

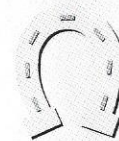


Horseshoe Pitching **NEWSLINE**

Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

VOL. 18, NO. 3

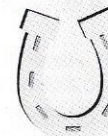
MAY/JUNE 2006



HORSESHOE PITCHING LEGEND

CARL F. STEINFELDT

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MISSED**



TOURNAMENT TRAVEL CONTACTS

The following is a list of all NHPA Regional Directors and the states or territory they cover. Those of you who travel and want to get out-of-area tournament information, are encouraged to contact the appropriate Regional Director. Each RD maintains a full list of all NHPA sanctioned tournaments in their area. If your travel plans call for stops in several states and you need multiple site information, you might want to write the NHPA 1st Vice-President who is in charge of all RDs. He should have copies of all the state schedules. The address for the 1st VP can be found on page 3 of this publication.

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Horseshoe Pitching NEWSLINE

Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

CONTENTS

Tournament Travel Contacts.....	2
President's Message <i>by Paul Stewart</i>	4
Hall of Fame <i>by Earl & Vicki Winston</i>	5
NHPF News Views & Donations <i>by Dave Loucks</i>	6
Jottings From the Horseshoe Trader <i>by Bob Dunn</i>	7
Sanctioned Club/League Report <i>by Lorraine Sternberg</i>	8
Sanction League Entry Form.....	9
Publicity Promotion <i>by Casey Sluys</i>	10
Special Events Calendar.....	11
Charter Chatter Note <i>by Debby Michaud</i>	11
Letters to the Editor.....	11
2007 W.T. Update <i>by Stu Sipma</i>	12
Legend <i>by Ron Deckard</i>	15
Candidacy Announcements.....	16
Rules Rewrite Update <i>by Stu Sipma</i>	17
Changes and/or Additions To Proposed Rules, Guidelines and Specifications.....	18, 19
Rules Re-Write.....	20-30

Due to the space required to publish the rules rewrite, several of the regular columns are not being printed in this issue. Articles submitted but not published in this issue include the Charter Chatter, Horseshoe Facts and Folklore, Down and Back in the Junior Division, Toll of Time, Financial Report and Regional Director's Report. Look for their return in the July/August issue.

PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

Six Pac Horseshoes.....	4
Stone Innovations.....	5
Mr. D's.....	6
Imperial.....	7
Deadeye.....	8
Volunteer State Open Horseshoe Tournament.....	10
Ted Allen.....	11
Alan Francis Horseshoes.....	12
Danville Horseshoe Tournament.....	13
Summerfun Horseshoe Tournament.....	14
Six Pac.....	15
Republic County Ringers Horseshoe Club.....	16
Cal-Flip.....	17
Bill Vanderburg Horseshoe Company.....	19
White Distributors.....	Inside Back Cover

COVER PHOTO

Carl F. Steinfeldt
See Page 15.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Paul Stewart

Once again we are looking forward to another successful World Tournament in Gillette, Wyoming. Everything looks to be in order for the 2006 World Tournament. Gillette and the Cam-Plex Multi-Event Facilities hosted a very successful World Tournament in 1996. They know what to expect from us and we know that they are very capable of hosting another successful World Tournament.

The tournament is almost two weeks earlier this year making it necessary to use this issue of Newsline for World Tournament announcements that would normally be in the next issue. The next issue of Newsline would be close to when most of you are leaving or are in route to the tournament.

A reminder to all Charter Presidents: By-Laws, Article IX: section 3. The Charter President must provide to the NHPA President, at least 72 hours prior to the start of the convention, a written and signed list of delegates which names the delegation Chairman. The list of delegates must be submitted by the Charter President. I will be leaving for Gillette on July 7th. Please allow several days if submitting your list by US mail to insure that I receive it prior to this date. Or, again prior to July 7, you may e-mail your delegate list to me at: nhpapaul@bellsouth.net. After July 7th and at least 72 hours prior to the start of the convention which is July 16th at 8:00 a.m. your delegates list can be e-mailed to me at: wt2006@horseshoepitching.com. Once again this list must be submitted by the Charter President.

Times and dates for all meetings will be posted on location at the tournament: Regional Directors, State Officers, Club/League Directors, etc.

Awards will be presented at our annual Hall of Fame & Awards Banquet, Sunday, July 16th at the Clarion Hotel & Convention Center. This year's Hall of Fame inductees are listed in Vicki Winston's article in this issue of Newsline. At this time all other awards have not been finalized. When available, this information will be posted to the website and included in your World Tournament packet. Please make plans to attend the Hall of Fame & Awards Banquet. I promise that you will have fun and enjoy the evening.

Three candidates notified me as well as Newsline before the March 15 deadline that they are seeking the office of the 4th Vice President of the NHPA. As all of you know, Bonnie Seibold has decided not to seek re-election for this position after serving 28 years as 4th VP. All three candidates, Jerry LaBrosse, MN, Ron Kohn, MI and Rivers Prewette, NC have announcements in this issue of Newsline.

Big \$\$ Tournament! The Volunteer State Open Horseshoe Tournament, Crossville, TN, June 2-4 is drawing entrants from all across the USA & Canada. Bob Hassan and The Crossville Horseshoe Club have accomplished something that the NHPA and most other big tournaments across the country could not. They have successfully acquired major sponsorship for their tournaments. This tournament has a projected prize fund of \$75,000.00. The tournament schedule allows for 384 pitchers in 48 classes over a three day schedule. Wow! This kind of prize money makes me want to start practicing again.

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HALL OF FAME

by Earl and Vicki Winston

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate one of our Hall of Fame committee members, Walter Ray Williams Jr., on his recent accomplishment in the sport of bowling. As this is being written, Walter Ray, who is both a horseshoe and bowling Hall of Famer, just a few days ago tied the great Earl Anthony in number of tournament wins on the Professional Bowlers tour. This win came in a major event, so it also earned Walter Ray a nice pay check and a four year exemption on the tour. We are predicting that it won't be too long before Walter Ray's name is standing alone at the top of the all time victory list. Congratulations, Walter Ray, on this tremendous achievement.

There is other exciting news. Plans are underway for the groundbreaking ceremony for the new NHPA Hall of Fame, Museum and court complex that will be built in Quail Ridge Park in the Wentzville, MO area. The ceremony is scheduled for May 5th.

Our committee has completed the voting for 2006 and we have one person to be inducted at the annual banquet which will be held in Gillette, WY on July 16th. Ralph Kelley Spencer has been elected in the Player/Organizer category. Unless you are a history buff, you won't recognize his name, as he was active many years ago. There were two other nominees in other categories that came close, but as the old saying goes, "Close only counts in horseshoes." We are saddened that this election marks the last that Harold Darnold of Iowa will be participating in as a committee member. Harold has asked to be replaced due to health reasons. We certainly appreciate Harold for the years he has spent serving the NHPA in this important position.

We thank those who sent in new nominations prior to the 2006 voting. The names of Ken Jaeger, Ken Kosky, Edward Quigley and Casey Sluys were placed into nomination in the Promoter/Organizer category and the name of Verdan Zelmar was placed into nomination in the Player/Organizer category. It is not too early to begin sending nominations for the 2007 ballot. In fact, we have already received one. The tentative deadline is February 28, 2007. Please don't wait until the last minute. You can print out a nomination form by going to the Hall of Fame link on the NHPA Web site.

If all goes well, we plan to spend a few days in Gillette, WY this year during the world tournament and will be calling a meeting of our committee sometime during our stay. We will be looking forward to seeing friends and acquaintances as we missed seeing you last year.

Ralph Kelley Spencer

Ralph Kelley Spencer was born September 5, 1893 in Reeds, MO. He spent his adult life in Picher, OK and was a World War 1 veteran. He operated a grocery business for awhile and then was in the insurance business for many years. He did not have any children by his first marriage, but remarried after his wife died. A daughter was born to that union in 1937 and she is currently living in Des Moines, IA. Her name is Therese Fontanini and she learned about the NHPA and the Hall of Fame when she visited the exhibit that Earl placed at the Iowa State Fair for many years. As she was browsing, she saw a picture of her father in a newspaper clipping that was in the display and she contacted Earl. Due to the generosity of the Iowa

State Fair in providing free exhibit space for so many years, we had a very easy time in locating Mr. Spencer's next of kin.

Although Mr. Spencer was called Kelley by his friends, we find that authors of world tournament history books and stats material generally refer to him as Ralph. He made his first world tournament appearance in 1921 in Minneapolis, MN where he went 10-5 and placed 6th. At the February 1922 Winter World Tournament in Florida, Ralph had a record of 20-1, coming in second to C. C. Davis, although Ralph pitched the most ringers in that event. Two days after the conclusion of that tournament, Ralph and C. C. Davis met again in a special match of 200 points. Spencer won that game by a score of 200-182. It did not say how long it took to play that match. In the 1922 summer WT Ralph's record was 11-4 and he placed 4th. At the 1923 winter WT his record was 24-5 and he placed 5th. At the 1923 summer WT he placed 5th in the semi-finals with a 13-3 record and 5th in the finals with a 10-5 record. He was present at the 1924 winter WT, but had to drop out due to arm problems. He was back in action at the 1925 winter WT in FL, where he placed 5th in the prelims with a 24-7 record. In the finals he placed 8th with a 23-32 record, which was his lowest finish ever in world tournament play. Pitchers like Putt Mossman, C. C. Davis and Frank Jackson were beginning to record ringer averages of well over 60%. Out of a total of 86 games pitched during that entire event, Putt Mossman only lost four games, but Ralph Spencer was one of the men who defeated him. In February 1926, Ralph was in Florida once more placing 5th in the prelims with a 27-5 record and 6th in the finals with a 17-13 record. This was his final appearance in world tournament play. Bart Sargent has compiled stats that show Ralph Spencer as having 203 wins and 86 losses in world tournament play for a win percentage of 70.2. It was during his earlier years of world tournament competition that Ralph was involved in some record setting games. Of course, those records were destined to be broken as all records are. While he was active at the world tournament level, Ralph Spencer served as NHPA President, NHPA Vice President and NHPA Secretary/Treasurer. After dropping out of world tournament competition, Ralph continued pitching on the local level and won the Oklahoma State Championship in 1930. Ralph Spencer died in 1952 and is buried in Reeds, MO.

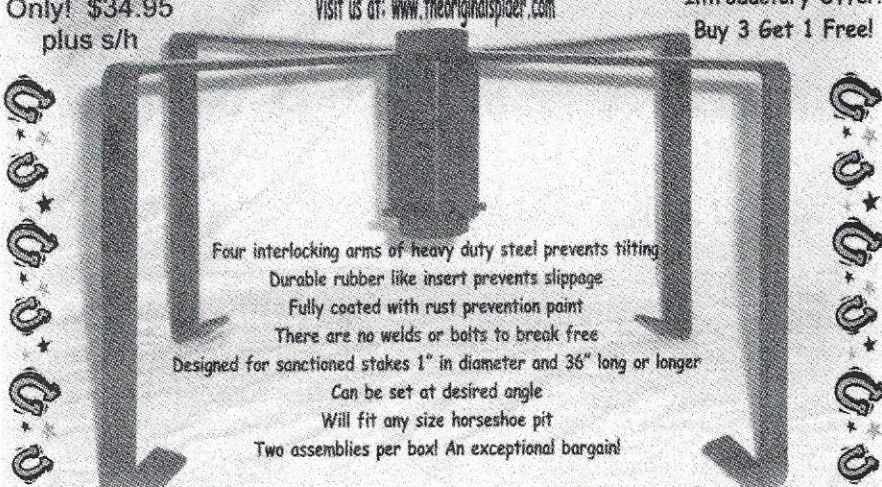
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NHPF NEWS VIEWS & DONATIONS

by Dave Loucks

May 5th marks the date of the ceremonial groundbreaking for the NHPA Hall of Fame facility at Quail Ridge Park in St. Charles County, Missouri. The County will have several dignitaries there along with NHPA and NHPF officials. Naturally, many from the Missouri Charter and New Melle Club will also be in attendance and hopefully other Charters will be represented, as the County will send out invitations to all Charters. The nearby Holiday Inn, Wentzville, will host a luncheon.

