

**POLICY FOR GOVERNANCE OF JUNIOR OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL, THE YOUTH MEMBERSHIP OF OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL**

(Updated August 2019)

Per Delegate action at the July 2019 Convention

POLICY I: NAME

SECTION 1: The JOI Clubs program of Optimist International shall be named Junior Optimist International (JOI).

POLICY II: PURPOSES

SECTION 1: The purposes of Junior Optimist International shall be to provide opportunities for members, individually and collectively, to participate in community serving activities, develop leadership abilities and prepare for responsible roles in society.

POLICY III: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: Clubs. Membership in JOI shall consist of affiliated Alpha, Junior Optimist, and Octagon Clubs in the jurisdiction of Optimist International.

SECTION 2: Requirements for Affiliation. Clubs applying for membership shall become affiliated with Junior Optimist International by chartering under an Optimist Club paying all enrollment, membership and other fees, and completing the necessary reports and rosters as delegated by the JOI Board of Directors. Upon the approval of both Optimist Governors, where applicable, an Optimist Club outside of the Optimist International District where the JOI Club would exist may sponsor a JOI Club. JOI Clubs of this nature will count in the Sponsoring Club's District.

For areas where sponsorship by an Optimist Club is not possible, Clubs applying for membership may become affiliated with JOI by meeting all requirements for affiliation. Clubs must have received approval of the Optimist District Governor and have had the organizational meeting chaired by an Optimist International Field Representative and chartering with Optimist International. Each JOI Club that is not sponsored by an Optimist Club will pay a one-time \$100 enrollment fee.

SECTION 3: Revocation of Charter. Any Club that fails to conform to the policies of Junior Optimist International or whose conduct or activity is prejudicial to the best interests of Junior Optimist International and Optimist International may have its charter revoked by the Junior Optimist International Board of Directors. Upon such revocation, a Club shall have the right of appeal in the manner prescribed in Policy IV, Section 4-C.

Where a Sponsoring Optimist Club surrenders its Charter, the JOI Club will continue to operate directly under the auspices of Optimist International. The Optimist District Governor will be advised of the situation by Optimist International. Attempts will be made by the Optimist District to find another Sponsor Club and the responsibility for supervision of the JOI Club will be given to the District Officer responsible for JOI Clubs.

POLICY IV: MEMBER CLUBS

SECTION 1: Officers. A member Club shall elect its officers each year by April 15 and shall report to Optimist International and to the District JOI Clubs chairman by May 30, the names and addresses of the newly elected officers. Club officers shall assume their official responsibilities at the beginning of the administrative year for which they were elected.

SECTION 2: Club Membership Fees and Annual Dues. Member Clubs shall establish membership fees in their constitutions and/or bylaws sufficient to pay all International and District dues, plus a sufficient amount to provide for Club administration.

SECTION 3: Club Constitution and/or Bylaws. A member Club shall not change or amend its constitution and/or bylaws in such manner that it will be inconsistent with any current requirements for affiliation.

SECTION 4: Resignations-Revocation of Charter-Appeals.

- a.** Any member Club may resign from JOI by reason of dissolution or other reason, provided all financial obligations to JOI, Optimist International and the District have been fulfilled.
- b.** Any Club that fails to conform to the accepted standards for chartered Clubs, or whose conduct is considered by the JOI Board of Directors to be injurious or prejudicial to the image and best interests of JOI or its member Clubs, or violates the Policies of JOI, may have its charter revoked or suspended by a two-third's majority vote of the JOI Board of Directors. Any Club that is more than 150 days in arrears for any indebtedness to JOI or its District administration may have its charter revoked or suspended by the JOI Clubs Department on behalf of the JOI Board of Directors. The JOI Board of Directors may impose such conditions as it may deem reasonable or necessary. The JOI Clubs Department shall send notification, within 15 days of revocation of said Club, to the Secretary/Treasurer of the sponsoring Optimist Club, the youth Club sponsor and president, as well as the JOI District Governor, JOI Club Chair and Optimist District Governor.
- c.** In the event the charter and membership of a Club is either revoked or suspended, such Club may, within 30 days of the mailing of the notice of such revocation or suspension, file with the JOI Clubs Department of Optimist International a written appeal of such action, which appeal shall be considered at the next meeting of the JOI Board of Directors. If a Club whose charter has been suspended fails to exercise the right of appeal within the specified period, its charter and membership shall be automatically revoked as of the date of the suspension.

