

# Section VI D 11

Toastmasters International  
***POLICIES AND PROCEDURES***

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## **FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES**

The intent of this Policy is to maintain and protect Toastmasters International's nonprofit status.

Toastmasters International is an educational organization and not a service club such as Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary, etc., whose main focus is to raise funds for community or charitable causes.

From time to time, clubs, areas, divisions, or districts may conduct fund-raising activities to offset costs for educational sessions and to raise funds to further the purpose of Toastmasters International, provided certain guidelines are met.

These guidelines are:

- \* The product or service rendered is donated or voluntary.
- \* No individual member profits monetarily.
- \* The profits are used for the furtherance of Toastmasters International's tax-exempt purpose, which is: the building and improving of clubs; the training of club and district officers; purchasing educational program materials; sending a voting delegate to official district conferences or to the International Convention; and covering general administrative expenses connected with the operation of the club or district.
- \* At least one-third of the club's total support is from member dues.
- \* Fund-raising is conducted on an infrequent and irregular basis.
- \* The fund-raising activity is legal in the club's or district's city, state, province, or country.

### **Acceptable Fund-Raising Activities**

Acceptable fund-raising activities are:

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- \* Conducting Speechcraft, Success/Communication Programs, or Success/Leadership Programs, Better Speaker Series, Successful Club Series and Leadership Excellence Series, and charging a fee to the participants.

The revenue should be used to buy the program material. Any excess funds are to be used to further the purpose of Toastmasters International as stated above. Toastmasters International's purpose is providing education to its members. Members may not market seminars so as to compete with for-profit enterprises. Fees charged should be reasonable.

- \* Holding a raffle, auction, white elephant sale, or bazaar of donated goods at a club, area, division, or district function, where permitted under local law.
- \* Accepting advertising in club and district newsletters, web pages and conference programs. Accepting sponsorship opportunities at the district level as outlined in the District Leadership Handbook.

The revenue should be used to offset the cost of producing and/or mailing the publication. Any excess funds are to be used to further the purpose of Toastmasters International as stated above.

- \* Accepting sponsorship opportunities at the district level as outlined in the District Leadership Handbook.
- \* Selling entertainment books or diner's books.

## Unacceptable Fund-Raising Activities

Unacceptable fund-raising activities are:

- \* Buying items and then selling them, other than entertainment or diner's books.
- \* Raising funds for social events.
- \* Raising funds to donate to a worthy cause.
- \* Raising money to set up a fund, such as a scholarship or educational fund.
- \* Raising money to support a campaign for a candidate at any level of the organization or outside the organization.
- \* Holding or participating in sporting or other physical events, such as tennis or golf tournaments, walk-a-thons, or jog-a-thons.
- \* Holding pancake breakfasts, fireworks displays, or picnics.

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Fund-raising activities, including those listed above, which have a higher risk of injury, are not permitted.

The Toastmasters name cannot be used in connection with non-educational events.

## Filing Requirements with the IRS

The Internal Revenue Service has certain requirements that must be met by clubs within the United States if revenue (from all sources of income, including fund-raising) exceeds established amounts. These requirements are:

- \* A Federal Form 990 must be filed with the IRS if gross income, including revenue from fund-raising, exceeds \$25,000 within one year.
- \* A Federal Form 990T must be filed with the IRS if gross annual income exceeds \$1,000 from unrelated business activities, such as advertising in club or district newsletters. This income could be subject to tax.

It is up to the individual clubs to determine their state's filing requirement and to file proper form(s) when appropriate. Clubs outside the United States should consult a tax advisor to ascertain their governing regulations.

Failure to file the required forms by a club can result in revocation of a club's charter.

## Activities on Behalf of Districts

If funds are raised in connection with district events or activities, whether by the district, club, area, or division, the revenue belongs to the district.

Reference: Policies and Procedures VI D 6