Shortly after the groundbreaking, the county is expected to begin bulldozing the existing parking lot and start grading for the new lot and the Hall of Fame building. Actual construction of the building should be underway by July. While this schedule is a bit delayed from initial estimates, it should still enable occupancy before the end of the year if no further delaying problems are encountered. The NHPF who will pay the cost of construction has hired a building project manager who has actually been on board since last November. He has been busy overseeing the development of plans, soliciting construction bids, interfacing with county officials and of course keeping the on-site NHPF Director Joe Faron and myself advised and involved.

Late in the month of March, The NHPF Directors approved the applications of four grant requests to construct or improve existing courts. A check for \$1,000 was sent to each of the following: Clinton Parks & Rec in Clinton, MO, Pitchers Paradise Club in Strafford, MO, Davis Public School in Davis, OK and the Greater Goldendale Horseshoe Club in Goldendale, WA. It is note worthy to mention that the application of the Davis Middle School came about after a horseshoe pitching clinic by members of the Lake County Horseshoe Club in Ardmore. The school, with help from the club, will build three sand courts and start a recreation horseshoe program for students. Let's hope that other clubs around the county will make similar efforts to put on clinics at schools with the goal of bringing more youth into the sport.

The NHPA Hall of Fame building project will initially include 16 indoor courts, eight outdoor courts, some offices, restrooms and a food and drink service center. This will be a facility that every NHPA member should take pride in. You can show your support for this project and our

grant program by sending a tax-deductible contribution to the NHPF, the charitable arm of the NHPA. Mail your contribution to P.O. Box 1628, Penn Valley, CA 95946. Those that donate \$25 or more will receive an acknowledgement letter of thanks.

In the months of January - March, nearly \$3,600 in contributions were received from the following.

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2. TN	30	62	\$20,602	
3. NC	26	132	\$13,790	
4. MN	39	209	\$12,114	
5. MO	51	102	\$11,901	
6. OR	21	75	\$10,603	
7. WI	29	99	\$8,685	
8. MI	45	108	\$8,120	
9. CO	23	62	\$6,861	
10. GA	15	20	\$6,770	
11. MA	10	15	\$4,930	
12. FL	40	61	\$4,888	
13. PA	27	52	\$4,299	
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The only horseshoe pitching related charity needs your tax-deductible donations to support many programs of the sport including the Hall of Fame and Grants to install new or upgrade existing courts.

Deadlines for Grant Applications
March 1 & Sept. 1

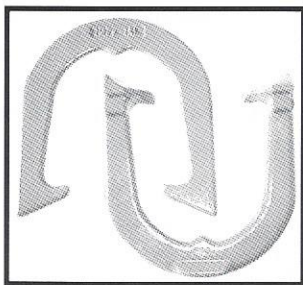
Mail inquiries & contributions to:
NHPE, P.O. Box 1628
Penn Valley, CA 95946

JOTTINGS

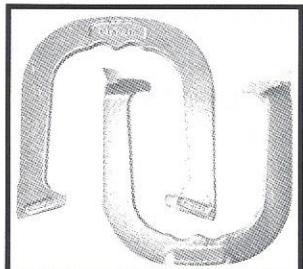
From the Horseshoe Trader

By Bob Dunn

Sooner than we think, the 2006 World Tournament will be in full motion. The Horseshoe Traders booth will be set up for the entire first week of the tournament. For those interested, I will be in attendance with my full antique horseshoe display. The display is even longer than shown at Eau Claire, 10 feet longer. If you want some of your old shoes identified, bring them in! If you have shoes to be donated to our NHPA display in the new Hall of Fame museum, bring them in also. See you in July!



ORIGINAL
(Hardened Tips)
\$60.00 per pair



CLASSIC
(Hardened Tips)
\$56.00 per pair



All models NHPA Sanctioned



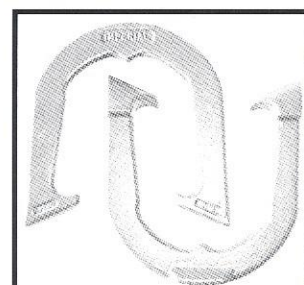
All shoes are made from a dead soft alloy specially formulated to withstand the stresses of horseshoe pitching... You can't find a better material than this!

(Prices do not include S & H)

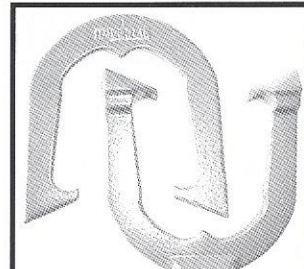
Send orders to:
White Distributors
P.O. Box 3652
Erie, PA 16508

Order Anytime:
1-800-841-4685

See our inside front cover ad for details on S & H fees.

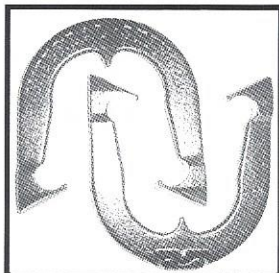


PLUS
(Hardened Tips)
\$58.00 per pair

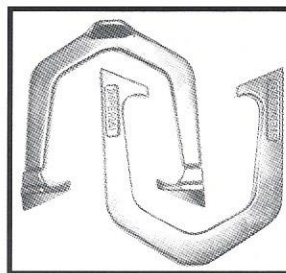


MAXX
\$48.00 per pair

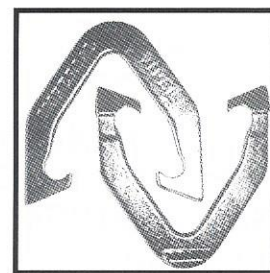
3 NEW SHOES!



STINGER
\$54.00 per pair



STEINFELDT (Hardened Tips)
\$62.00 per pair



VIPER
\$46.00 per pair

Order direct or from any NHPA Distributor. Check us out on-line at www.horseshoesonline.com

SANCTIONED CLUB/LEAGUE REPORT by Lorraine Sternberg

By this time, you should have all received a letter from me. In my letter I covered just about everything on league procedures and up coming events. This leaves me at a loss as to what to write for this issue.

There is one item I left out of my letter and that is promotion for your leagues. I know I have covered this in the past, but a little review doesn't hurt. Before you start your league this spring, why not put an ad in your local newspaper? State when you will be pitching and where. Let them know that new pitchers are welcome. A good idea is to hold a practice session before league begins for the new pitchers. Show them how to hold the horseshoe, different stands and the basics of horseshoes. The important thing is to make them feel comfortable and welcomed. The key is to get your new people to return next year. When you see them come back, you know they enjoyed themselves and you did your job; promoting horseshoes.

I received a nice letter from Al Edsman, the league director of the Barbers Point Horseshoe Club in Hawaii. In it he thanked the NHPA for the recognition of Kenneth Silva for his high over average award in the Top Ten. He stated that it's not often that "we here, in Hawaii, in the middle of no where get to be recognized for a national event". Mr. Silva was totally shocked and in awe when this award was

presented to him.

There may be some members in your club that are deserving of a top ten award also. But it takes the league director to submit the top ten form. Please take the time at the end of your season to complete this form. If you have juniors on your league, you need to list all of them.

Once again I will be holding a sanctioned league meeting at the World Tournament. If you are planning on attending the World Tournament, I strongly suggest you take a little time to make the meeting. If you cannot make it out to Gillette, Wyoming this year and have any suggestions or something you would like brought up at the meeting, please contact me.

The entry form for the National Sanctioned Club/League Tournament is in this issue. Once again, the dates for the tournament are September 30th/October 1st; hope to see more clubs enter this year. We had a great time last year. It's a fun and different tournament. If you need more information, give me a call at (262) 677-3300.

May you all have a great summer season. I look forward to seeing many of you at the World Tournament in Wyoming!



★ PITCHED BY CHAMPIONS ★

**Price Per Pair
Up to 12 Pairs**

CLYDESDALES	\$50.00
N.T.	\$50.00
REGULAR	\$50.00
E-Z GRIP	\$55.00
CLYDESDALE DF	\$55.00

(Write for greater quantity prices.)

**ALL "DEADEYES"
IN VARIOUS WEIGHTS OF
LIGHT - MEDIUM - HEAVY**

(Each pair matched to equal weight)

**UPS shipping included in new prices—
Continental U.S. ONLY**

**All "DEADEYES" are
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**E-Z Grips and N.T.s are now guaranteed for
2 years from date of original purchase.**

N.T.s now have better hooks and more weight to the front.

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Guarantee valid in Continental U.S. only.

Broken Shoe Replacement honored by manufacturer only.
Return both shoes in original box.

Contact Bill Courtwright (ONLY) for special prices on
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NO SHOES WILL BE SENT ON CONSIGNMENT

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an authorized NHPA distributor**

NHPA NATIONAL BUYER

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6007 Municipal St.
Schofield, WI 54476
(715) 359-9898

ENTRY FORM
NHPA Sanctioned Club/League Tournament
September 30th/October 1st, 2006
Edinburgh, Indiana
Atterbury Facility

Entry Deadline: August 25, 2006

Registration fee: \$105.00 per team

Name of Club and State _____
Sanction number of club or league _____

1. Name (Captain) _____ NHPA# _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone: Home# _____
League Point Average _____ Ringer Average _____

2. Name _____ NHPA# _____
League Point Average _____ Ringer Average _____

3. Name _____ NHPA# _____
League Point Average _____ Ringer Average _____

_____ mail top portion _____

MAIL THIS FORM WITH REGISTRATION FEES (PAYABLE TO NHPA)

TO: Lorraine Sternberg, NHPA 3rd Vice President
W206 N13520 Woodside Lane
Richfield, WI. 53076

Phone: (262) 677-3300

The schedule will be mailed only to the captain of each team. It will be the captain's responsibility to inform his or her teammates of the schedule. Scorekeeping fees are not included in the registration fees. Players will be responsible for paying scorekeepers before each game.

League averages will be used for this tournament from this years' league season (2006). Limit 24 teams. If your club would like to enter more than one team, please indicate your #1 team. After the deadline if there is not 24 different clubs/leagues entered your #2 team would then qualify to enter. This tournament is limited to adults only!

PUBLICITY PROMOTION

by Casey Sluys

Sport or Game

The debate over whether our sport is an actual sport continues... Various definitions of horseshoe pitching describe it as a game. Sure it's a game IF one plays it at a family gathering, company picnic, or holiday outing. Then one or two games are exactly that, a game.