- d. Upon the revocation or suspension of the charter and membership of any Club for any reason whatsoever, such Club shall forfeit all rights and privileges of membership including the right to vote, services provided by JOI, and the right to use the name, slogans, emblems, marks and other insignia of JOI, except that the JOI Board of Directors may, at its discretion, postpone the forfeiture of such rights, privileges and services until the expiration of the appeal period, or if an appeal is received, until the JOI Board of Directors considers the appeal at its next meeting.

SECTION 5: Clubs in Good Standing. A Club in good standing is a Club having a minimum of eight members and having paid all dues and fees to Optimist International, and having submitted a roster.

POLICY V: MEMBERSHIP IN CLUBS

SECTION 1: Membership in Clubs will be by general or public invitation. JOI shall not discriminate based on gender or race.

SECTION 2: Membership. Members of JOI shall not be 19 prior to September 30th of the current administrative year. Suggested age ranges:

Alpha Clubs—6 to 9

Junior Optimist Clubs—10 to 13

Octagon Clubs—14 and older.

POLICY VI: NEW CLUBS

SECTION 1: Requirement for Affiliation. Alphas, Junior Optimist, and Octagon Clubs with their sponsor, (unless no sponsor is available as determined by Optimist International), applying for membership in this organization, shall submit written application for affiliation using the forms provided by the JOI Clubs Department at Optimist International, including officer election report, bylaws, membership roster and fees as established by Optimist International and JOI. New Clubs are required to have “Junior Optimist” listed as part of the Club name.

POLICY VII: INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1: Administration. Junior Optimist International shall be governed by a Board of Directors with the approval of the Optimist International Board of Directors.

SECTION 2: International Board of Directors. The JOI Board of Directors shall consist of the President, the Immediate Past President (age requirement exempted), and four Directors. The JOI Clubs Committee Chairperson appointed by the Optimist International President and staff liaison are non-voting members.

SECTION 3: Qualifications. The President and JOI Board of Directors shall be elected by the delegates at the annual convention. They shall take office October 1, following their election. No more than two candidates per District will be eligible to run for the International JOI Board of Directors. Those eligible for the office of Director shall be a member in good standing belonging to a Club in good standing, shall have served a term as Club president or a District officer and shall be the age of 14 by October 1. Those eligible for the office of President must have served as an International Director or District Governor, must be 16 by October 1, and meet the requirements for an International Director. In order to be listed on the ballot, potential candidates for the International JOI Board of Directors must submit an official application and a signed letter from their school principal or equivalent, for those applicants who are still in high school or its equivalent, to the International Office by June 1 prior to convention. Candidates from the floor will be allowed to run for the International JOI Board of Directors and International JOI President. If elected from the floor, the election for that office will be contingent upon the submission of a signed letter from their high school principal or equivalent if in high school, to the Optimist International Staff by September 1. Those nominated from the floor will receive the same privileges as preannounced candidates, with the exception of their name being pre-printed on the ballot. Those eligible for the office of Director will be able to run for a second term with a maximum of one being elected to another term. Current Board members wishing to run for a second term must follow the same nomination procedures as preannounced candidates and may not be nominated from the floor. If more than two current Board members run for election, a primary election will be held and the two highest vote receivers will be added to the ballot.

SECTION 4: Vacancy. For good cause or upon death, resignation or incapacitation of any elected or appointed international officer, or in the event of the failure of any officer to carry out the duties of their office, the Optimist International Board may declare the said office vacant and shall select a successor to fill the remainder of the term based on the recommendation of the JOI Clubs Committee and JOI Board of Directors.

