membership as an opportunity to those who cannot attend meetings for various reasons. Time and expense of regular meetings with meals may make this a better option.

MEMBERSHIP TYPES: Within ANY type of club, various member types can be defined by the Board of Directors

Member Types	Description	Characteristics
Active	One of two primary member types – Active and Honorary, recognized by Rotary International Different types of Active members are listed below	A full-fledged member of a Rotary club, eligible to hold office, chair committees, serve on the Board of Directors and hold other positions in the District, Zone and Rotary International
Active-Service/ Service Choice	An option that a Club may offer, this allows a member of a traditional Club to participate as service only	May reduce meeting costs and/or time requirements
Corporate	Primary and Associate members, all of whom are Rotarians, and part of the same company	The Primary member is generally subject to membership and meal costs as well as other club Actives. Associates may be offered lower membership costs and/or allowed to pay for meals when attending. Full RI & District Dues are NOT changed, a Club may subsidize some costs.
Family	Primary and Associate members, all of whom are Rotarians, within the same immediate family	Primary and Associate relationships are similar to Corporate members. Full RI & District Dues are NOT changed, a Club may subsidize some costs.
R-85	An option for members with over 20 years of Rotary membership and whose age + Rotary years = 85	Exempt from attendance expectations. In clubs that pre-bill for meals, generally allowed to pay for meals when attending. Club Members must request this type of membership.
Honorary	A non-active member type recognized by Rotary International. Cannot serve as a Club officer.	Often used to honor leaders in the Community (Mayor, Police Chief, etc) or distinguished Rotarians who may not be able to regularly attend meetings. No costs or meals required.