During a sanctioned tournament however, it's a different story. In an eight-person round robin, one plays seven games. During seven 40-shoe games, how far do you walk? It's over 1¼ miles, (including a 40-shoe warm up), 1,960 steps plus bending/squatting 140 times to pick up your shoes. (Toss those pick-up sticks away) Let's not forget the arm motion to pitch the shoe; swinging and releasing 320 times! If they are 50-shoe games, this increases significantly. In my estimation this encompasses a fair workout and worthy of being called a sport! Of course the debate will continue until we educate the public. That's where you folks as NHPA members need to take the lead. We need to educate the public to erase the game stigma and make this a recognized sport. Until we manage to change the perception of our sport to the public, in their eyes it will remain a game.

Promotional Efforts

There is a segment of our membership that perceives all things to be black and white, with no room for gray. Without gray there is no maybe, no what if, and if we allow it, no need to think. Is this what we want? I think not. We need to allow some flexibility in order for this sport to grow. Certainly, it would be perfect if all courts were exactly 40 feet apart, with full walkways to accommodate everyone. If we had all stakes leaning exactly 12 degrees toward each other, with each being 14 ½ inches high, then with nice green lawn between the walkways, wow, what a great facility huh? That ain't the way it is folks! We all know better than that, and we've all pitched on courts that do not meet the specifications of the rules. Therefore, why can't we allow some flexibility in our rules? We certainly allow the flexibility for various demonstrations that we put on don't we? Yes, portable courts, artificial clay, stakes hammered into existing surfaces, hay bales for backboards, we've seen it all haven't we? We need some drastic changes in our rules to bring this sport into the limelight. How are we going to accomplish that?

Can you imagine any sport that hasn't changed in the past 30 years? I can't think of one that hasn't changed at least a few times. No need to go into the types of changes is there? Yes, our sport has changed some also, but the basic rules remain as they were in 1940. Yep, we've raised the stake to present day standards, we've implemented short-distanced pitching, we've made room for the little folks to be able to pitch with us, but essentially our structure remains the same.

Rules Re-write

Many of you have, no doubt, heard of the NHPA's effort to re-write the Official Rules of Horseshoe Pitching. This is a multi-year effort to clarify some of the rules that were interpreted as vague. There are no earth shattering changes with this re-write, merely some re-structuring and re-phrasing. It will also include a table of contents, an index, a guidelines section and a glossary. Personally I would encourage that the members adopt this rewrite; then over the course of the next few years, streamline the document to everyone's liking.

It will become a much more useful document than the existing rules pamphlet. Presently things are difficult to find and at times it takes a long time to locate various rules particularly when one is in the middle of a tournament. The new re-write will speed up this process ten fold.

Sure, many of you believe that there are too many rules in our fine sport already, but how many of them do you really understand? Do you know the definition of a scoring radius? How about the definition of scoring area? These two things will be defined in the upcoming re-write. Did you know that it's illegal to step into the scoring area without your opponent's permission? The penalty is supposed to be one shoe. It states that when

this occurs, the contestant guilty of this infraction shall only pitch one shoe the next inning! Have you ever been penalized for this infraction? I suppose not, but that's because the scoring area has never been adequately defined in past rules pamphlets.

Free Banners

The NHPA has given away 233 banners to local horseshoe clubs already! These banners were detailed in the last issue of Newsline and should assist in publicizing our sport. Throughout history many, many folk have showcased their pitching talents on various television shows. Even though these efforts were great to see, little or no recognition was ever given to organized horseshoe pitching and the NHPA. Let your local media know of your events and showcase these beautiful banners. If you don't have yours yet, see your Regional Director for details, offer ends August 1, 2006.

Don't forget to carpool to tournaments; let's increase our participation!

2006 Volunteer State Open Horseshoe Tournament

NHPA Sanction # 33-06-12

June 2nd – 4th, 2006

Crossville, TN

30 blue clay courts with full concrete walkways – 12 courts covered

Championship Classes will pitch 2 days
(Saturday, 1:00 p.m. & Sunday, 10:00 a.m.)

\$7,000 First Place Prize for Championship Classes.

\$1,000 First Place Prize for Class A and Class B.

\$500 First Place Prize for other classes.

Total prizes will be \$70,000 +

\$30.00 Entry Fee for Adults

No entry fee for Juniors (No cash prizes given either.)

Entries should be received by May 20th, 2006

Motels

Scottish Inn	I-40 Exit 317	(931) 484-8122
Days Inn	I-40 Exit 317	(931) 484-9691
Best Western	I-40 Exit 317	(931) 484-1551
Ramada Inn	I-40 Exit 317	(931) 484-7581
LaQuinta Inn	I-40 Exit 317	(931) 456-9338
Super 8	I-40 Exit 322	(931) 707-7660
Comfort Suites	I-40 Exit 322	(931) 707-8638

RV/Campgrounds

KOA Rocky Top Retreat	(931) 484-2682
Bean Pot Campground	(931) 484-7671
Breckenridge Lake RV	(931) 788-1873

Big softball tournament on this same weekend – call early for reservations.
Go to CrossvilleHorseshoeClub.com for updated info and entry form.

For more info, contact Bob Hassan at rmhassan00@yahoo.com or (931) 788-6646

Send entries to: Bob Hassan
1207 Forest DR
Crossville, TN 38555

Make checks out to: Crossville Horseshoe Club

Dear Editor:

With regard to the March/April 2006 issue, page 8, don't cut the Senior Women out. Lower the prize money.

My wife, Harriet, and I love the World tournament. We look for the exciting games and upsets to watch as we no longer pitch. We keep track of all the final matches those last 4 days and watch for the close games.

Not enough instruction or explanation is given to local patrons who come down to see what is going on. We are knowledgeable about the system but when we get to the tournament, it takes us several hours to find out what has happened. The few news sheets passed out to a few watchers is hard to come by. These sheets should be located in a spot to which everyone can go to obtain the past record and the schedule of what is coming up. Your projecting results on the big screen is a big help to see the standings but it's nice to have the schedule in hand that lists in which court each of the players will be competing.

Sincerely,
William & Harriet Brin
Hollister, CA

Dear Editor,

Imagine my surprise when Alan Jones sent me an email congratulating me on my perfect game (he saw it in the NEWSLINE). Anyone who knows Alan knows sometimes he gets things a little mixed up, but sure enough, there on page 8 of the January/February 2006 NEWSLINE my name is listed as having pitched a perfect game against my good friend Chuck Norris. Please let me set the record straight. First and foremost, I am not yet in the 30' category. I will move up in 14 years if fate and the Good Lord grant me that privilege. Second, I have not as of yet pitched that elusive all ringer game that all pitchers dream about. To quote Ralph Dykes "My best game was 90%, and then I fell out of bed." Third, I had the honor of reporting the perfect game pitched by Marv Kramer at the 2003 Illinois State Championship Tournament against Chuck Norris.

See you all in Gillette!!!
Bill Marvin

Note from the Editor: This was in fact a typo. Thank you Bill for bringing the error to my attention and giving Marv Kramer the recognition due him.

Charter Chatter Note

by Debby Michaud

Want your charter news to appear in the Charter Chatter? Send your charter newsletter to me at 379 Hodges St., Taunton, MA 02780-2057 or e-mail me at loonpnd@comcast.net with your charter's news UNTIL June 1st. After that this column's writer will be Tina Hawkins of Oklahoma. Her address and e-mail will be published next issue. Also, we are still updating the list of indoor courts. Thanks for sending us your info.

SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY 2006

6th - Jerry Crochet Memorial Horseshoe Tournament - Kemper Williams Park - 203 Park Road - Patterson, LA \$20.00 entry fee. Prize money to the top 3 finishers in each bracket. Pre-register by May 3, 2006. Contact: Angela Percle - 985-384-9490, Tim Hayles - 985-385-3858, or Tim Gilmore - 985-395-5062. Camping at the Park, 985-395-2298 Tournament benefits NHPF

27th - 28th 18th Annual Elmer Hohl Ringer Classic - K.W. Khaki Club, Wellesley, Ontario - Entry Fee Deadline is May 7, 2006. Entry fee: Championship Groups - \$30.00; All other classes: \$20.00 (Canadian Funds) No Charge for Juniors. All entry monies are 100% returned as well as extra prize money. Make cheque or money order payable to The Khaki Tournament Fund and mail to: Mr. Wayne Becker, 308-41 Pioneer DR, Kitchener, Ontario Canada N2P 1H2. Telephone: (519)896-6670 or Email: wbecker@sgci.com Send a self-stamped, self-addressed envelope or email address for playing time. Include your CHPA or NHPA# and indicate your pitching division.

JUNE 2006

2nd - 4th Volunteer State Open Horseshoe Tournament - Crossville, TN - \$70,000+ Total Prize Money, First Place for Championship Classes, \$7,000; First Place for Classes A & B, \$1,000; First Place for all other classes, \$500. Championship Classes will pitch two days. Entry fee: \$30.00 Adults; No entry fee for Juniors (No cash prizes for juniors.) Deadline: May 20, 2006. Make checks payable to: Crossville Horseshoe Club and mail to: Bob Hassan, 1207 Forest DR, Crossville, TN 38555. For more info contact Bob Hassan at rmhassan00@yahoo.com or (931)788-6646.

10th - 8th Annual Beth Verret Cystic Fibrosis Memorial Horseshoe Tournament - Kemper Williams Park - 203 Park Road - Patterson, LA \$20.00 entry fee. T-Shirts to the top 3 finishers in each bracket. Pre-register by June 7, 2006. Contact: Angela Percle - 985-384-9490, Tim Hayles - 985-385-3858, or Tim Gilmore - 985-395-5062. Camping at the Park, 985-395-2298 Tournament benefits Cystic Fibrosis

24th & 25th - 30th Annual Oregon Open Money Tournament. \$2,000 added prize money + entry fee. Entry deadline: 10:00 pm, June 22nd. Entry fees: Class A \$25 all others \$20. Women, Elders & Juniors seeded together. All classes will be split 30' & 40'. RV camping at fairgrounds close by. Register with Rick Rebman: 80037 Ross lane, Hermiston OR. 97838; Phone: (541)567-8560

30th, 1st & 2nd - Ringer Classic - Greenville, OH. Entry fee: \$30 for adults with additional fee for Championship Men's and Women's classes. \$5 entry fee for Junior classes. Fees payable to: Mary Fleenor, 8494 Baker RD, Versailles, OH 45380 c/o Darke County Horseshoe Club. Purse: approximately \$8,000. Deadline: June 14th

AUGUST 2006

14th - Iowa State Fair Midwest Senior Classic, Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines, IA NHPA Sanctioned. Must be 60 years of age by August 14th. Over \$1,800 spent on awards each year. Entry deadline: August 1st (No late entries) Registration Fee: \$15, Championship \$20. (Will be notified when you play) Send entry fee of \$15 to Dave Sidles 2816 Pinehurst Circle, Ames, IA 50010. Phone (515) 233-1394 Email: dsidles@mchsi.com. Include with fee: name, complete mailing address, phone number, gender, NHPA card number and pitching distance. Tournament Director, Danny Sease phone: (515) 285-0131 or email: ddsease@msn.com and ask for Iowa State Fair flyer.