POLICY VIII: INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

SECTION 1: Convention. A convention of JOI shall be held each year as provided in these Policies.

SECTION 2: Time and Place. The JOI Convention will be held annually in a time and place to be determined by the Optimist International JOI Board and the JOI Clubs Committee, and approval by the Optimist International Board of Directors.

SECTION 3: Notice of Annual Convention. The JOI Clubs Department shall issue and cause to be mailed to each member Club an official call for the annual convention at least 60 days prior to the date thereof, in which notice the time and place of the holding of the said annual convention shall be set forth.

SECTION 4: Number of Votes. In the transaction of convention business requiring a vote, each Junior Optimist Club and Octagon Club in good standing and represented by an

accredited delegate who is a member of the Club shall be entitled at a convention of JOI to one vote.

SECTION 5: Accredited Delegates. No member shall be deemed to be an accredited delegate unless he has registered at the convention, paid the registration fee, belongs to a Junior Optimist Club or Octagon Club in good standing, and produced such credentials to the Credentials Committee as may be required by the JOI Board of Directors.

SECTION 6: Convention Rules. Adoption of convention rules shall be the first business in order. These rules shall be adopted by a majority vote, but they may be suspended, rescinded or amended after their adoption by a two-thirds majority vote.

SECTION 7: Voting. The voting of accredited delegates on any question may be conducted by any one of the following methods: 1) voice vote, 2) hand vote, 3) rising vote, 4) ballot, 5) roll call.

- a. Vote by ballot on any question may be ordered by a majority vote of accredited delegates.
- b. Roll call on any question may be requested in writing by accredited delegates from at least six Districts, representing not less than 10 percent of the Clubs represented at the convention.
- c. An accredited delegate may choose to abstain from voting. They may also choose to vote on some candidates and/or issues, but abstain on others. All delegates must mark their ballots with either indication of endorsement or by writing "ABSTAIN." No ballot may have the name of the delegate or the name of the Club the delegate is from written on it.
 1. A majority of votes cast is required to elect the president. A delegate may vote for only one presidential candidate. If only one candidate has shown the intent to run, a ballot vote will be waived and replaced by a vote of acclamation.
 2. In the case of voting for International Director, delegates may endorse one, two, three, or four candidates with their vote. No delegate may vote for more than four candidates for Director. The four candidates running for director positions who receive the most votes will be elected to the Board of Directors.

POLICY IX: QUORUMS

SECTION 1: Quorums. A quorum of any convention shall consist of a majority of the accredited delegates.

POLICY X: OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

SECTION 1: There shall be published a quarterly magazine, *The Torch*, which shall be the official publication of JOI.

SECTION 2: Editor. The editor of *The Torch* shall be appointed by Optimist International.

POLICY XI: OFFICIAL CREED

SECTION 1: Creeds. The official creeds shall be the Youth Code and the Optimist Creed.

POLICY XII: OFFICIAL SLOGAN

SECTION 1: Official Motto. The official motto of JOI shall be, “Kids Helping Kids.”

SECTION 2: Official Theme. The official theme shall be selected annually by the JOI President.

POLICY XIII: USE OF NAMES, INSIGNIA AND SLOGANS

SECTION 1: General Use. The titles Junior Optimist, Octagon, JOI, Alpha, any selected slogan, the Youth Code or other adopted or registered trademarks or slogans of JOI shall not be used for purposes other than those authorized by the Optimist International Board of Directors.

POLICY XIV: MEMBER CLUBS BOUND

SECTION 1: Every member Club shall be bound by the policies of JOI and amendments thereto.

POLICY XV: AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: How Made. These policies may be amended at the JOI Convention by a majority vote of the accredited delegates present and voting at the time such amendments are submitted to the convention, subject to approval of the Optimist International Board of Directors.

SECTION 2: Who May Propose Amendments and When. Authenticated proposed amendments, which may be proposed only by Clubs that are in good standing at the time of submission and at the time the proposal is voted upon, or by the JOI Board of Directors shall be presented in writing to the JOI International Board of Directors, at least 60 days prior to the date fixed for the opening day of the convention. The JOI Clubs Department shall make available a copy of all proposed amendments on the official “JOI” website not later than 30 days prior to the starting date of convention.

