

Optimist International is a worldwide organization of people focused on Optimism and the betterment of youth, community and the world.

All Optimists should conduct themselves in accordance with the Purposes of Optimist International and the principles of the Optimist Creed. In light of the purposes of Optimism and the Optimist Creed, Optimists should endeavor to treat others with respect, dignity, integrity, and concern. Optimist International is committed to providing a safe environment for all people, free from discrimination and from harassment. Thus, the following policies have been adopted:

1. All Optimists shall refrain from any usage of alcohol, tobacco, or any illegal substance while working with youth and at Club projects involving youth.
2. Engaging in making sexual comments, telling sexual or offensive jokes, sharing explicit material or other offensive materials or comments is expressly prohibited.
3. Usage of “terms of endearment” such as calling a child, “Honey”, “Sweetie”, “Baby Doll” is prohibited. Unwelcome physical contact with other Optimists or children is expressly prohibited. To that end, avoid patting, pinching, stroking, kissing, and hugging. (As a matter of best practice adults should ask children if it is ok to give them a hug.)
4. Individuals socializing with minor program participants is not permitted.
5. Optimists should be respectful of all other members at all items in regard to language, demeanor, options and personal space.
6. Any current or potential member convicted of criminal offenses involving moral turpitude or endangering youth shall be ineligible for membership.
7. Any current member having pending charges involving moral turpitude or endangering youth shall have their membership suspended until such charges are cleared.
8. Optimist International and its affiliated Clubs shall not discriminate based upon race, color, creed, national origin, age or sex, including sexual orientation and gender identity, or any other basis protected by local law, ordinance, or regulations when considering membership or during any of their activities or operations.

(Mar 2003; Mar 2005; Jun 2016; Mar 2019; May 2023)