

2016 New Hampshire USA Shooting Smallbore Rifle Junior Olympic State Championship

Written By Bill Dutton

The Hudson Fish and Game Club, INC hosted the 2016 New Hampshire USA Shooting Smallbore Rifle Junior Olympic State Championship. The first week of January 2016 ushered in the annual New Hampshire Smallbore and Air Rifle State Junior Olympics at the Hudson Fish and Game Club. The 2016 competition brought eighteen young men and women together for the Air Rifle State Championship, and twenty participants for the Smallbore Rifle Championship. Among the competitors were two team members from The Ohio State University Rifle Team: HFGJRT alumni Bailey Urbach of Hudson, and Brendan Whittaker, Bridgewater, Massachusetts, native and former member of the Taunton Marksmanship unit out of Taunton, MA were present.

The matches are sanctioned by USA Shooting, the national body for Olympic shooting sports in the United States. The competitions mirror the Olympics in every way. Men and women compete in their own gender groups for both air rifle and smallbore rifle. Air rifle are 40 shots standing for women and 60 shots standing for men. For smallbore, both men and women shoot a 60 shot match, with 20 shots in three positions: kneeling, prone and standing.

The championships kicked off on Wednesday, January 6th and Thursday, January 7th, 2016, with Alumni Whittaker and Urbach, and current Hudson team members Elizabeth Dutton of Derry, NH, Ty Lane of Tilton, NH, Devin Roe of Pelham, NH, and Grace Higgins of Windham, NH.

In smallbore, Dutton led the women early on with a 560, followed close behind by Urbach who delivered a solid 555. For the men, Whittaker delivered a 557 in smallbore and a strong air rifle score of 580. The women also shot solid scores in air rifle, with 385 and 376 for Dutton and Urbach, respectively.

Saturday, January 9th, the Ferry Brook Junior Rifle Team shined with powerful performances from both the women and men. Leading the Ferry Brook shooters was Tobin Sanctuary of Alstead, NH, who shot the NH men's best with 557 in air rifle, and 575 in small bore. Joey Wilson of Keene, NH delivered a solid air rifle score of 541, and Evie Proctor of Marlborough, NH shot a 361 air rifle and 522 in smallbore. Hudson Fish and Game Club shooters Devin Roe and Chris Ferry also participated in Saturday's relay.

Sunday, January 10th was the final day of the competition. HFGRT members Hannah Deitsch, Erich Deitsch, and Owen Casciotti were among the final competitors. The top standings remained the same as the leader's scores held for the awards.

Final results and medals:

Air Rifle Women:

Elizabeth Dutton - 385 GOLD
Bailey Urbach - 376 SILVER
Evie Proctor - 361 BRONZE

Air Rifle Men:

Brendan Whitaker - 580 (Non resident - automatic qualifying score)
Tobin Sanctuary - 557 GOLD
Joey Wilson - 541 SILVER
Hunter Lang - 532 BRONZE

Smallbore Women:

Elizabeth Dutton - 560 GOLD
Bailey Urbach - 555 SILVER
Evie Proctor - 522 – BRONZE

Smallbore Men:

Tobin Sanctuary - 575 GOLD
Hunter Lang - 543 SILVER
Joey Wilson - 534 BRONZE

Gold medalists from each state's discipline receive an automatic invitation to compete at the National Junior Olympic Air Rifle and Smallbore Championships held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs in April.