SECTION 3: Effective Date. Amendments or revision of these policies shall be effective on the first day of the next administrative year following the annual convention unless otherwise specified at the time of adoption.

POLICY XVI: INTERPRETATION

SECTION 1: Any reference to the words “he,” “his,” “him,” “man,” or “men” is for descriptive purposes only and shall not, in any way, be construed to limit the application of the Policy or Section in which it appears to the masculine gender.

SECTION 2: Parliamentary Procedure. In the absence of specific rules, the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the deliberation of JOI.

POLICY XVII: INTERNATIONAL REVENUE

SECTION 1: Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of JOI, its Districts and member Clubs shall parallel the fiscal year of Optimist International.

SECTION 2: Annual Dues.

Member Clubs. An annual \$10.00 (U.S.) per Club member Membership fee, shall be paid to Optimist International by Junior Optimist and Octagon Clubs for Clubs in Tier 1 countries, \$7.39 (U.S.) per Club member Membership fee for Clubs in Tier 2 countries, and \$5.22 (U.S.) per Club member Membership fee for Clubs in Tier 3 countries of not more than 50 members per Club. Alpha Club members will pay \$8.00 (U.S.) per Club member Membership fee in Tier 1 countries, \$5.91(U.S.) per Club member Membership fee in Tier 2 countries, and \$4.17 (U.S.) per Club member Membership Fee for Clubs in Tier 3 countries of not more than 50 members Club and paid to Optimist International. One dollar (U.S.) of each membership fee shall be set aside to help fund and offset the costs of the JOI Convention. This fee is due 30 days after receipt of billing in October. No increase in this membership fee shall become effective unless voted upon by a majority of the delegates at the annual JOI Convention.

Tier 1 shall be defined as High Income Economies; Tier 2 shall be defined as Upper Middle Income Economies; Tier 3 shall be defined as Lower Middle and Low Income Economies. The terms High Income Economies, Upper Middle Income Economies

and Low Middle and Lower Income Economies shall have the definitions established from time to time by the World Bank's published statistics.

SECTION 3: Liability Insurance for Clubs. JOI Clubs, including Alpha, Junior Optimist and Octagon Clubs, are named as insured on the Optimist International certificate of insurance.

SECTION 4: Budget. At the beginning of each fiscal year, the JOI Board of Directors shall accept a budget of estimated receipts and expenditures for the several activities of JOI, upon approval of Optimist International Board of Directors.

POLICY XVIII: INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1: Powers and Meetings.

- a. The affairs and business of JOI shall be controlled and directed by the JOI Board of Directors with the approval of the Optimist International Board of Directors.
- b. Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the JOI Board of Directors shall be distributed to each member of the JOI Board of Directors by the JOI Clubs Department not less than 10 days prior to said meeting.

SECTION 2: Quorum. A majority of the JOI Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and a majority vote of those present and entitled to vote shall be necessary to give effect to any action of the Board.

SECTION 3: Voting by Mail "or E-Mail".

- a. The JOI Board of Directors may transact business by mail or email by voting upon any proposal mailed or emailed to the members thereof by certified mail or to known email address with delivery receipt with the approval of the president.
- b. 30 days from the date of mailing shall be allotted for the return of the votes thereon to the JOI Clubs Department. The voting shall be considered closed at the end of said 30 days or at any time prior thereto when all members have returned their votes.
- c. Any proposal not receiving an affirmative vote of a majority of the JOI Board within said 30 days shall be deemed to be lost.

SECTION 4: Telephone Conference. The JOI Board of Directors may transact business by telephone conference.

SECTION 5: Distribution of JOI Board Minutes. It shall be the duty of the staff to mail to each member of the JOI Board, to each Governor and to others designated by the JOI Board a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the JOI Board of Directors within 30 days after the close of such meeting.

