



VICTORIAN RIFLE ASSOCIATION INC

ESTABLISHED 1860
Registration Number A13641H
ABN 37 571 868 151

20/05/25

Council Meeting

Wednesday 20th May 2025

Meeting opened at 19.03pm

Present: Markus Gaebele, William (Bill) Poynton, Garry Kay, Frank Conner, Peter Farley, Brodie Dare, James Corbett

Apologies: None.

Minutes of previous meeting: Moved Frank, seconded Markus.

Discussion points:

- 1) Aggressive letter from the Chairman of the NRAA that discriminates against VRA members affiliated with NRAA.
- 2) Club membership in the best interests of VRA members.

Motion: We continue to implement Club Membership.

Approved

Action: We respond to the NRAA Chairman acknowledging his letter. We consider a more detailed response in the next 7 days.

Meeting closed at 20.31pm



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20th May 2025

Chairman
Victorian Rifle Association (VRA)
Via email: mgaebele1@bigpond.com

Dear Markus

Re: Proposed VRA Membership Structure 2025-26

As we discussed yesterday afternoon, I was forwarded a copy of the email sent out on 19th May 2025 by the VRA office to its clubs, regarding the introduction of VRA Club membership. These VRA club members then not being affiliated with the NRAA.

After consultation with the NRAA Board and legal adviser we confirm the following:

1. The decision to implement club only membership is not within VRA's power to make alone. NRAA operates under a traditional federated structure in sport whereby the States have input to the decision making process on key issues, but then after a vote, the consensus prevails. I acknowledge that VRA did not vote to support the fee increase, but every other State did so. Under a federated model and the NRAA constitution, all Member organisations are obliged to conform to the majority vote of those Member organisations.
2. This proposed action is a breach of the NRAA Constitution and does not comply with the NRAA Membership Policy. All State members are required to be NRAA affiliated members under the Constitution and nationally approved policy.
3. NRAA Standard Shooting Rules (SSR) are the Intellectual Property of NRAA, and copyright is owned by NRAA. Only NRAA affiliated Associations, clubs and members are permitted to use the SSR for shooting activities. To be clear, NRAA does not give permission for non-NRAA affiliated members to carry out activities under the SSR.
4. The VRA insurance referred to in the VRA email to clubs is likely to be predicated on the use of rules. Use of the SSR for such insurance by non-affiliated members is not authorised by NRAA. NRAA may also contact the VRA insurer directly to advise of such.
5. If VRA does not withdraw this change to the VRA membership structure, then NRAA advises the following will also occur from 1st July:
 - a. VRA will not be permitted to host National Teams Championships or any other NRAA competition. Therefore, the TR National Teams Championships scheduled to be hosted by VRA in April next year will be moved away from Victoria.
 - b. VRA state teams will not be permitted to compete in NRAA National Teams Championships.
 - c. All VRA members (regardless of whether they are VRA club only or NRAA affiliated as defined by VRA) will not be permitted to compete as individuals in the NRAA National Rifle Championships and associated NRAA events.
 - d. All VRA members will not be permitted to compete in NRAA and Australian teams. The Captains of relevant teams will be contacted and advised that as a result of VRA's decision, VRA members will be withdrawn from those teams and will not be permitted to wear the national uniform and compete in any international teams events. Affected VRA members in those teams will be



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advised directly by NRAA of this consequence. NRAA may then seek to replace those team members with NRAA affiliated members from other States.

If the VRA does not respond and/or meet to discuss these matters by the evening of Monday 26th May 2025, then NRAA will also be advising the other States and Territories that the above repercussions of VRA's actions will be implemented. Furthermore, NRAA may contact VRA members directly to advise of such response.

In the Annual Member Forum last October, I acknowledge that you raised concerns about the costs of the sport and the impact to those members who predominantly shoot at club level. All States were then invited to provide a representative to the Membership Committee to discuss these sorts of issues. VRA did not formally respond, and you verbally advised that you had too many commitments. You further verbally raised the issue of costs and club membership impacts at the April meeting to approve the NRAA affiliation fees. Despite this, the overwhelming consensus of the Council (representatives of all the States) was to accept the fee structure proposed with a modified fee increase. All States were then bound to this decision. At no time has NRAA received a written proposal from VRA which outlines a revised membership structure which could be discussed by the NRAA Board together with the other States.

If VRA believes that they have a revised membership structure which would benefit the sport nationally, then please document such for consideration by the NRAA Board and the other Member organisations. As noted above, the NRAA Board does not support VRA effectively breaking away from the Constitutional and policy obligations agreed to by VRA representatives previously.

Regards

Stephen Negus
Chair