

STATUS QUO CLUBS

Status quo is a temporary suspension of the charter, rights, privileges, and obligations of a Lions club. The Senior Executive Administrator and divisions as designated by the Senior Executive

Administrator, acting on behalf of the International Board of Directors, has authority to place a Lions club in status quo or release it from status quo. The objective of status quo is to stop the activity of the club that is not fulfilling the obligations of a chartered club until the reason for placement into status quo is resolved or the club is cancelled.

Lions clubs may be placed in the following categories of status quo:

- Failure to comply with the purposes of the association, or conduct unbecoming a Lions club, such as, but not limited to, failure to solve club disputes or involvement in litigation
- Failure to fulfill any obligations of a chartered Lions club, such as, but not limited to, failure to hold club meetings regularly, or failure to submit the Monthly Membership Report for three or more consecutive months;
- The club is non-existing or fictitious
- The club has asked to disband or participate in a club merger.

1. Failure to comply with the purposes of the association: When a club or its members are reported to have committed a serious action such as, but not limited to, the filing of litigation or failure to solve club disputes the club may be placed immediately in status quo.

a. While in status quo, the club cannot:

- (1) Conduct service activities
- (2) Conduct fund-raising activities
- (3) Participate in district, multiple district, or international functions or seminars
- (4) Participate in any voting procedures outside of the club
- (5) Endorse or nominate a candidate for district, multiple district and international office
- (6) Submit the Monthly Membership Report and other report forms
- (7) Sponsor a Lions club, or organize a Leo club or a Lioness club

b. In order for a status quo club to regain the status of good standing, the club must:

- (1) Correct the reason for which the club was placed in status quo
- (2) Pay all outstanding balances in the district, multiple district and international accounts
- (3) Submit a completed Reactivation Report to report membership and leadership changes if needed

(4)The recommendation to release a status quo club shall be made at any time of the year

c. Cancellation: When the infraction is severe and club cancellation is in the best interest of the association, a charter may be cancelled at the request of the Senior Executive Director or his or her designee in consultation with the Legal Division.

2. Failure to fulfill any obligations of a chartered Lions club, which may include, but not limited to, failure to hold club meetings regularly, failure to submit the Monthly Membership Report for three months or more; failure to pay district or multiple district dues or any other such obligation as noted in item A.1. of this chapter or as noted in the International Constitution and By-Laws.

Requests for placement into status quo for failure to fulfill the obligations of a Lions Club are made by the district governor with the approval of the first vice district governor and the zone chairperson. Sufficient documentation demonstrating that the club is not in compliance with the International Constitution and By-laws or Board Policy and the actions taken by the DG Team to encourage compliance is required to be submitted along with the request. Requests must be received 90 days or more prior to the district and/or multiple district conventions. The club will be placed in status quo once there is significant documentation that the club is not complying with the International Constitution and By-Laws.

a. While in status quo, the club cannot:

- (1)Conduct service activities;
- (2)Conduct fund-raising activities;
- (3)Participate in district, multiple district, or international functions or seminars;
- (4)Participate in any voting procedures outside of the club;
- (5)Endorse or nominate a candidate for district, multiple district and international office;
- (6)Submit the Monthly Membership Report and other report forms;
- (7)Sponsor a Lions club, or organize a Leo club or a Lioness club.

b. Every effort should be made to assist status quo clubs before charter cancellation. The following procedures are to be followed to give assistance and support to status quo clubs:

- (1)When a Lions club is placed in status quo for failure to comply with the obligations of a club, the District Governor Team or the Coordinating Lion, shall start working with the club immediately toward its release from status quo. The District Governor Team must keep the district governor informed about the progress of the status quo clubs in the zone.
- (2)If helpful, the district governor may assign a Certified Guiding Lion to help bring the club back into good standing. The Certified Guiding Lion must have the approval of both the club and the DG Team.

(3)The district governor or the Coordinating Lion must review the progress and inform LCI headquarters in writing of the progress made or the recommendation of cancellation.

c. In order for a status quo club to regain the status of good standing, the club must:

(1)Correct the reason for which the club was placed in status quo;

(2)Pay all outstanding balances in the district, multiple district and international accounts;

(3)Submit a completed Reactivation Report to report membership or leadership changes if needed;

(4)The recommendation to release a status quo club shall be made at any time of the year;

(5)Once reinstated, the club will have the ability to revise the club membership roster and officer records.

d. Cancellation: Clubs that do not show improvement or make an adequate attempt to comply with the International Constitution and By-Laws or Board Policy within the specified time will be placed before the International Board of Directors to determine if the club should be cancelled, remain in status quo or regain good standing or active status.

