

District Governor Code of Ethics

Rotary Code of Policies November 2009

19.020.7. District Governor Code of Ethics

1. Governors will adhere to applicable laws and regulations while conducting Rotary business. In addition, in conducting their private lives, governors will adhere to applicable laws in order to preserve and protect the positive image of Rotary.
2. Governors will adhere to the provisions of the RI Constitution and Bylaws. These documents embody the democratic will of Rotary's membership as represented at the triennial Council on Legislation; through them, the membership has established standards expected of Rotary officers. Adherence to their terms garners the trust of the membership and ensures that actions are consistent with members' expectations.
3. Governors will adhere to the provisions established by the RI Board as documented in the *Rotary Code of Policies*. Over the years, the Board has established policies and procedures to further the aims of the association and protect its mission. Many of these provisions are designed to ensure good governance and promote an ethical image. Adhering to these policies demonstrates a commitment to these ideals while protecting the association.
4. Governors will serve for the benefit of Rotarians and the purposes of RI. Governors should put the interests of the district first and avoid even the appearance of any impropriety in their conduct.
5. Governors will not use their office for personal prestige or benefit or for the benefit of family members. The authority inherent in an office of importance comes with access to special privileges not available to other Rotarians. Taking advantage of such privileges distracts from critical responsibilities and calls into question the commitment to the Objects of Rotary.
6. Governors will exercise due care in the diligent performance of their obligations to the district. Governors should perform their responsibilities with the care that an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances. Before making a business decision, governors should gather all material information reasonably available to them in order to select the best course of action for all concerned.
7. Governors will act based on fairness to all concerned. Governors are often faced with decisions that will significantly affect various Rotary clubs and individuals. In a manner consistent with The Four-Way Test, governors should weigh the potential impact of their decisions and treat equally all people who will be affected.
8. Governors will promote transparency of financial information and will ensure compliance with all local and national laws relating to financial management. Governors are the stewards of the association acting on behalf of Rotary clubs and Rotarians. Rotarians have a right to access accurate information about the financial condition of the association. Transparency in financial operations encourages ethical behavior.
9. Governors will prohibit and restrict the disclosure, communication, and use of confidential and proprietary information. Governors should use this information only for intended purposes, never for personal ones, and take precautions against accidental disclosure.
10. Governors will comply with expense reimbursement policies. The RI Board has adopted procedures for reimbursement of Rotary-related expenditures. Following these procedures ensures compliance with applicable laws and precludes the appearance of impropriety.

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 266; Amended by June 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 271; November 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96