SEPTEMBER 2006

2nd - Louisiana Shrimp and Petroleum Festival MDA Horseshoe Tournament - Kemper Williams Park - 203 Park Road - Patterson, LA \$20.00 entry fee. Prize money to the top 3 finishers in each bracket. Pre-register by August 30, 2006. Contact: Angela Percle - 985-384-9490, Tim Hayles - 985-385-3858, or Tim Gilmore - 985-395-5062. Camping at the Park, 985-395-2298 Tournament benefits MDA



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Since 1938

Designed and pitched by Ted Allen
10 Time World Champion & record holder of
36 Consecutive Doubles (72 Ringers)

Hardness:	Five Weights: 2 lb. (6 to 10 oz.)
Dead Soft	Matched within 1/10 oz.
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PLANS PROGRESSING FOR THE 2007 NHPA TOURNAMENT IN ARDMORE


by Stu Sipma

Planning for the 2007 NHPA World Tournament Event in Ardmore is in full swing! The Steering Committee has met several times and has approved the logo for the event. The official logo will be unveiled at the 2006 Tournament in Gillette and a variety of items featuring the logo will be available for purchase.

The Committee is also busy recruiting sponsors and sponsorships to make this the best event ever! Work continues on the historic Hardy Murphy Coliseum, site of the 2007 event. The extension of the arena floor has been completed adding an additional 40 feet in length. In addition, work continues on the on-site camping and

RV spots and this work should be completed prior to this fall.

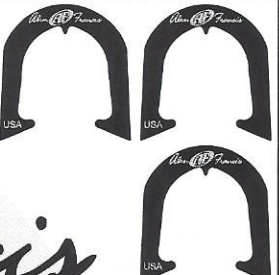
Mita Bates, Vice-President of the Ardmore Tourism Authority reports that everything is progressing well and in line with the timeline established by the committee. The committee will soon begin expanding its membership region-wide to allow for subcommittees to handle the many varied tasks to be accomplished. Ms. Bates states "2007 is the Centennial for the State of Oklahoma and we could not be more thrilled to have a premier event held in our city as a part of our year-long celebration."

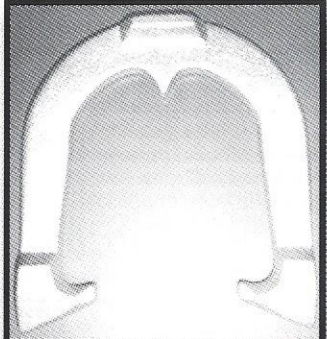



INTRODUCING:

Alan AF Francis


Horseshoes

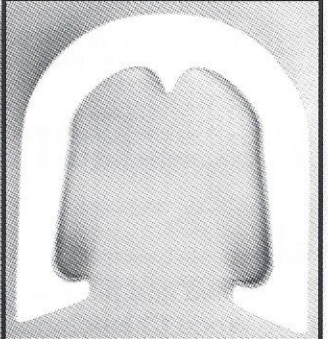






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Order Anytime:
1-800-841-4685

See our inside front cover ad for details on S & H fees.

Order direct or from any NHPA Distributor. Check us out on-line at www.horseshoesonline.com

This is a brand new shoe designed and pitched by 10-time Men's World Champion, Alan Francis. Alan is building up a legendary career in this sport and we felt it was time he had a shoe of his own, so this is it... It even bares his signature to prove it! There was a lot of trial and error in the year that it took to nail down the design for this shoe but we're sure we've come up with something that matches up with Alan's incredible ability to make ringers. This is a traditional styled shoe packed full with all the latest technology in horseshoe design. It's made from the same dead soft alloy that has made Thoroughbred and Imperial horse-



shoes into our top selling shoes... We expect this shoe to out sell them all! We've incorporated our newest feature, hardened tips, into this shoe first, making it one of the toughest and most durable shoes you can buy. It's a very easy turning shoe with a narrow, pointed ringer break, making it easy to grip for the flip pitch too. The exceptional balance in this design makes it great for any turn or flip... It was well worth the extra effort that went its design. Like all our other shoes, it has a one year warranty... We were lucky to have one of the best players in the world to help us on this one and now we're passing that benefit on to you!

Alan Francis
10 Time World Champ



**11th Annual
SummerFun Horseshoe Tournament
Newberry, South Carolina**

**August 18th – 20th, 2006
Friday-Sunday**

Sponsored by: City of Newberry Parks and Recreation
www.cityofnewberry.com

Marion Davis Park

\$6,000 in Cash, Prizes and Trophies

Limited to 170 players

Entry Fee \$25

Deadline for Entries, July 28th

Entry forms available at: www.schorseshoes.com
www.horseshoepitching.com (coming events)

or contact tournament director:

Ron Taylor at (803) 584-1453

or email: hawgjawtaylor@aol.com

2006 4TH VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATES

RIVERS PREWETTE

For 4th Vice-President



Let me begin by extending a big thank you to Bonnie Seibold for her devotion and hard work on behalf of the sport of horseshoes and the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association. I, as I'm sure we all do, appreciate her many contributions. It is with great pleasure and a heart that is committed that I would like to announce my candidacy for election to the office of 4th Vice-President of the NHPA.

Many of you know me already. I'm told that I tend to make myself heard! I feel that my experience, knowledge and great love for the game can only compliment our excellent NHPA Council. While I do not have a formal college education I do feel that I possess strong character traits learned from life experiences as a wife, mother and grandmother - integrity, honesty, creditability, and loyalty. I would like to share with you what I feel makes me a good choice for this position.

In 1990 I met and later married Buck Prewette who had been a member of the NHPA for several years. It was Buck's love of the game that got me started and soon I was hooked! And I've got to say that there have been some serious games between us over the years. But over time I got the hang of this game and began to climb the ladder playing in tournaments throughout the state of North Carolina as well as across the United States. While I have collected a few trophies along the way I treasure most the many friendships that have developed and continue to grow as time goes by.

What many of you may not know is that I have served the North Carolina Horseshoe Pitchers Association as Secretary/Treasurer since 1999; I have attended 13 World Tournaments both as a player and a voting delegate to the convention representing North Carolina players; and, I have served as North Carolina tournament director for multiple tournaments each year for the past 12 years as well as assistant director of our state tournaments.

I feel my experience as a player and state officer coupled with a willingness to diligently listen to the concerns of our members gives me the foundation, understanding and insight needed to make the best possible decisions for our organization with respect to rules, regulations and protocol on the courts. I believe that over the years I have cultivated solid working relationships and garnered a respect among our horseshoe family that will serve this position well. I am a very hard worker and since I am retired feel that I have the time necessary to devote to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association and the office of 4th Vice-President.

I ask that each of you consider my interest, experience and commitment to the sport of horseshoes and to the NHPA at the various levels and judge me not only qualified but the best choice for the position of 4th Vice President. I respectfully ask for your support and vote at our 2006 convention.

JERRY LaBROSSE

For 4th Vice-President



Hello everyone, my name is Jerry LaBrosse from Minnesota. I am pleased to announce my candidacy for the office of 4th Vice President of the NHPA.

My horseshoe career started as a boy in Hibbing, MN. Our family attended several world tournaments, and that "hooked" me for life. After taking a few years off to raise a family and start a business, I returned to the game in 1992, and have been an active pitcher and promoter of our great sport ever since. My service to horseshoes began as a district VP, then served two three-year terms as president of the MGSHPA, the largest charter in the NHPA. During that time our state charter has been transformed into a much more modern and efficient organization.

My current service to our state charter includes Regional Director, State Statistician, Webmaster, and Editor of our bi-monthly magazine, the *Ringer Digest*.

On a national level, I have been helping the world tournament efforts during "shoe check-in" and also serving as the State Officers' meeting chairman. I have also enjoyed acting as a judge and also enjoy keeping score.

Currently I am serving on the NHPA Rules Re-Write Committee. Serving on this historic committee has been a very helpful experience in getting to know "the ropes" of how the NHPA operates, as well as practically memorizing the "RGS" (Rules, Guidelines, and Specifications) booklet.

The experience and knowledge I have gained in Minnesota over the past 10 years, along with a solid junior background, has fueled my desire to serve on a national level. If elected, I will continue to put forth my best effort to promote and improve our great organization.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank my wife Michelle, who has been so supportive during the years I've served the membership in Minnesota, and is willing to support me in serving the NHPA. I also want to thank the other officers, friends, and the membership of the MGSHPA for their continued support and cooperation with my current duties.



RON KOHN

For 4th Vice-President

I would like to announce my candidacy for election of Fourth Vice President of the NHPA.

I currently reside in Freeland, Michigan with my wife of 34 years, Margo. We have two grown children. I will be fifty-seven years old in June and have lived in this area all of my life. I currently work at the Dow Chemical Company in Midland as a Research Tool & Die Maker.

My wife and I have been members of the NHPA since 1984.

I am currently the President of Michigan's WSHPA (Wolverine State Horseshoe Pitchers Association) Charter. I previously served three terms of Vice President and have been Secretary of the WSHPA as well. I have been Chairman of the membership committee. I have received the Sportsmanship Award of a sanctioned league. I've also been the Assistant Regional Director for Michigan since the late 1980s.

I competed in my first World Tournament in 1987 and have not missed one since 1991. I have served many shifts as a judge at the World Tournaments, passed out round robin cards, helped run different shifts and helped with checking in shoes. I am able to attend the entire length of the World Tournament if elected to this position.

In 1988 I started the Auburn Horseshoe Club with eight courts. We now have 12 courts. We host at least four tournaments each season.

I currently have a good friendship and working relationship with the officers of the NHPA and hope to continue that into the future. There is much to do in the years ahead with many new opportunities and challenges being presented to the NHPA and it would be my privilege to serve you as Fourth Vice President in these upcoming years.

Republic County Ringers Horseshoe Club Presents 3rd Annual Crossroads Classic Horseshoe Tournament June 10th & 11th, 2006 Belleville City Park - Belleville, Kansas

Limited to 72 Pitchers

Entry Fee: \$40.00

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Entry Deadline: May 27th, 2006

Send Entry Fee to: Howard E. Reed
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Phone: (785) 527-5920

3 Prior Sanctioned Tournaments Required
From June 1, 2005

NHPA or Canadian Card Required

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Format: Mixed

12 Person Classes
6 Matches on June 10th
5 Matches on June 11th

RULES REWRITE UPDATE

by Stu Sipma

The rules re-write committee is in the "final" stages of completing the RGS Book (Rules, Guidelines and Specifications). I have once again finished re-reading all the sections, combing through (in detail) each paragraph and making minor comments to take back to the Committee one last time. Every time I read the most current draft, there are a few changes that have been made; format changes, re-wording, additions/deletions of words, etc. But with each new draft I feel that this document becomes a little bit better. The point I'm trying to make here is that when the delegates receive their packets and sit down to read through the RGS Book, they may also see some wording, formatting, etc. that they may not agree with, but should keep in mind that any items they may not totally agree with should not sway their decision to adopt this proposal at the convention. Everyone should keep an "open" mind here and remember that the NHPA has a policy in place to make changes to what any individual may not agree with, as early as next year at the 2007 Convention.

