

## **Optimist International Code of Ethics for Optimist Members**      **ICD-13**

All Optimists should conduct themselves in accordance with the purposes of Optimist International (OI), the principles of the Optimist Creed and OI's Core Values Statement. Optimists should endeavor to treat others with respect, dignity, integrity and concern. OI is committed to providing a safe environment for all people free from discrimination and harassment. The following policies have been adopted:

1. All Optimists shall refrain from any usage of alcohol, tobacco, illegal or recreational substances while working with youth and at Club projects involving youth.
2. It is expressly prohibited to make sexual comments, tell sexual or offensive jokes, share explicit material or other offensive materials or comments.
3. Using terms of endearment when addressing a child is prohibited.
4. Unwelcome physical contact with other Optimists or children is expressly prohibited. As a best practice adults should ask before giving anyone a hug.
5. Optimists should be respectful at all times to language, demeanor and personal space.
6. Any current or potential member convicted of criminal offenses involving moral turpitude or endangering a youth shall be ineligible for membership.
7. Any member having pending charges involving moral turpitude or endangering a youth shall have their membership suspended until such charges are cleared.
8. OI and its affiliate Clubs shall not discriminate based on race, color, creed, national origin, age, sex 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; August 2024)