

## Redistricting Policy

ID-7

It is the right of the Board of Directors, as granted by the Bylaws, to create or change Districts and their boundaries when it determines that redistricting would result in more efficient administration and growth.

Redistricting is defined as any of the following actions:

1. Merger  
Two or more existing Districts are combined to form a single District. Districts that are on the "At Risk" list who do not have a Governor-Elect by the Governors-Elect Conference may be subject to immediate merger.
2. Annexation  
A portion of one District is added to another District.
3. Splitting  
Splitting an existing District into two or more Districts. Splitting may be considered when a District exceeds 125 Clubs and 5,000 members.

Any of these actions may be initiated by either:

- A. Written petition of a District or Districts' board of directors, upon a majority vote, conveyed to the Board of Directors or President of Optimist International, or
- B. Action of the Board of Directors of Optimist International.

### Section 1: Procedure for Merging Districts

The effective date of the Districts' merger will be October 1 of the second full administrative year following approval of the merger by the Board of Directors of Optimist International. Immediately after Board approval the following steps must be taken during the current administrative year:

Step 1: Governors, as soon as possible after being notified of the merger approval, appoint a joint committee to oversee the general business of merger, possibly staffed by past Governors from the merging Districts. The joint committee will confer on plans for joint meetings to elect a Governor-Elect, etc.

Step 2: Special joint convention in August or September to elect a Governor-Elect for the new District for the following year. (Note: existing Districts will not elect individual Governors-Elect.) The new Governor-Elect will appoint a Secretary-Treasurer.

Districts shall start the exchange of financial statements beginning with the statement for the beginning of the upcoming administrative year.

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In the administrative year immediately prior to the effective date of the merger, these steps must be taken:

Step 3: Governor-Elect attends Governors-Elect Conference in April

Step 4: District governance established.

Step 5: Governor-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer Designate and Lieutenant Governors-Elect (if any) attend the International Convention.

Step 6: Joint convention of merging Districts is held in August or September. Governor-Elect is chosen. Final business of merging Districts is conducted in a joint session. Business pertaining to the conclusion of the administration of each District shall be conducted in separate sessions.

Step 7: Conclusion of final administration of merging Districts to be followed by merging of District funds after payment of all debts and audits of financial records of merging Districts.

The immediate Past Governors of each of the merging Districts shall serve as members of the board of directors of the new District. The individual who served as Governor of the District having the greatest number of members as of July 31 shall serve in said capacity for two years.

### **Section 2: Procedure for Annexation**

The effective date of any annexation will be October 1 immediately following the approval by the Board of Directors of Optimist International. Immediately after approval of annexation the following steps must be taken:

Step 1: Governor of annexing District issues letter to presidents of Clubs being annexed regarding the upcoming annexation, and invites them to the upcoming District meetings.

Step 2: At the close of the administrative year, the District(s) from which Clubs are annexed shall determine net worth as of September 30 and shall provide the annexing District(s) a proportionate share of the District(s) net worth. Receivables due the District(s) from which the Clubs are being annexed shall be included in the recipient District's share of the proportional distribution of funds. The amount of the annexing District's allotment from Optimist International will be reduced if any of the annexed Clubs have not paid the International financial obligations.

**Section 3: Procedure for Splitting Districts**

The effective date of the District split will be October 1 of the second full administrative year following approval of the merger by the Board of Directors of Optimist International. Immediately after Board approval the following steps must be taken during the current administrative year:

**Step 1:** The Governor of the District being divided shall create such committees as may be necessary, including committees on rezoning, candidate qualifications and convention sites to expedite the business of the division within the dates specified by Optimist International.

**Step 2:** At the District Convention immediately following the approval of the split, separate sessions must be held for the new Districts at which District governance for each District shall be determined and approved and Governors-Elect are elected (Charter Governor for the new District(s)).

**Step 3:** The International Board of Directors shall establish the amount of dues for each new District. Permission shall be granted by the Board of Directors for the new Districts to hold a special convention prior to the effective date of the split for the purpose of approving the amount of dues, or petitioning the Board for a different amount.

**Step 4:** At the District Convention immediately prior to the effective date of the split, separate sessions should be held for the Clubs in each of the new Districts to conduct business necessary for the next administrative year, including the nomination and election of Governors-Elect and the selection of future convention site(s).

**Step 5:** At the close of the final administrative year of the District being split, distribution of funds and assets to the new District(s) shall be made on a pro rata basis using the September 30 membership of the District being split. Such distribution is to be made only after the payment of all debts and the audit of financial records of the District being split. Copies of the final audit are to be provided to Optimist International and each new District.

The Optimist International Board of Directors may authorize reimbursement of travel expenses (in accordance with Policy I-19) to the International Convention for the additional Governors-Elect and District Secretary-Treasurers Designate of the new District(s) as it deems reasonable and proper, taking into consideration the financial condition of the Districts.

(Mar 1982; Jun 1985; Mar 1986; Jun 1988; Dec 1991; Mar 1994; Mar 2003; Dec 2005;  
Dec 2006; Mar 2007)