

SSAA Queensland Membership of SSAA Suspended.

SSAA Inc (National) has taken the difficult decision to suspend the membership of SSAA Queensland from the national SSAA (SSAA Inc) effective 1 October 2025. As a result, SSAA Queensland will no longer be able to attend board meetings, the AGM or other general meetings of the association or any of the other decision-making bodies of SSAA Inc.

SSAA Queensland members will be able to continue to participate in national competitions until December 31, 2025. Anyone already selected for a national team before October 1, 2025, will remain as a team member until after the competition they have been selected for has been completed. After that time, in order to participate in national competitions or represent Australia in international competitions, SSAA Queensland members will need to join SSAA Queensland Hunting and Shooting (SSAA QHS) or the SSAA in another state.

Why was this decision made?

SSAA Queensland has refused to pay any membership fees since December 2024. Like any association or club, if you want to be a member, you are required to pay the set membership fee.

This has been a very difficult decision and one that the board of SSAA Inc has delayed for a long time as it sought to protect SSAA Queensland members and come to an arrangement with SSAA Queensland so that it could remain a full and participating member of the national association. The recent decision by SSAA Queensland to stop their members receiving *Australian Shooter* forced the hand of the board and brought the matter to a head.

Because the board of SSAA Inc still wants SSAA Queensland to return as a full and participating member, it has decided to suspend SSAA Queensland rather than expel them.

How did we get here?

SSAA Inc (National) has continued to provide *Australian Shooter* magazine and other services to SSAA Queensland members up until the end of June when SSAA Queensland notified SSAA Inc that SSAA Queensland members would no longer receive *Australian Shooter* and it would cease to provide names and addresses to the mailing house that sends the magazine.

At this point, without a national magazine going to all members either by email or in print, it became clear that it would be very difficult to remain an effective national organisation and the board acted to clarify the situation and decide on the future of SSAA Queensland's membership status.

Over the last 2 years, SSAA Queensland have been steadily replicating the functions of National, such as membership, insurance, forming a new "national" association, doing their own lobbying to the Federal government and producing their own magazine.

SSAA Queensland stopped providing the full membership fee required to SSAA Inc (National) and instead reduced the amount. By doing this, they were in breach of the constitution. SSAA Inc attempted to resolve this in February 2025 by changing the constitution to facilitate SSAA Queensland's decisions.

From January 2025, SSAA Queensland stopped paying any membership fees at all to SSAA Inc.

When SSAA Queensland made the decision that its members would no longer receive *Australian Shooter* magazine and, in the absence of payments from SSAA Queensland, SSAA Inc (national) was left with no real option but to review SSAA Queensland's membership status. A national organisation needs to be able to communicate with all of its stakeholders across the country in a meaningful way and members need to pay their dues. This is no longer the case.

What is the role of SSAA Inc (National)?

The job of the national association (SSAA Inc) is to provide services to the states where it is cheaper for SSAA Inc to do it for all states than for each state to provide those services on their own.

SSAA Inc seeks to leverage economies of scale on behalf of all members. This frees up more resources to be spent on advocacy, ranges, clubs and other functions of the state branches. More members mean each service is provided more cheaply on a "cost per member basis". SSAA Queensland say that by staying a member they are "subsidising" other states. In fact, all members (including SSAA Queensland) receive exactly the same benefit when we all work together.

Each time SSAA Queensland provides a service for its own members, it gets more expensive to provide these services to remaining states but it also means that the cost of providing those services becomes more expensive for SSAA Queensland and its members as well.

For example, with 5 employees working on publications, SSAA Inc produces *Australian Shooter*, *Australian Hunter*, *Australia and New Zealand Handgun* and *the Comprehensive Guide to Shooting and Hunting in Australia*. This costs approximately \$1.2m per year not including printing and posting the hard copy of *Australian Shooter* which is emailed to all members in digital form (and posted for an additional fee). Between 210,000 members (including SSAA Queensland) this is approximately \$5.70 per member per year. Spread over 140,000 members (without Queensland), this increases to \$8.57 per member per year.

SSAA Queensland has employed four people in South Australia to produce one magazine. An estimate of the costs to produce the magazine (without printing and postage) is approximately \$1m per year. Between 80,000 members, this is \$12.50 per member, per year.

A similar calculation applies to each service the SSAA offers.

One big difference between the offerings is insurance. While SSAA Inc provides \$20m public liability insurance (provided by an insurance company), SSAA Queensland offer \$20m Public Liability coverage provided by a mutual. The difference is that the national insurance is covered by proper insurance bought from an insurance company. An insurance company is

legally obliged to pay a claim that is within the terms of the insurance contract. Payments from a “mutual” are discretionary – there is no legal obligation to pay out on a claim.

Can I Still Remain a Part of SSAA Inc (National)?

Yes! While you can't join SSAA Inc directly, you can join the SSAA Queensland Hunting and Shooting (SSAA QHS) which is a member of SSAA Inc. The benefits are exactly the same as joining another SSAA state branch. You'll get 11 digital issues of *Australian Shooter* and discounts on merch and other publications. You'll be covered by the SSAA's Public Liability Insurance, Income Protection Insurance and Accident Insurance, have access to the SSAA firearm protection scheme, be able to compete in SSAA national competitions and all the other great benefits of SSAA membership. It will also be the genuine reason you need for hunting in Queensland. Click here to join (<https://membership.ssaa.org.au/>).

*****BONUS OFFER***** If you join SSAA QHS, Before December 31, 2026, you will receive a free \$50 voucher to the SSAA shop.

If you join SSAA Queensland Hunting and Shooting and you don't need to shoot at a range, then this is the only association you will need to join. If you want to shoot competitions at ranges, at this time, you will need to join another association as well. SSAA QHS are actively pursuing new range activities.

What Would it Take for SSAA Queensland to Return to Full Membership?

SSAA Queensland can easily return to full membership by paying arrears and agreeing to comply with the SSAA Inc (National) constitution.

Currently, SSAA Queensland has arrears of approximately \$970,000. This is the membership fees not passed on for 6 months from January to June.

Where to from here?

The SSAA Inc board would prefer to resolve the situation by SSAA Queensland taking the required action to lift their suspension.

In the meantime, SSAA Inc (National) will continue to support the Full Member bodies as well as we can. We will focus on the task of growing the number of shooters in Australia and convincing more shooters to join the SSAA – Australia's largest shooting organisation.