If, after reading through this document you have questions that you would like to have answered, bring them to the World Tournament or pass them along to your Charter delegates to the Convention. At the World Tournament site in Gillette, we are planning to have a table set up on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday before the Convention where members of the re-write committee will be happy to answer questions or concerns you may have about this proposed re-write. The committee members all agree that we have worked too hard to let this proposal fail, and we will do everything in our power to answer all your questions! Also, during the Convention, we will be allowing time for listening to and discussing all questions and concerns from the delegates and may allow some "minor" changes to be made. We *do* want to hear from all the delegates, at the Convention or prior to the Convention, at the courts, or at the re-write table at the Cam-Plex in Gillette. We have very seriously considered all concerns and suggestions from the Charter committees and individuals for improvement throughout this process and want to continue to hear from you and let you know that we do consider this Rules re-write to be a team effort!

In a previous issue of Newsline Magazine, there was a listing (see November/December 2005) of the Bylaws that have been incorporated into the proposed Rules re-write. The result of this "moving of information", from Bylaws to Playing Rules and Guidelines, is that we will now have a *single* document (instead of two, separate

documents) that includes all the necessary information for answering questions about the Playing Rules and Guidelines for sanctioned leagues and sanctioned tournament play.

In *this* issue of Newsline Magazine, we have included a listing of all the current Rules and Bylaws where actual changes (or additions that might be interpreted as changes) have been made. You will also find here, an explanation for these changes and additions. And so providing you with the earlier list of Bylaws that are affected, and this list of proposed changes/additions should give you all the necessary information you will need for a better understanding of the major changes that we have made here and that we are proposing in this Rules re-write. All other additions and/or word changes to the existing Rules are intended only for the purpose of providing additional information and/or for clarity.

You will notice, as you read through and review this proposed document, that the Playing Rules section has more to do with what is happening *on the courts* during league or tournament play, such as the various age divisions, the seeding of contestants, and situations which may occur during the actual competition. The Guidelines section is pretty much self-explanatory, and the Specifications section has to do with legal horseshoes, etc. and with the court conditions that can be expected *when contestants arrive* for league

or tournament play; conditions which, for all sanctioned events, will now require nothing less than conditionally-sanctioned courts. You will also find two new additions here; the Contents section and a Glossary. Both of these additions should be helpful to you in finding and reviewing any specific information you may need about the Playing Rules, Guidelines, or equipment and court Specifications.

I am looking forward to visiting with all the members and voting delegates at Gillette in July, to discuss the RGS book and to answer your questions. I truly feel in my heart that this is a book that we can all be proud of and that we will use frequently in the "game of horseshoes".

The re-write Committee extends a big "thank you" to all who have taken the time to review this work and who have made recommendations for this final draft. We will soon be in the process of getting this document printed and placed it into the delegate packets for these folks to review. This final document will also be placed on the NHPA Website at www.horseshoepitching.com.

Committee Members:

Bonnie Seibold – Indiana
Dan Sanders – Ohio
Phylis Quist – Washington
Jerry LaBrosse – Minnesota
Roy Evans – Missouri
Stu Sipma – North Dakota

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A list of Bylaws that have been proposed to be moved can be found on the NHPA website. Space limitations make it impossible to list them in this issue of Newsline.

CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO PROPOSED RULES, GUIDELINES, AND SPECIFICATIONS

Please see below, a listing of proposed changes and/or additions to the current Rules and Bylaws. Some of this text information includes actual changes to the current Rules, while some *additions* (included here) may also be considered as actual “changes” to the current Rules. **Note:** Proposed changes/additions to the current Rules/Bylaws are indicated below in *italic* print. If, after reading through the RGS Book, you may find other information that you consider to be “changes of intent” to the existing Rules or Bylaws, please contact anyone on the Rules re-vision Committee with this information, as soon as possible.

PLAYING RULES SECTION:

Introduction to Playing Rules:

All contestants, *including pacers and/or league substitutes*, must be current NHPA members ...

Reason for addition: Anyone participating in an NHPA Sanctioned Event should be a current member of the NHPA.

RULE 1 – PITCHING DIVISIONS

- **Section A – Add Junior Cadets** (and accompanying information) – **Reason for addition:** This addition is based on input from several Charter Committees and Individuals.

- **Section D – Seniors** (*become eligible to pitch in the Senior Division at any time during the calendar year that they become sixty (60) years old*) – **Explanation/Reason for change:** Based on the current Rules, Seniors don't become eligible for entering this Division until the anniversary of their 60th birthday. This change will make the “age rules”, based on the calendar year, more consistent for all Divisions.

- **Section E – Elder Men** *may pitch from any place on either the extended or full-distance platforms, and shall observe the twenty-seven-foot (27') foul line.* – **Explanation/Reason for change:** The current Rules state that Elders “shall pitch less than the full-distance”. This change will make this rule (see information in italics, above) the same for all of the 30-foot pitching Divisions (Juniors, Open Women, and Elders). Also, there is no advantage to Elders who might choose to pitch from the full distance.

RULE 4 – FLOW OF THE GAME

5. Moving The Shoe Or Stake

Exceptions: *If one or more shoes are below the shoe(s) in question, they shall remain in place for the re-pitch and shall be scored at the completion of the inning.* **Explanation/Reason for change:** The current rule reads (see Rule 6, Sec E, Exceptions): “If one or more shoes are below the shoe(s) in question, **they will be scored** and remain in place for the repitch. **No scored shoes will have the scoring changed** due to a repitch.” If/when shoes are ordered to be re-pitched by the judge, the inning has been “re-opened”, and based on another current Rule (see Rule 6, Sec E.1), the scoring for the one or more shoes below the shoe(s) in question is to be determined “once the four shoes of the inning have been pitched”; not *before* all four shoes are pitched. The wording in these two current Rules is contradictory. Also, what if a re-pitched shoe ends up closer to the stake than an opponent's shoe that has already been scored and awarded the single point? This proposed change will resolve this existing contradiction and correct any potential scoring errors.

6. **Leaving The Courts** – *If a contestant has to leave the area of the court complex between games for a legitimate reason, they shall notify their next opponent, the scorekeeper, or a Tournament/League Official and shall return soon after the last game of that round is completed. Failure to return in a reasonable period of time (to be determined by the Tournament/League Officials) will result in the forfeiture of that next game.* **Reason for addition:** This specific information is not included in the current Rules or Bylaws. As this situation happens often during tournaments, both contestants and Tournament/League Officials need to know the procedure/consequences for this occurrence.

RULE 5 – FOUL SHOES

Section A – Removal from Pit

Note: *Live shoes already in the pit area that may be disturbed by a foul shoe (or other live shoes), are not to be removed, unless they are knocked into foul territory and then come to rest in the scoring area. Live shoes shall be scored “as they lie”, after all shoes for the inning have been pitched.*

Reason for addition: This information is *not* in the current Rules or Bylaws and is needed here to answer a question often asked by beginners: “What if a ringer gets knocked off by another shoe. Does it still count?”

RULE 6 – SCORING THE GAME, CALLING THE SCORE

Section B – Calling the Score

1. Cancellation Play

(b) **The Correct Call** – *When calling the score, ringers (if made) shall be reported first, and then points.* **Note:** *Contestants from different regions may use different phrases for calling the scores. (Recommended and alternative calls can be found in GUIDELINES PART I, #2.)*

Reason for Change: Currently (see Rule 8, Section A.2), the “correct” calls for scoring are designated. These “rules” for calling the score are not followed by many pitchers, are controversial, and are difficult/impossible to enforce. The re-write committee, and others, felt that the best solution to this “problem” was to move the “calls” to the Guidelines Sections, where there is a listing of “recommended” and “alternate” calls (see above reference).

2. Count-all Play

(a) **Called By** – *The score shall be called to the scorekeeper by only one of the two contestants, for the entire game, inning by inning. The person who calls the score shall be determined by Sanctioned League rules or by the Tournament/League Officials.*

(b) **The Correct Call** – *The caller shall report his/her score first, followed by the opponent's score. Since there are no cancelled ringers, only number scores shall be reported (see Section A.2, above).*

Reason for the above additions: Although count-all scoring is described in Rule 8, Section B of the current Rules, there is not information about who calls the score or how it is to be called.

RULE 7 – PITCHING ROTATION DURING THE GAME

Section D – Pacer Rotation

If a pacer is used, the pacer will always pitch last; for all innings (see GUIDELINES PART I, #5 for additional information about pacers). **Reason for addition:** Currently, there is no information about pacers in the Rules or Bylaws, and as pacers are often used in tournament play, this information (and also the information added to the Guidelines, referenced above), is an important addition.

RULE 11 – TOURNAMENT/LEAGUE PLAY

Section A – Standard Method of Sanctioned Tournament Play

(last sentence) *To credit contestants with an official tournament for NATSTATS purposes, at least half of the scheduled games must be completed, or a minimum of one hundred (100) shoes pitched.*

Reason for Change: In the current Bylaws (Article XII, Section 5), the last phrase of the above sentence reads, “In no event shall that be less than two (2) games.” As a result of some communications from Charter Committees/individual input, we have learned that there are some “special” tournament formats where a team captain may control how many games may be pitched by the “team” members. This could result in a contestant not receiving credit for this event, if they pitched less than half of the scheduled games. The suggested change (in italics above) may solve this problem. The 100-shoe amount is based on the 100-shoe requirement for the seeding of contestants who have no established average. This change may also have some implications for the forfeiture rule, when a contestant may have to withdraw for legitimate reasons.

RULE 11 – TOURNAMENT/LEAGUE PLAY

Section E – Mixed Classes

If there are not enough entrants to form a competitive Class within a given Tournament Division (see Rule 1), contestants should be placed into more competitive “mixed” Classes where the overall ringer percentage “spread” will be less. Mixed Classes are not allowed, however, in some Championship

Classes/Divisions of State Tournaments and also at the World Tournament (see also GUIDELINES, PART II, REQUIREMENT #3 "Mixing", and REQUIREMENT #4 "Divisions").

Reason for addition: There is currently no information in the current Rules or Bylaws about when or why the "mixing" of classes can/should be used.

RULE 12 – APPROPRIATE NHPA MEMBER CONDUCT

Section E – Cell Phones

During the World and State tournaments, the use of cell phones shall not be allowed by anyone on the courts. This rule may also be adopted at the Charter level or may be enforced at the State or local level, if announced in advance by the Tournament/League Officials. Violations may result in the forfeiture of games. **Reason for addition:** This information is not included in the current Rules or Bylaws. The increased popularity and use of cell phones in recent years makes it necessary to limit their use on the courts as they may create an unnecessary distraction to the contestants.

GUIDELINES SECTION:

PART I – GUIDELINE 2 – CALLING THE SCORE

Section A – Recommended Calls – Note: The text information in this section was moved here from the current Rules (see Rule 8, Section A). All of these recommended calls (also in Section B) remain the same, *except* for the following: "two dead, one point" replaces "one ringer each, one point", "two dead, three points" replaces "three ringers, three points", and "two dead, no score" replaces "one ringer each, no score". These are now the *recommended* calls. **Reasons for change:** For each of these recommended calls, "dead" refers to cancelled ringers, and as you may also know, the call "four dead" has been used for a long time. As a result of input/suggestions from individuals on the NHPA Message Board, Charter review committees, and many other individuals, the calls "two dead" and "four dead" are thought to be easier for scorekeepers to hear/understand and using the term "dead" offers more consistency for the calling of cancelled ringers. As these calls, and others, are only "recommended", other calls preferred by some may continue to be used. **Note:** The above is provided here only for your information, and since this is only *recommended* information, this does not require a vote by the delegates.

