

A Message from the NSSA President and NSCA Chair v1.13

Fellow Members,

One of our most important responsibilities as leaders is ensuring that the organizations we enjoy today remain strong, relevant, and financially healthy for the members who will follow us tomorrow.

Over the past year, the leadership, Executive Committees, and staff of both NSSA and NSCA have spent considerable time evaluating the long-term needs of our associations. These discussions covered member services, technology, youth participation, club support, and the programs that help promote and grow the shooting sports.

As part of that review, it became clear that an adjustment to our target fee structure is necessary. We understand that any increase affects our members and clubs, and we have approached this decision with great care.

Beginning in 2027, association target fees will increase by a total of four cents per target, implemented gradually over two years—two cents in 2027 and an additional two cents in 2028.

This will be the first increase to the operational target fee structure in more than 25 years. The only adjustment during that time was a one-cent increase in 2012 dedicated specifically to marketing initiatives rather than association operations.

Since 2001, cumulative inflation has exceeded 100 percent, significantly reducing the purchasing power of the existing operational target fee. This adjustment helps restore much of that lost purchasing power while providing the resources needed to continue investing in the services, programs, and infrastructure that support our members and clubs.

For more than two decades, both associations have worked diligently to manage expenses, improve efficiency, and maximize the resources entrusted to us. Non-dues revenue initiatives—such as lead reclamation projects, communications tower agreements, and activities at the National Shooting Complex—have helped support operations and postpone fee increases for many years. Throughout that time, our goal has been to provide quality member services while avoiding increases whenever possible.

These efforts allowed both associations to delay operational fee increases far longer than would otherwise have been possible.

Responsible stewardship, however, requires more than controlling costs. It also means making thoughtful investments that strengthen our associations and position them for long-term success. This adjustment will allow us to continue investing in member services, technology, youth programs, club support, and efforts to attract new shooters to the sports we all enjoy. These investments directly support the quality of events, services, and experiences our members rely on.

For perspective, the first-year increase represents:

- \$2.00 on a 100-target event
- \$4.00 on a 200-target event
- \$8.00 on a 400-target championship event

Even after the second phase is implemented, the total increase remains a relatively small portion of the overall cost of participating in registered competition.

We recognize that no fee increase is ever welcomed with enthusiasm. As shooters and members ourselves, we understand that reality. After careful consideration, we believe this measured and phased approach strikes the right balance between fiscal responsibility and continued investment in the future of our associations.

The shooting sports have always been sustained by people who care deeply about their future. Every generation benefits from the work, vision, and commitment of those who came before them. Today, it is our responsibility to ensure that NSSA and NSCA remain strong and well-positioned for the generations that follow.

Thank you for your continued support, your participation, and your commitment to the shooting sports we all enjoy.

Respectfully,
Tom Pavlack
President, NSSA

John Calandro
Chair, NSCA Executive Council

NSSA & NSCA Daily Target Fee Adjustment

For the first time in 25 years, the NSSA and NSCA are adjusting the daily target fee at registered events.

THE CHANGE

- January 1, 2027: fee increases \$0.02, from \$0.04 to \$0.06
- January 1, 2028: fee increases \$0.02, reaching \$0.08

HOW EACH ORGANIZATION ALLOCATES THE INCREASE

- NSCA: \$0.03 to operations, \$0.01 to marketing across the two-year increase
- NSSA: \$0.04 to operations across the two-year increase

FEE HISTORY

- 1989: \$0.02
- 2001: \$0.03
- 2012: \$0.04 (entirely allocated to marketing — operations stayed at \$0.03)
- 2027: \$0.06
- 2028: \$0.08

Every cost the organizations carry has moved. So has every cost the shooter carries — ammunition, shotguns, fuel, vehicles, travel. The fee is the one number in the sport that has not.

WHAT HAVE I BEEN GETTING FOR MY FOUR CENTS?

Some members have felt the fee has not been delivering what it should, that perception is accurate. For 25 years the NSSA and NSCA have absorbed rising costs against a flat fee — doing more with less, deferring investments, and scaling back services we could no longer sustain. Members have felt it in slower response times, lagging technology, and programs starved of resources.

The organizations did not coast. Leadership made hard choices to bridge the gap — selling assets and using one-time revenue to fund upgrades and services. Those decisions kept things moving and made the recent NSC improvements possible. They cannot be repeated. One-time revenue is one-time. What remains is the fee.

This is not about getting back to where we were. It is about funding the service a national governing body should provide in 2027 and beyond — for the members we have now, and the next generation the sport needs to reach.

WHAT RUNNING THIS THIN HAS COST US

- Staffing below where it needs to be
- Technology investments deferred
- Marketing too small to reach the 19+ million Americans who shoot clays casually
- Club support is limited by what the budget can sustain
- NSC upgrades funded by one-time asset sales rather than sustainable revenue

WHAT THE INCREASE FUNDS

Operations:

- Membership administration, record-keeping, reporting systems, and annual recognition: All-American Teams, state leaderboard, etc. (NSSA and NSCA)
- Member support staffing (NSSA and NSCA)
- Enhanced technology for members (NSSA and NSCA)
- Electronic Shoot Management and Scores Reporting (NSSA and NSCA)
- Referee and instructor certification programs
- Organizational and NSC insurance and liability coverage
- US Sporting Clays Team, US FITASC Team (NSCA)
- Continued NSC facility Maintenance and Upgrades

Marketing (NSCA):

- New shooter recruitment
- Youth and scholastic programs
- Club support and co-op materials
- Brand and PR that grows the sport

THE COST TO MEMBERS

- \$4 more per 100-target event at full implementation
- 12 events per year: \$48 annually
- 35 events per year: about \$140 annually — less than a case of competition shells
- 2027 impact is half. Second half arrives in 2028.

HOW THIS DECISION WAS MADE

The NSSA Executive Council approved this on April 29, 2026

The NSCA Executive Council approved this on May 26, 2026

Tom Pavlack, Chairman, NSSA

John Calandro, Chairman, NSCA

Michael Hampton, Executive Director, NSSA/NSCA