



## Introduction

In the early days of Rotary's growth, the rules on classification were introduced so that clubs would have a rich blend of the vocations that make up a local society, and by limiting membership to one sole representative of each profession, the result was a wide diversity of membership.

As the membership of Rotary has evolved over the past century, membership is now no longer limited to business and professional people and the rules on classification are wider and more diverse. Any person who is a community leader or who wishes to serve his/her community and put something back into it is eligible for membership.

The only reason a club would not now have a substantial number of members in one profession is that it could create a clique and prevent other members creating close friendships with all club members.

Hence a club with for example 10 lawyers, or 10 property developers, or a significant group of any other single profession, is unlikely to function in an unbiased and impartial way. However, there are many different types of law specialists, and property could be residential or commercial, which if spread in this way, would make a club viable.

Every club should have a well-balanced membership with no business or professional group predominating. Dependent on the size of the Club, the maximum numbers within any one classification should not be more than 10% of the club's active members, excluding members who are retired.

While adherence to a system of classification has advantages, the RI Board has agreed that each Rotary club should consider carefully the classification practice and broaden the interpretation of classifications where necessary to meet the modern environment within society.

## Classification Rules

Each member of a Rotary Club shall be classified in accordance with the member's business, profession, type of community service or occupation. The classification shall be that which describes the principal and recognised activity of the firm, company or institution with which the member is connected or that which describes the member's principle and recognised business or professional activity or that which describes the nature of the member's community service activity.