PART II – REQUIREMENT 3 – CHARTER/STATE INFORMATION

Section A – Championship Play

3. Residency

State Championship Tournaments are open only to those NHPA members who legally reside in that State and meet the regular eligibility requirements imposed for the event. An exception to this shall be active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their *immediate family (if married)* who may pitch in the State Championship event of any State in which they are stationed/reside, provided they meet the other eligibility requirements of that Charter. No one will be allowed to pitch in more than one State Championship Tournament per year. **Reason for change:** This change is proposed here only for clarification. The way that it is currently worded (see Article VII, Section 10 of the current Bylaws): "U.S. Armed Forces and their families who may pitch...", is open to interpretation. This more precise wording leaves no doubt as to what "families" means.

REQUIREMENT 4 – WORLD TOURNAMENT PLAY

Section G – Eligibility

All entrants shall have their eligibility and entering percentage verified by NATSTATS

Exemptions – An exception to the requirement of four (4) sanctioned events shall be active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their immediate family (if married), provided they meet the other eligibility requirements. Entering averages for foreign entrants and active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their immediate family, not in the NATSTATS database, will be verified by other means. (See RULE 11, Section D.1) **Reason for addition:** There is currently no provision in the current Bylaws for waiving this eligibility requirement (see Article X: World Tournaments, Section 8) which would allow active-duty members of the US armed forces to pitch in the World Tournament, if their schedule permitted them this opportunity.

SPECIFICATIONS SECTION: Note: No changes have been made to any of the actual measurement specifications in this section, so all critical measurements are the same as in the current Rules. Beyond the additions included here, you will notice that this information, from the current Rules, has been re-organized and that some of the wording has been changed, for clarity.

I – EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

SECTION C – Legal Horseshoe Repair

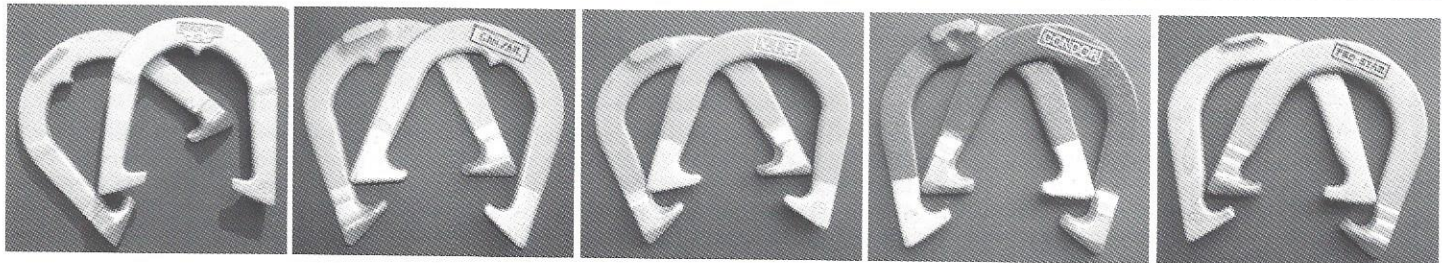
Through prolonged use, horseshoes may become bent or warped and "mushrooming" or "roll-over" may occur on the inside of the "toe" area, or elsewhere. Horseshoes may also crack or break into two or more parts. When possible, these conditions may be corrected by grinding, heating, pounding, or welding of the shoes, so long as the original design of the shoe is not altered in the process and so long as they still meet all of the measurement requirements for NHPA sanctioned horseshoes. (see Section A above) **Reason for addition:** There is currently no specific information in the Rules or Bylaws about how horseshoes may be repaired. This new section provides information on how horseshoes may be legally repaired for use in sanctioned competition.

II – SPECIFICATIONS FOR COURT LAYOUT (also see diagram on back cover of RGS Book)

SECTION A – Sanctioning of Courts (read Sections A through E)

Reasons for additions: There is currently no information in the Rules or Bylaws about the sanctioning of horseshoe courts. A court sanctioning form has been developed for use by Regional Directors for the sanctioning of courts, but there is no current rule specifying that sanctioned tournaments and leagues must be held on sanctioned courts. This new addition will require that all court complexes comply with at least the minimum requirements of specified pitching distances, minimum pit dimensions, correct stake dimensions and placement, and NHPA approved pit substances, for all sanctioned leagues and tournaments. Court complexes that are in compliance with these minimum requirements (but *not all* of the court specifications) will be issued a Conditional Court Sanction Certificate by the Charter/State Regional Director. At such time that *all* of the court specifications may be met (see Section B), a Full Court Sanction Certificate can then be issued by the Charter/Regional Director, upon verification. All State, Regional, or World Championship events must be contested on fully-sanctioned courts (see exceptions in Section D). Exceptions include the "grandfathering" of permanent court complexes built prior to January 1, 1994, but these court complexes must also meet all of the conditions for Conditional Court Sanction certification.

SECTION B – 4, b.2 – Short-Distance Pitching Platforms and Walkways – The pitching platforms, on each side of both pits, shall be extended forward for the full length of the court to provide a continuous walkway and to accommodate short-distance pitchers...Reason for addition: For fully-sanctioned court complexes, full-distance pitching platforms/walkways will be required and will accommodate the Cadet Juniors and their 20-foot foul line. For conditionally-sanctioned court complexes, at least *some* full length pitching platforms/walkways should be provided for the Cadet Juniors.



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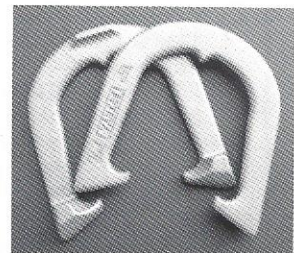
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THE OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES, GUIDELINES, AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE SPORT OF HORSESHOE PITCHING

(aka The RGS Book)

Published by The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA)

(January 1, 2007)

PLAYING RULES – This section explains the playing rules of horseshoes and may specify a general or specific penalty for violations. These rules apply for all NHPA-sanctioned events, which includes tournament play and/or league play. All contestants, including pacers and/or league substitutes, must be current NHPA members (see Bylaws for additional information). Failure of contestants to abide by these rules may result in penalties that range from a verbal reminder, to loss of points, to forfeiture of games, or to suspension of membership, while failure of the Tournament/League Officials (or designees) to monitor and enforce these rules could result in penalties to the club or Charter. This same information can also be found on the NHPA website at www.horseshoepitching.com and is recommended for anyone playing the game for recreation or non-sanctioned play.

RULE 1 – PITCHING DIVISIONS

Section A – Juniors (See GUIDELINES PART II REQUIREMENT 6, for exceptions and additional information)

1. **Junior Cadets** (any pitcher nine (9) years old or younger for the entire calendar year)

Junior Cadets may pitch from any place on the extended or full-distance platforms and shall observe the twenty-foot (20') foul line. *Note:* Junior Cadets may choose to move into the Junior Boys or Junior Girls prior to the age guidelines, but cannot return to the Junior Cadets, once this declaration has been made.

2. **Junior Boys** (any male pitcher eighteen (18) years old or younger for the entire calendar year)

Junior Boys may pitch from any place on the extended or full-distance platforms. They shall observe the twenty-seven-foot (27') foul lines. *Note:* Junior Boys may choose to move into the Open Men Division prior to the age guidelines, but cannot return to the Junior Boys, once this declaration has been made.

3. **Junior Girls** (any female pitcher eighteen (18) years old or younger for the entire calendar year)

Junior Girls may pitch from any place on the extended or full-distance platforms. They shall observe the twenty-seven-foot (27') foul lines. *Note:* Junior Girls may choose to move into the Open Women Division prior to the age guidelines, but cannot return to the Junior Girls, once this declaration has been made.

Section B – Open Men (no age restriction)

Open Men contestants shall pitch from on or behind the full-distance platforms and shall observe the thirty-seven-foot (37') foul line.

Section C – Open Women (no age restriction)

Open Women contestants may pitch from any place on the extended or full-distance platforms and shall observe the twenty-seven-foot (27') foul line.

Section D – Seniors (become eligible to pitch in the Senior Division at any time during the calendar year that they become sixty (60) years old) *Note:* Seniors may choose to remain in the Open Men or Open Women Divisions.

1. **Senior Men** shall pitch from on or behind the full-distance platforms and shall observe the thirty-seven-foot (37') foul line.

2. **Senior Women** may pitch from any place on the extended or full-distance platforms and shall observe the twenty-seven-foot (27') foul line.

Section E – Elder Men (become eligible to pitch in the Elders Division at any time during the calendar year that they become seventy (70) years old)

1. **Elder Men** may pitch from any place on either the extended or full-distance platforms, and shall observe the twenty-seven-foot (27') foul line. Elder Men must notify their Charter secretary, in advance, of the date that they intend to begin pitching from this shorter distance. Once a member declares himself a short distance pitcher, he must remain a short distance pitcher for that entire calendar year. *Note:* See RULE 11, Section D.1 for additional information about re-qualifying.

2. **Physically Challenged Men** – Physically challenged, male pitchers less than seventy (70) years old may be given permission, by their governing Charter, to move onto the extended platforms in the *Elders Division* and observe the twenty-seven-foot (27') foul lines. The prior completion and approval of a Medical Exemption Form (available from Charter Secretaries) is required. At the World Tournament and at State Championship Tournaments, they shall compete in the Elders Division.

RULE 2 – GAME PREPARATION

Section A – Court Assignment

Each contestant shall find his or her court assignment and warm up on that court for their first game. The court shall be prepared for play in a timely manner so that all games can begin at about the same time.

Section B – Pit Preparation and Maintenance

Contestants (or designee) are responsible for preparing one of the pits of their assigned courts before each game. This preparation includes watering and turning of the clay (if needed), to keep it in a soft, putty-like condition. Upon completion, the pit material shall be level, with no evidence of a “dome” or “pocket” within the scoring area. For raised pits, the pit material should be prepared in the same way as above, and at a depth of four inches (4”), within the scoring area. Once a game has started, clay pit material within the scoring area may not be moved or altered without consent of the opponent. Sand or dirt pit material, however, may be re-leveled during the game, without consent of the opponent. Any pit material moved for the measurement of a shoe or for the removal of a “buried” shoe may be replaced.

Section C – Painting of Stakes

To make the stakes more visible for the contestants, they may be painted between games (white paint is often used) so that there is a good contrast between the color of the stake and the color of the backboard. The painting of stakes shall not be allowed while a game is in progress, unless both contestants are in agreement.

Section D – Start of Each Tournament/Class

The tournament officials will make an announcement when it is time for the tournament/class to begin. The first game should not begin before this announcement. The flip of a shoe(s) or coin(s) shall signify the beginning of each game. The winner of the flip will have choice of first or second pitch.

Section E – Court Rotation

At the end of each game, contestants shall go promptly to their next assigned court. If the court is vacant, they may practice here at this time. *After the games on adjacent courts are completed*, both pits shall be prepared for play (see Section B above). When the scorekeeper is ready, the contestants have the option of pitching no more than four (4) additional warm-up shoes each, and then the next game must begin immediately.

RULE 3 – PLAY OF THE GAME AND VALUE OF THE SHOE

Section A – Innings

The game is divided into innings. Each inning consists of four (4) pitched shoes; two (2) by each contestant.

