

Recently the RIRRA met with the NRA State Affiliate to request authorization of three smallbore rifle state championships.

The NRA State Affiliate, as is its right, has established criteria for match authorization. Its application for "Competitive Shooting Program Approval" requires that:

1. The association hosting (organizing) the event, the club or sportsmen's association providing the facilities for the state championship, and all contestants/participations have a current valid membership in the NRA State Affiliate.
2. Any contestants/participants with an out of state association membership must be preapproved by the NRA State Affiliate prior to competition.
3. The club or sportsmen's group hosting (organizing) the event have a current valid membership in the National Rifle Association.

The negotiations collapsed for the following reasons:

We unsuccessfully argued that, while it is their right to compel membership in the NRA State Affiliate, smallbore matches have never had this requirement and we saw no reason to begin now. They disagreed.

The two clubs who have hosted our events for years are not members of the NRA State Affiliate. It is not known how the NRA State Affiliate annual club membership fee of \$250.00 impacts the club's decision to join the NRA State Affiliate. The National Rifle Association annual club member fee is \$35.00. To the best of our knowledge, no club that is a member of the NRA State Affiliate has the facilities, or expertise, to run smallbore state championships.

Pre-approval of out of state participants would prevent any post entries for those who are not Rhode Island residents.

It is regrettable and discouraging the NRA State Affiliate was unwilling to work with us on this matter.

However, New England smallbore shooters will not lose these prestigious matches. These long time RIRRA conducted events have been authorized by the National Rifle Association; one as a registered tournament and the remainder as NRA Regionals. We will continue to award the traditional trophies, which used to represent state championships, to the winners of these events to keep the tradition alive in the hopes that one day they will, again, represent state champions.

The RIRRA continues to honor our commitment to provide quality NRA sanctioned competition to the competitors in New England.