POLICY XIX: DUTIES OF INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

SECTION 1: President. The President shall preside at the International Convention and at all meetings of the JOI Board of Directors and shall be the chief executive officer exercising general supervision over the interests and affairs of JOI, subject to the direction of the JOI Board and Optimist International Board of Directors. They shall communicate with the Board of Directors and the JOI Clubs Department, and cooperate with the International JOI Clubs Chairperson. They shall offer to speak at District conventions, establish and promote the goals of JOI Clubs and promote JOI Club growth whenever possible. They shall assist with workshops at both the Optimist International and JOI conventions attend the Optimist International Convention and the Optimist International Board of Directors meeting if requested. The President is responsible to communicate regularly with assigned Districts and shall perform such duties as usually pertain to the office of the President.

SECTION 2: Immediate Past President. The Immediate Past President shall serve on the JOI Board in order to provide continuity, assisting the President as needed. They shall communicate regularly with the President and members of the Board, assist with workshops at both the JOI and Optimist International conventions, and attend the International convention and any District conventions that are feasible. They shall promote the goals of JOI Clubs whenever possible. They shall perform such duties as are ordinarily incumbent up on an immediate past president and such other duties as may be assigned to him by the President.

SECTION 3: Directors. The directors shall communicate regularly with assigned Districts. They shall assist with workshops for both the Optimist and JOI Conventions and will attend the International JOI convention and any District conventions that are feasible. They shall promote the goals of JOI Youth Clubs whenever possible. The Directors shall perform such duties as are ordinarily incumbent upon directors and such other duties as may be assigned to them by the President or the JOI Board of Directors.

POLICY XX: INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: Name and Purpose. The committees of JOI shall be established by the JOI Board of Directors as follows.

- a.** The Convention Rules Committee which shall be responsible for credentials and rules. Duties: The Convention Rules Committee shall present its report as early as possible after the opening of the convention.
- b.** Other Committees to be established.

SECTION 2: Appointment and Term.

- a. Members of the Convention Rules Committee shall be appointed annually and their terms of service shall terminate at the conclusion of business at the convention for which they have been appointed.

POLICY XXI: DISTRICT JOI (*JOI DISTRICTS*)

SECTION 1: District Structure. The boundaries of JOI Districts shall be the same as Optimist International Districts.

SECTION 2: Membership. All Clubs located within the boundaries of a District shall be members of that District.

SECTION 3: District's Purpose. The sole purpose of the District shall be:

- a. To function as an administrative division of JOI in the attainment of the purposes set forth in the Policies of JOI and to make effective the policies, programs and purposes of JOI.
- b. To give direction to and stimulate leadership, administration and growth of member Clubs and to encourage their participation in the purposes, programs, and Policies of JOI to the benefit of their communities and nations.

POLICY XXII: DISTRICT CONVENTION

SECTION 1: Annual Convention. A convention of the Clubs in each District shall be held annually.

SECTION 2: Convention Date. The annual District convention shall be held no later than August 15 with an official District Conference Report turned in to the Youth Clubs Department no later than September 1.

SECTION 3: Notice of Annual Convention. The JOI District Secretary/Treasurer shall mail to each member Club in the District an official call for the annual convention at least 60 days prior to the date thereof, in which notice the time and place of the annual convention shall be set forth. All Districts shall notify Optimist International JOI Clubs Department of their convention date.

SECTION 4: Number of Votes. In the transaction of convention business requiring a vote, each Club in the District in good standing with both JOI and the District shall be entitled to one vote.

SECTION 5: Accredited Delegates. No member shall be deemed to be an accredited delegate unless they have registered at the convention, paid the registration fee and produced such credentials to the Credentials Committee as may be required by the District Board of Directors.

SECTION 6: Convention Rules. Adoption of convention rules shall be the first business in order. These rules shall be adopted by a majority vote, but may be suspended, rescinded or amended after their adoption by a two thirds vote.

POLICY XXIII: DISTRICT REVENUE

SECTION 1: Annual Dues. The administration of District business shall be financed by District dues and other revenues.