Section B – Value of the Shoe

1. **Pitched shoes** – After all shoes for the inning have been pitched, they are either considered to be “live shoes” or “dead shoes” and may then be scored accordingly.

- (a) **Live Shoe** – Refers to any shoe that has been pitched in compliance with the rules of the game and that comes to rest within the pit area.

- (b) **Dead Shoe** – Another term for a foul shoe that was delivered in non-compliance with one of the rules of the game. This term may also refer to a ringer that has been “cancelled” by an opponent’s ringer.

2. **Shoe in Count**

- (a) **Ringers** – A ringer is a *live* shoe that comes to rest while encircling the stake. A straightedge touching either the points or any part of the heel calks of the shoe must clear (not touch) the stake in order to be declared a ringer. A ringer has a value of three (3) points.

- (b) **Points** – A *live* shoe that is not a ringer, but comes to rest six inches (6”) or closer to the stake, has a value of one (1) point. This includes a “leaner”.

3. **Shoe out of Count** – A shoe that comes to rest more than six inches (6”) from the stake is a shoe “out of count” and has no scoring value. A foul shoe (see Rule 4 for additional information) is also considered to be a shoe that is out of count, no matter where it comes to rest.

Section C – Delivery of Shoes

1. **Delivery** – The contestant pitching first shall deliver both shoes (one at a time) and then the other contestant shall deliver both shoes (one at a time). A contestant may deliver the shoes from either the left or right pitching platform, but in any one inning, both shoes must be delivered from the same platform. A contestant shall pitch the entire tournament with the same hand/arm, except in the case of a medical emergency (to be determined by the Tournament/League Officials).
2. **Time Limit** – A contestant shall deliver both shoes within thirty (30) seconds. This time limitation shall be determined by a judge and will start when the contestant steps onto the pitching platform with the intention of pitching and is in a “set” position for the first pitch.

Exceptions:

- (a) Extra time will be allowed to repair a damaged shoe (filing a burr for example).
 - (b) If a contestant becomes distracted due to unusual playing conditions or by another contestant or spectator, they will not be penalized for this additional time.
3. **Accidental Release** – Any shoe that leaves a contestant’s hand once the final step (if taken) and final forward swing of the delivery process has started, shall count as a pitched shoe. A shoe that is accidentally dropped by a contestant before the final step (if taken) and final forward swing has started, shall not be considered a foul shoe and may be picked up and pitched.

Section D – Position of Contestants During Delivery

1. **The Pitcher** – During the entire address and release of a shoe, the contestant must not start or step completely outside the platform with either foot.
Exceptions:
 - (a) A contestant observing the thirty-seven-foot (37’) foul line may start directly behind the platform provided they step within it when they release the shoe.
 - (b) A physically challenged contestant must have at least some contact with the platform and be completely behind the twenty-seven-foot (27’) foul line when the shoe is released.
2. **The Opponent** – When not pitching, the opponent shall stand quietly and stationary on or behind the same court’s opposite pitching platform and at least two feet (2’) behind the contestant who is pitching from the same or adjacent court. In mixed-distance pitching, a short-distance contestant who pitches first must return to this position; on or behind the forty-foot (40’) pitching platform.
3. **The Contestants** – If both contestants use the same pitching platform to deliver their shoes, the contestant pitching first should cross over (in front of the pit) to the other platform and then move back to the position described in # 2, above. As the first contestant is crossing over in front, the second contestant should be crossing over and onto the same platform, from the rear. If the contestants use opposite platforms, the contestant who pitches first should step directly back to the position described in # 2, above.

RULE 4 – FLOW OF THE GAME

Section A – Possible Delays

1. **Scoring** – Once the four (4) shoes of an inning have been pitched, the contestants shall walk to the opposite pit to determine the score for the inning and retrieve their shoes. No shoe shall be moved before its’ scoring value is determined. If this decision is in doubt, a judge shall be called. The judge shall make the necessary measurements and determine the scoring for the shoe(s) in question. To help speed up play, contestants are encouraged to carry measuring tools and to make their own decisions on scoring, whenever possible. Play shall continue in a similar fashion for each inning until the game is completed.
2. **Opposite Stake** – No contestant shall walk to the opposite stake (except to remove a foul shoe) or ask to be informed about the position of any pitched shoes prior to the completion of an inning.
3. **Spare Shoes** – At any one time, a contestant shall carry and use only two (2) sanctioned horseshoes during the course of a game. A spare shoe or shoes should be taken along to the courts in case of a broken shoe or if the contestant chooses to switch shoes. Shoes may be switched between innings, but not during an inning, unless a shoe breaks.
4. **Wrong Shoe** – If it is discovered during an inning that a contestant has pitched the shoe of an opponent (and if the opponent agrees), the remaining shoes may be pitched and the score will be based on the shoes they pitched. If the contestants do not agree on pitching the remaining shoes, then the shoes pitched shall be picked up and the entire inning shall be re-pitched, using the correct shoes. If the contestants fail to discover this error until after all four (4) shoes have been pitched, the inning shall be scored on the basis of whatever shoes they pitched. If agreement cannot be reached, a judge shall be called. Based upon input from the contestants, the judge shall either determine the scoring for the inning or void it and order the inning to be re-pitched.
5. **Moving The Shoe Or Stake** – When a *contestant* is measuring a shoe and the shoe (or the stake) is accidentally moved, the inning shall be scored only if the contestants can come to an agreement. If no agreement can be reached, a judge shall be called. The judge shall either determine the scoring or void the inning and order it to be re-pitched. When a *judge* is measuring a shoe and the shoe (or the stake) is accidentally moved, the judge shall either determine the scoring for the inning or void it and order it to be re-pitched.

Exceptions: Any shoes for which point values have been agreed upon by the contestants (such as ringers which may have been removed to measure other shoes) should not be re-pitched or have their value changed due to a re-pitch of other shoes. Only the shoe(s) in question when the shoe or stake was moved should be ordered re-pitched by the judge. If one or more shoes are below the shoe(s) in question, they shall remain in place for the re-pitch and shall be scored at the completion of the inning.

6. **Leaving The Courts** – If a contestant has to leave the area of the court complex between games for a legitimate reason, they shall notify their next opponent, the scorekeeper, or a Tournament/League Official and shall return soon after the last game of that round is completed. Failure to return in a reasonable period of time (to be determined by the Tournament/League Officials) will result in the forfeiture of that *next* game.

RULE 5 – FOUL SHOES

Section A – Removal from Pit

A *foul shoe* is a shoe that is delivered in non-compliance with one of the rules listed below. It scores as a shoe “out of count” (see RULE 3, Section B.3) and is to be removed from the pit (if it appears to be within the scoring area of the stake) before any more shoes are pitched. **Note:** *Live* shoes already in the pit area that may be disturbed by a foul shoe (or other live shoes), are not to be removed, unless they are knocked into foul territory and then come to rest in the scoring area. Live shoes shall be scored “as they lie”, after all shoes for the inning have been pitched.

Section B – Enforcing Violations

1. Enforced by Judge

The following are rule violations that must be spotted and called by an assigned judge. The penalty is to declare the shoe a foul shoe.

- (a) Any shoe pitched when the contestant, during the delivery, has stepped on or over the foul line before releasing the shoe.
- (b) Any shoe pitched when the contestant has started or stepped completely outside the pitching platform with either foot before releasing the shoe (see exceptions in RULE 3, Section D-1a, 1b).
- (c) Any shoe not delivered within the thirty (30) second time limit (see RULE 3, Section C-2).

2. Monitored by Judge and Contestants

The following occurrences are also considered *foul shoes* and, where it applies, the shoes must be removed from the pit (if they appear to be in the scoring area of the stake) before any more shoes are delivered, unless all contestants in that game agree to leave a foul shoe where it is.

- (a) Any shoe pitched with the opposite hand/arm; in the same tournament (See also Rule 3, Section C.1).
- (b) The second shoe, if it is pitched from a different platform than the first shoe.
- (c) Any shoe that contacts the backboard, platform, court frame, or any ground outside the pit area before it comes to rest.
- (d) Any shoe that strikes a permanent object such as a tree limb, wire, indoor court ceiling, etc. **Note:** A shoe that strikes a foreign, moving object is not foul and may be re-pitched.

- (e) The second shoe if the contestant changes shoes after the first shoe has been pitched. The only exception is if the first shoe has broken and qualifies for a re-pitch.
- (f) A contestant's shoe(s), if the contestant removes any shoe before the scoring of that shoe has been agreed upon. If the contestants cannot agree, a judge shall be called to determine the scoring or may order the inning re-pitched.

RULE 6 – SCORING THE GAME, CALLING THE SCORE

Section A – Methods of Scoring

There are *two methods* of scoring the game of horseshoes: *cancellation scoring* and *count-all scoring*. The method of scoring to be used shall be announced by the Tournament/League Officials before the tournament begins. **Note:** Shoes that land outside of the “in count” area or that are declared foul shoes (see RULE 4) shall score zero (0) points.

1. **Cancellation Scoring** – In cancellation scoring, the ringers of one contestant *cancel* the ringers of the opponent. Cancelled ringers are also referred to as “dead” ringers. **Note:** only *one* contestant can score in each inning.
 - (a) **Ringer Point Values** – The ringer(s) of one contestant cancel the ringer(s) of the opponent. Any cancelled ringer scores zero (0) points. Any un-cancelled (live) ringer scores three (3) points.
 - (b) **Shoes In Count** – A shoe six (6”) inches or closer to the stake is “in count” and shall score one (1) point under the following conditions:
 1. If there are two (2) cancelled (dead) ringers and no live ringer, the closest shoe to the stake, which is in count, shall score one (1) point.
 2. If there are no ringers, the closest shoe in count shall score one (1) point. If the other shoe of the same contestant is the second closest shoe in count, it shall also score one (1) point.
 3. If there is one un-cancelled (live) ringer and if the other shoe, of the scoring contestant, is the closest in-count shoe to the stake, it shall score one (1) point (a total of four (4) points).
 4. Opposing contestant's shoes that are touching the stake, or that are in count and determined to be an equal distance from the stake, shall cancel each other and, like cancelled ringers, shall score zero (0) points. In this situation, the next closest shoe in count (if there is one) shall score one (1) point.
2. **Count-all Scoring** – In count-all scoring, *both* contestants receive credit for the points they score in each inning.
 - (a) **Point Values** – Each contestant may score zero (0), one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4), or six (6) points per inning.
 - (b) **“Ringers Only”** – A variation of count-all scoring where the contestants only receive credit for the *ringers* they pitch, for all innings of the game. In this format, each ringer is worth one (1) point. Each contestant may score zero (0), one (1), or two (2) points per inning. This type of scoring should be limited to higher percentage classes. **Note:** Single points are not countable in this format.

Section B – Calling the Score

1. **Cancellation Play**
 - (a) **Called By** – The score shall be called to the scorekeeper by the contestant who scores one or more points, inning by inning. If no points are scored, the contestant who pitched second in the previous inning will call the score.
 - (b) **The Correct Call** – When calling the score, ringers (if made) shall be reported first, and then points (if made). **Note:** Contestants from different regions may use different phrases for calling the scores. (Recommended and alternative calls can be found in GUIDELINES PART I, #2.)
2. **Count-all Play**
 - (a) **Called By** – The score shall be called to the scorekeeper by only one of the two contestants, for the entire game, inning by inning. The person who calls the score shall be determined by Sanctioned League rules or by the Tournament/League Officials.
 - (b) **The Correct Call** – The caller shall report his/her score first, followed by the opponent's score. Since there are no cancelled ringers, only number scores shall be reported (see Section A.2, above). **Note:** It is most important that the scorekeeper credits each contestant with their correct score and understands how many ringers are associated with each number called (see GUIDELINES PART I, #3).

