Guidance Note on Satellite Clubs

What’s the purpose of the new Satellite Club policy established through the 2013 CoL enactment?
The new Satellite Club policy provides a new way to create Rotary clubs. A Satellite Club functions as a short-term, transitional step on the path to becoming a full, independent Rotary Club.

How does a club apply to have a Satellite Club?
An application is sent to Club and District Support RIBI (further information will be available soon) by the sponsor club president.

Is there a minimum or maximum number of members of a Satellite Club?
There is no minimum number needed to start a Satellite Club. However, there will need to be sufficient members to form a Council. There is no maximum number of members.

How are Satellite clubs named?
Satellite clubs are named: Rotary Satellite Club of [Sponsor Club Name] [Additional Qualifier], State/Province, Country. Example: Rotary Satellite Club of Bangkok North Evening, Thailand.

If the sponsor club is terminated, does the Satellite Club need to close as well?
Yes, Satellite Clubs are terminated with the sponsor club.

Can Satellite Clubs create a separate Council with a different set of officers than the sponsor club?
Satellite Clubs set up their own Council and have their own officers. However, instead of a president, a Satellite Club has a chair.

If there are two Councils, how are any disagreements handled?
The Council of the sponsor club has the final authority when there are disagreements.

Does the leadership of the Satellite Club have a position on the Council of the main club?
This is not required, but is highly recommended.

Are Satellite Club members Rotarians?
Yes, they are Rotarians and members of the sponsor club.

Do Satellite Club members pay RIBI dues?
Yes, they are Rotarians and so pay the same Rotary dues as other Rotarians.

Can a Satellite Club have a separate dues structure and bylaws?
Yes. The Satellite Club determines its dues structure and bylaws in collaboration with its sponsor club.

Who decides on the Satellite Club’s meeting place and time?
The Satellite Club.

Will the Satellite Club need to set goals as well? Will they be able to use Rotary Club Central for this purpose?
All clubs, including Satellite Clubs, are strongly encouraged to set goals to achieve success. Rotary Club Central cannot accommodate Satellite Club goals at this time.
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Does someone who has only served as the chair (president) of a Satellite Club meet the qualifications for a DGN?
No, but the district can ask the Rotary International President to waive this requirement.

If an existing weak club becomes a Satellite Club, what are the criteria to revert back to autonomous club status?
Satellite Clubs are considered to be a new way to start a Rotary Club. It may be possible for a weak club to become a Satellite Club for a period but please discuss this with the relevant member of the RIBI MDR Team.

How does a Satellite Club apply to become a new, independent club?
The Satellite Club works with the sponsor club and district governor to complete the application for a new formation. Where a club is formed from a Satellite Club a survey is not required.

How long can a Satellite Club exist?
Satellite Clubs are intended as a temporary step on the way to becoming a full, independent Rotary club. However, there is no time limit on these clubs.

Could Rotaract Clubs be converted into Satellite Clubs as a transition to becoming a full Rotary Club?
Some or all of the members of a Rotaract Club may form or join a Satellite Club.

Where can I get further information?
Contact Cath Chorley, member of the RIBI MDR Team on cath.chorley@gmail.com

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