

Rotary Gun, Weapons, and Armament Policy

During the January 2017 RI Board of Directors meeting the board voted and passed a clarification of the Gun and Weapons Policy.

The revision clarified five policy points:

- 1. Rotary clubs, districts, and other Rotary Entities may not engage in transferring ownership of weapons or participate in activities where weapons are sold, given away or raffled.**
- 2. Rotary clubs, districts and other Rotary Entities and their events may not be sponsored by organizations whose primary business is the sale or manufacture of guns or weapons.**
- 3. The Rotary marks (or Rotary wheel) may not be used in conjunction with those organizations whose primary business is the sale or manufacture of guns or weapons.**
- 4. The Rotary Marks (or wheel) shall not be used in any visual that includes guns, weapons or other armaments.**
- 5. Clubs/districts/Entities shall not conduct any gun shows or exhibitions involving guns, weapons or other armaments.**

At the conclusion of the 2016 COL, it was affirmed that Rotary International recognizes the 'Autonomy of the Clubs'. The new policies as written, contradict that statement. Article 44.020. Guidelines for Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts and Other Rotary Entities for Interacting with Other Organizations which is referenced in the "new policy" specifically states: 1. These guidelines govern the actions of Rotary clubs, Rotary districts and other Rotary Entities when interacting with other organizations. 2. Clubs, districts and other Rotary Entities may support and cooperate with other organizations in projects and activities provided that: **d) club, district or other Rotary Entity autonomy as an independent organization is preserved** Yet, Rotary International is the entity which is restricting the club's autonomy in this circumstance.

Further, Rotary has an approved Fellowship, the International Fellowship of Shooting Sport Rotarians and the Rotary Wheel is proudly shown on any promotional material. Shooting sports are recognized internationally with 15 shooting events in the Olympics that include using a rifle, pistol and shotgun. Rotary clubs throughout the world, not just in the United States hold sport shooting fundraising and fellowship events.

While understanding the desire of the board to protect the Rotary Brand, the signatories of this petition believe this issue became a problem for our members and clubs due to the Boards "creation of a solution, without a clear or known problem". We do understand the Boards intent with regard to certain aspects of the policy and believe a satisfactory compromise can be met.

Rotary Gun, Weapons, and Armament Policy Petition

We Petition the Rotary International Board to reconsider the policy implemented in January 2017 as follows:

- 1. Rotary clubs, districts, and other Rotary Entities may engage or participate in lawful activities or events where weapons are sold, given away or raffled *provided a licensed weapons dealer handles the transaction and all applicable laws are followed.***
- 2. The Rotary Marks (or wheel) may be used in visuals that include guns, weapons or other armaments except where the logo is covered or changed by a gun, weapon or other armament in accordance with the branding guidelines for all other use of the Rotary Marks. *The Rotary Mark shall NOT be placed directly on a weapon in any fashion.***
- 3. Rotary clubs, districts, and other Rotary Entities may conduct gun shows or exhibitions involving guns, weapons or other armaments *provided a licensed weapons dealer handles the transaction and all applicable laws are followed.***
- 4. Sponsorship of Rotary events may be done by any legal business whose primary business is the sale and manufacturing of guns or weapons (unless it is inappropriate in a specific cultural context).**
- 5. Rotary clubs, districts and other Rotary Entities that organize events or activities that involve sport shooting activities or activities otherwise involving guns or weapons shall review potential liabilities arising out of such activities and consult with legal and/or insurance professionals to ensure that they are adequately protected.**

Rotary Club Name & Number _____

Club President's Signature _____

Club President's Name _____

Contact e-mail address _____

Please send both pages of signed petition to: Laurie.McCarthy@rotary.org

Laurie S. McCarthy - Director Member Support Tel 1.847.424.5289