POLICY XXIV: JOI DISTRICT OFFICERS

SECTION 1: Administration. The business of the District shall be administered by a Board of Directors.

SECTION 2: Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of each District shall consist of the Governor, the Governor-Elect, the Immediate Past Governor, the Lieutenant Governors or Directors, the District Secretary/Treasurer, and the President or a representative of each Club in the District.

SECTION 3: Executive Committee. The Executive Committee of each District shall be the Governor, Governor-Elect, Immediate Past Governor, Lieutenant Governors or Directors and the Secretary/Treasurer.

SECTION 4: Vacancy. For good cause or upon death, resignation or incapacitation of any elected or appointed officer or any officer designate of a District, or in the event of the failure of any officer to carry out the duties of their office, the Optimist District Board may declare said office vacant and shall select a successor to fill the remainder of their term based on the recommendation of the District JOI Clubs Chair and JOI District Executive Committee.

POLICY XXV: DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1: District Board of Directors.

- a. Responsibilities.** The Board of Directors and the Optimist International District JOI Clubs chairman shall be responsible for the conduct of the business and affairs of the District as an administrative division of JOI, as stated in these Policies and as determined by the Board of Directors of JOI.

- b. **Meetings.** The Governor shall call a meeting of the Board of Directors at such time and place as he may determine with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors and the District JOI Clubs chairman.

POLICY XXVI: DISTRICT OFFICERS' DUTIES

SECTION 1: Powers and Duties. The powers and duties of the Governor, Lieutenant Governors or directors and the Secretary/Treasurer shall be as provided in these Policies.

SECTION 2: Governor's Duties. Under the general supervision of the JOI Board of Directors, it shall be the duty of the Governor to further the purposes of Junior Optimist International and the District, and to promote the interest and coordinate the work of member Clubs within the District. In conjunction with the District JOI Clubs Chairperson, they shall plan the annual JOI District convention, publish a District newsletter and generally oversee and encourage JOI Club activities within the District. Likewise, they will regularly communicate with the Clubs in the District, the Youth Clubs Department and the Optimist International District.

SECTION 3: Lieutenant Governor's or Director's Duties. Under the general supervision of the JOI Governor, it shall be the duty of the Lieutenant Governor or director to coordinate the activities of an assigned group of Clubs. They shall communicate with the Governor and attend all District meetings. In cooperation with the Governor, they shall assist with the annual JOI District convention and promote the District convention and the International convention.

SECTION 4: Secretary/Treasurer's Duties. Under the general supervision of the JOI Governor, it shall be the duty of the Secretary/Treasurer to record minutes of the executive board meeting and process all correspondence. They shall conduct such correspondence as may be required by the Governor and the District JOI Board of Directors, and generally perform such duties as are incumbent upon a secretary. They shall also keep and maintain financial records and books ordinarily kept by a treasurer, and such books shall be open at all times for inspection by the District JOI Board of Directors and any auditor designated by the Board. The Optimist District Secretary shall be responsible for all funds.

- a. They shall assist in the planning of the District convention and shall promote, in cooperation with the Governor, the District convention and the International convention.
- b. They shall submit regular financial statements in the form, manner, and frequency prescribed by the District JOI Board of Directors, and generally perform such duties as are incumbent upon a treasurer, under the supervision of the Optimist District Secretary.

POLICY XXVII: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1: Notice of District Meeting. The JOI District Secretary/Treasurer shall notify each Club in the District at least 30 days prior to the date thereof, official notice of a District meeting, such notice to contain the time and place of said meeting.

SECTION 2: Terms and Qualifications.

- a. Terms.** All District officers shall take office on the first day of Optimist International's administrative year.
- b. Qualifications.** No one shall be eligible to hold a District office unless they are duly enrolled on the JOI roster as a member in good standing of a JOI Club in good standing. Any member seeking position at the District level must be at least 10 years of age. Elected District Officers shall not be eligible to hold that same elected office upon completion of their term unless there is no other qualified candidate available.

POLICY XXVIII: DISTRICT COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: The Governor shall appoint such committees as deemed necessary.