

the stake, the number of points scored and the caller's name. The number of ringers (both canceled and uncanceled) recorded for each contestant are divided by the number of shoes each contestant pitched (and then divided by 100) to determine ringer averages. Games are won or lost according to the number of points scored but ringer averages are a convenient method of evaluating "skill". A typical call might be, "Three Ringers, Three Points, John Public" where the ringer count is given first, followed by the points scored and finally the caller's name. In this cancellation game call example, one canceled ringer is recorded for each contestant and one live ringer along with it's 3 points are recorded for the caller. Special game scoresheets make recording game statistics convenient and easy and electronic recording devices are helping even more.

GAME LIMITS

1. Shoes Pitched Prior to start of play, a game limit on the number of shoes to be pitched by each contestant or team may be determined. Sample shoe limits are 20, 30 or 40 shoes.

2. Points Scored Prior to start of play, a game limit on the number of points needed to win the game may be determined.

3. Tied Games Shoe limit games frequently end in tied scores. Most tournaments break such ties by either awarding half win/half loss, or by requiring each contestant to pitch "down and back" (four shoes each which constitutes two innings). All extra game stats are to be recorded for the game.

4. Tied Wins Tournament ties on the number of wins for FIRST PLACE in any Class may be determined according to tournament rules. This may vary from tournament to tournament. NHPA State and World Championship tournaments require playoff games. Other methods like whom-beat-whom, highest ringer average, most points scored and 50-shoe solitaire playoff for highest score are often used for non-championship tournaments and all lower place ties. All shoes and ringers pitched in breaking ties are to be recorded for the respective contestants as part of the tournament stats used in calculating tournament ringer averages.

PLAYER DIVISIONS

All contestants fall into one of the following DIVISIONS based upon age and gender. Other possibilities may exist but these are the generally accepted divisions. "MIXED" play may be used except in NHPA State and World Championship events.

1. MENS DIVISION Adult males of any age who must honor 37 ft pitching foul lines.

2. WOMENS DIVISION Adult females of any age who must honor 27 ft pitching foul lines

3. JUNIOR BOYS DIVISION Males up through the age of 18 who must honor 27 ft pitching foul lines (boys up through age 9 may honor 20 ft foul lines).

4. JUNIOR GIRLS DIVISION Females up through the age of 18 who must honor 27 ft pitching foul lines (girls up through age 9 may honor 20 ft foul lines).

5. SENIOR MENS DIVISION Adult males age 60 or more who must honor 37 ft foul lines. This division is used at the option of the tournament committee or director, otherwise these males are classified as MENS DIVISION.

6. ELDER MENS DIVISION Adult males age 70 or more who must honor the 27 ft foul lines and who must not pitch from behind the 37 ft foul lines.

7. ELDER WOMENS DIVISION Adult females age 70 or more who must honor 27 ft foul lines. This division is used at the option of the tournament committee or director, otherwise these females are classified as WOMENS DIVISION.

NATSTATS RECORDS

Results from NHPA sanctioned tournament and league play are forwarded to the NHPA national statistics center (NATSTATS) where a computer database is maintained for reporting individual ringer averages on all NHPA active members. The NATSTATS averages are used by tournament and league directors for seeding lineups and player skill levels. Posted NATSTATS reports are provided weekly on the NHPA Website (www.horseshoepitching.com). Averages are based upon the total number of shoes and ringers pitched in the 3 highest average events played in the last 12 months or in the last 10 events reported during the same time period, whichever came first.

NHPA SANCTIONED and NON-SANCTIONED PLAY In America, NHPA rules and guidelines are the recognized authority for court construction, playing rules, scoring and equipment. Accordingly, NHPA sanctioned events must be played on NHPA sanctioned courts and played in accordance with NHPA rules and guidelines. Only NHPA members are permitted to participate in NHPA sanctioned events. Non-Sanctioned events are not necessarily governed by NHPA rules and guidelines however most non-sanctioned events in America adopt them as guidelines for pitching distances, stake sizes, horseshoe specifications and scoring methods to be consistent with play throughout the Country. Sanctioning of courts and events is free upon request when NHPA conditions are met. Non-sanctioned events are also encouraged by the NHPA as a means of introduction to the game for picnics and backyards as well

as for recreational tournaments and leagues for anyone willing to learn more about competitive sanctioned play in the NHPA. Contact the NHPA SECRETARY/TREASURER for more information on the NHPA and rules of play.***

NHPA MEMBERSHIP

Membership cards are issued as dual membership in the NHPA and the NHPA CHARTER in which the member resides. NHPA membership annual fees (current calendar year) are \$12 for adults and \$5 for juniors. Charter annual fees vary from charter to charter. Membership cards may be obtained from officials of the charter of residence. Membership allows entry application to any open sanctioned tournament in the country when space is available. Sanctioned events normally have entry fees which pay for event expenses and event prizes.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Tournament and league hosts are responsible for advertising events. The NHPA Regional Director for each STATE can help direct you to all applicable hosts. Contact the NHPA SECRETARY/TREASURER or check the NHPA Website (www.horseshoepitching.com) to get the mailing address or phone number of any Regional Directors. Many Charter schedules are posted on their respective websites which have links available on the NHPA Website.

*- See: www.horseshoepitching.com/products/shoes.html (internet partial listing of manufactured shoes). PHOTO CATALOG

**- Reference: Horseshoe Pitching (First Edition), published by The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America, London, Ohio, Copyright 1928 (D.D. Cottrell, North Cohoeton, N.Y., Secretary of the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association of America) Price 35 cents. NO LONGER IN PRINT

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PLAY BY NHPA RULES PLAY FAIR ENJOY THE GAME

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