3. Non-existing or fictitious club

a. If a Lions club is suspected to be non-operating and fictitious, the club is required to be thoroughly investigated, which might include:

(1)Review of the monthly membership report and variances or patterns in member gain or loss

(2)Gathering proof of club meetings and activities

(3)Verifying the payment of dues (district, multiple district, and international)

(4)Confirming the attendance at zone, region, and district functions

(5)Checking to see if multiple charter applications submitted at one time from one district

(6)Gathering reports from the district governor, first and second vice district governors, zone chairpersons, region chairpersons concerned GMT or GLT Coordinator, and any other district or multiple district leader.

(7) Contacting the International Directors from the area to verify the existence of the club and to solicit their comments.

(8)Gathering other information that may be relevant

(9)At the same time, a written notification shall be sent to the club, by registered mail or some other means which can prove the dispatch of the notifications, with copies to the individuals mentioned above, to inform the club president that the status of the club is being reviewed by the association and to request a response. If no reply is received within two weeks, this process shall be repeated one more time.

b. If no response to the second written notification is received from the club within two weeks, another written notification shall be sent to the district governor, first and

second vice district governors, and district extension chairperson to inform them that the club will be placed in status quo and that the District and Club Service Committee will review the information gathered and recommend further action by the board, which may include:

(1) Cancellation of the club

(2) The district governors who approved the club may be disqualified for any and all awards issued by the association, lose status as a past district governor, and possibly required to resign from the association.

(3) The sponsoring club may be placed in status quo

(4) Other actions may be taken as deemed appropriate

c. Due to the length of time required for investigation, notifications of a club that is believed to be fictitious should be received by the District and Club Administration Division no later than 90 days prior to the district or multiple district convention.

d. The club will be placed in status quo upon receipt of sufficient documentation that the club does not exist.

e. Cancellation: Clubs that are believed to be fictitious will be placed before the International Board of Directors to determine if the club should be cancelled, remain in status quo or regain good standing or active status.

4. Disbanding or club merger--When a Lions club notifies International Headquarters it is disbanding or merging with another club and the district governor supports the action and no other options seem viable, the club charter will be automatically cancelled.

D. RESCINDING CANCELLATION

The cancellation of a club may be rescinded within 12 months from the date of cancellation if the reasons for canceling the club are resolved. All previous dues must be paid. The district governor or the coordinating Lion must submit a Reactivation Report to rescind the charter cancellation.

Requests for reactivation that are received less than 90 days prior to a district or multiple district convention may be held until the close of the convention.

E. PRIORITY CLUB STATUS

Priority status clubs are clubs that need special attention but remain in active status with all of the rights and responsibilities of an active Lions club. Clubs may be placed in priority status at

any time of the year. To place the club in priority status, the DG Team must indicate why rebuilding is necessary and provide a plan outlining the rebuilding activities.

Each district can place up to five Lions clubs in priority status. Additional clubs may be placed in priority status with the approval of the District and Club Service Committee.

The plan submitted in support of placing a club on priority status must be approved by the club, the district governor, and the first vice district governor and then submitted to the District and Club Administration Division. Measurable progress is required for a club to remain in priority status. If measurable progress or a net increase in membership is not achieved within six months, the club may lose its priority status.

Priority status allows members of the District Governor Team to make up to two additional club visits (by the district governor or an approved member of the DG Team) to the club which are funded by the existing district governor budget.

A priority club is considered an active club with all the rights and responsibilities of a chartered Lions club and shall:

1. Assign a Guiding Lion to the club for two years and work closely with the district leadership toward rebuilding the club. The Guiding Lion must have the approval of both the club and the DG Team.
2. Hold meetings to discuss ways to improve club management, develop leadership and increase membership.
3. Report the progress toward regaining the status of good standing to the district leadership and the District and Club Administration Division.
4. Conduct service activities and fund-raising activities;
5. Participate in district, multiple district, or international functions or seminars, including voting and endorsing or nominating a candidate for district, multiple district and international office, sponsor a Lions club, or organize a Leo club.
6. Submit the Monthly Membership Report and other report forms;

Clubs in priority status must continue to pay dues and fulfill their responsibilities of a Lions Club

or may risk being placed in status quo and cancelled. A club is considered to have achieved success when it has reached the goals set by the club when priority status was granted.

F. PROTECTIVE STATUS

1. A Lions club may be placed in protective status when requested by the district governor and the country or the area of the Lions club is experiencing:

- a. War or civil insurgency;
- b. Political unrest;

- c. Natural disasters;
- d. Any other special circumstances which prevent a Lions club from functioning normally.

2. A Lions club shall stay in protective status for the initial period of 90 days, plus additional days if warranted.

3. A protective status club shall be allowed to function normally, based on the definition of Lions club's functions defined in the Board Policy Manual, but exempted from:

- a. Payment of district, multiple district, and international dues;
- b. Submission of Monthly Membership Report and other report forms.

The club is released from protective status when the club is able to fully function, pay outstanding district, multiple district and international accounts and submit a reactivation report. The recommendation to release a status quo club shall be made at any time of the year; in cases of extreme hardship, the International Board of Directors, at the request of the District and Club Service Committee, may provide partial dues relief.