Section C – Recording the Score

The score sheet (not the scoring device) shall be the official record of the game. When possible, contestants are encouraged to pay close attention to the score at all times. If a question or discrepancy occurs regarding the correct score, the contestants may approach the scorekeeper between innings (or during their half inning) to clarify the situation. If the discrepancy cannot be corrected to the satisfaction of both contestants, a judge or Tournament/League Official shall be called to make the final decision before play resumes.

RULE 7 – PITCHING ROTATION DURING THE GAME

Section A – Cancellation Rotation

After the flip of a shoe(s) or coin(s), the winner will choose who pitches first. If the game is to be played under cancellation scoring, there are two (2) ways to determine who will pitch first in the *next* inning, once the game has started. The method to be used shall be determined and announced before play begins, by the Tournament/League Officials.

1. **Cancellation Play** – The contestant who scored in the preceding inning shall pitch first in the next inning. If neither contestant scores, the contestant who pitched last in the preceding inning shall pitch first in the next inning.
2. **Alternate First Pitch** – Alternate first pitch is used to guarantee each contestant an equal number of first and second pitches during a game. It may also allow for differing pitching conditions. If the game is to be played to a shoe limit, it is recommended that this limit be a number divisible by four (4). Alternate first pitch shall be done in one (1) of three (3) ways:
 - (a) One contestant shall pitch first in innings 1, 4-5, 8-9, 12-13, 16-17, etc. while the other contestant shall pitch first in innings 2-3, 6-7, 10-11, 14-15, etc. until the game is completed. This is the fairest way and is recommended.
 - (b) One contestant shall pitch first in innings 1-2, 5-6, 9-10, 13-14, etc. while the other contestant shall pitch first in innings 3-4, 7-8, 11-12, 15-16, etc. until the game is completed.
 - (c) One contestant shall pitch first from one end of the court, and the opponent shall pitch first from the opposite end.

Section B – Count-All Rotation

Any game played using count-all scoring shall also use one of the alternate-pitch formats, described above in Section A-2.

Section C – Handicap Rotation

Any game played under any kind of handicap system shall use one of the alternate-pitch formats, described above in Section A-2.

Section D – Pacer Rotation

If a pacer is used, the pacer will always pitch last; for all innings (see GUIDELINES PART I, #5 for additional information about pacers).

Section E – Pitching Out Of Turn

If it is discovered during an inning (before all four (4) shoes are pitched) that the wrong contestant has pitched first, the shoes pitched so far in that inning shall be re-pitched. If the error is not discovered until after all four (4) shoes have been delivered, they shall be scored as they lie and the original rotation shall be re-established for the rest of the game. If no agreement can be reached, a judge shall be called. The judge shall either determine the scoring or void the inning and order it to be re-pitched.

RULE 8 – LENGTH OF GAMES, BREAKING OF TIE GAMES

Section A – Length of Games

There are three (3) options:

1. **Point Limit** – The game shall be played to a pre-determined number of points. Forty (40) points is a suggested amount. The first contestant to reach (or exceed) that amount is the winner.
2. **Shoe Limit** – The game shall be played to a pre-determined even number of shoes. Forty (40) or fifty (50) shoes is a suggested amount. When that number is reached, the contestant with the highest score is the winner.
3. **Point Limit or Shoe Limit** – For example, forty (40) points or fifty (50) shoes, whichever comes first.

Section B – Breaking of Tie Games

There are two (2) options:

1. **Game Remains Tied** – Each contestant may receive ½ win and ½ loss. (This option must be used if a handicap system is in effect).
2. **Additional Innings** – A two-inning tiebreaker may be played, using the same method of play that was used to begin the game. In the event of another tie, this same procedure shall be continued until the tie is broken. **Note:** In “Point Limit or Shoe Limit” games (see A-3, above), the contestant who *may* reach (or exceed) the point limit *first* is the winner.

RULE 9 – BROKEN OR CRACKED SHOES

Section A – Broken Shoes

1. **Upon Delivery** – If a shoe breaks into two or more pieces as a result of striking the stake, striking another shoe in the pit, or from landing into the pit substance, the pieces shall be removed and a replacement shoe shall be pitched in its place. If the shoe breaks when striking the backboard or other “foul” territory, it shall be considered a foul shoe and may not be re-pitched.
2. **After Delivery** – If a shoe has landed in the pit and becomes broken by having another shoe land on it, it shall be scored, as it appears to lie. If there is any disagreement, a judge shall be called. The judge shall either determine the scoring for the inning or order a replacement shoe to be re-pitched.

Section B – Cracked Shoes

If it is discovered that a shoe is cracked (but not completely broken into two or more pieces), it shall be scored as it lies. If there is any disagreement, a judge shall be called. The judge shall either determine the scoring for the inning or order a replacement shoe to be re-pitched. In any event, a cracked shoe must be replaced before the game can continue.

RULE 10 – LOOSE OR BROKEN STAKES

Section A – Loose Stakes

Stakes that are obviously loose, and can be easily moved out of position, shall be replaced before Sanctioned League or Tournament play begins. If a stake becomes loosened *during* Sanctioned League or Tournament play, immediate replacement is recommended. If this is not possible, care should be taken *not* to move the stake during the measurement of shoes. This stake shall be replaced before the next sanctioned event.

Section B – Broken Stakes

If a stake appears to have become broken during sanctioned play, a judge or Tournament/League Official shall be called to make this determination before the stake or shoes are moved. If the stake *is* determined to be broken, the game shall be discontinued at the end of the previous inning and the stake shall be replaced. If a stake breaks as the result of being struck by the fourth shoe of the inning, then the inning may be counted. If the contestants cannot agree on this, then a judge shall be called to determine the scoring for the inning or void it and order the inning to be re-pitched, once the game resumes. Once the scoring for the inning is determined, the Tournament/League Officials may decide to resume play after the stake is replaced, to complete the game on another court, or to complete the game at a later time. A judge or Tournament/League Official will notify the contestants about resumption of play.

RULE 11 – TOURNAMENT/LEAGUE PLAY

Section A – Standard Method of Sanctioned Tournament Play

The standard method of NHPA Sanctioned Tournament play is round-robin play with contestants being seeded into classes using current NATSTATS ringer percentages. Each contestant will play all other contestants in the Class. Court assignments and the order of play will follow a posted or printed schedule, normally given to each contestant at the beginning of the contest. To credit contestants with an official tournament for NATSTATS purposes, at least half of the scheduled games must be completed, or a minimum of one hundred (100) shoes must be pitched.

Section B – Determining Class Winners, Breaking of Ties

The Tournament Officials shall decide how Class winners are to be determined and how ties are to be broken and shall announce these procedures before tournament play begins.

Class Winners – At the end of round-robin play, win/loss records or ringer percentage shall determine Class winners. In addition, total points may be used if the scoring was done using the count-all method.

Ties – If ties occur, they shall be broken by playoff, ringer percentage, total points, who-beat-whom, or other methods that were not used to determine the winners. In World, National, Regional and State Championships, all ties for first place in the *Championship Class* of a designated Division must be broken by a playoff game.

Section C – Ringer Percentage

A contestant's game and tournament ringer percentage shall be determined by dividing the total number of ringers by the total number of shoes pitched. Shoes pitched in playoff games and in extra innings pitched, because of tie games, shall be included in these totals.

Section D – Seeding Contestants

Contestants shall be seeded into Tournament Classes based on their current NATSTATS ringer percentage at the time of the entry deadline. An exception could be the top seeding of a defending champion (not required) when his/her current NATSTATS ringer percentage isn't the highest percentage within the Championship group. All NATSTATS average ringer percentages shall be based on the three (3) highest NHPA sanctioned events pitched in the preceding twelve (12) months, or among the last ten (10) sanctioned events pitched during the same period, whichever occurs first. The NATSTATS average ringer percentage is calculated by dividing the total number of ringers by the total number of shoes pitched for those three (3) events.

1. **No Current Average** – Any contestant without a current ringer average at their pitching distance shall pitch a minimum of one hundred (100) consecutive shoes on a sanctioned court to establish their tournament seeding percentage. This qualifying must be scored in writing and witnessed by two (2) NHPA members no more than thirty (30) days prior to the entry deadline. Alternately, NHPA Sanctioned League ringer percentage averages may be used if they are based on four hundred (400) or more shoes.
2. **Less Than Three (3) Events** – Contestants with less than three (3) sanctioned events shall use the combined ringer percentage average of the one (1) or two (2) sanctioned events in which they have pitched. This may include the one hundred (100)-shoe qualifier described above.
3. **Other Options** – The number of sanctioned events required for entering a tournament may vary and shall be determined and announced in advance by the Tournament/League Officials.

Section E – Mixed Classes

If there are not enough entrants to form a competitive Class within a given Tournament Division (see Rule 1), contestants should be placed into more competitive “mixed” Classes where the overall ringer percentage “spread” will be less. Mixed Classes are not allowed, however, in some Championship Classes/Divisions of State Tournaments and also at the World Tournament (see also GUIDELINES, PART II, REQUIREMENT #3 “Mixing”, and REQUIREMENT #4 “Divisions”).

Section F – Handicapping

Handicapping may be used in open tournaments and in league play. The Tournament/League Officials shall determine the amount of the handicap. Class winners will be determined by win/loss record or by total points. An alternate-pitch format shall be used. For the breaking of ties, the options in Section B (above) may apply, except that ringer percentage shall not be used. Game handicapping shall not be used in any World, National, or Regional Tournament or in the Championship Class of a designated Division of any State Championship Tournament.

Section G – Forfeits

In tournament competition, the wins and losses and all statistics accumulated shall remain in the books for a contestant who has to forfeit one (1) or more games, for any reason. A contestant may miss any number of games, due to illness or other legitimate reason approved by the Tournament/League Officials, and still be permitted to return to competition. If a contestant forfeits for an unapproved reason, they will not be allowed to return to the competition and will forfeit all prize money and/or awards for that event. Any contestant who forfeits games shall finish wherever their record puts them in the standings, unless they forfeit for unapproved reasons; then they shall finish in last place. If forfeiting for an unapproved reason, this member shall also be subject to a one (1) year suspension from the NHPA (see Bylaws for additional information).

RULE 12 – APPROPRIATE NHPA MEMBER CONDUCT

Section A – On the courts

An NHPA member, while in competition, shall make no disturbing noises or movements that would distract the opponent or contestants on adjacent courts. Other inappropriate behavior would include profanity, abusive language, obscene gestures, etc. The first offense shall call for a warning from the judge or a Tournament/League Official. A second offense shall call for a forfeiture of the game being played. Any further offenses shall call for a forfeiture of all games. This member shall also be subject to a one (1) year suspension from the NHPA (see Bylaws for additional information).

Section B – Sportsmanship

Any NHPA member who indulges in heckling or unfair rooting, uses profanity or abusive language, makes obscene gestures, or exhibits any other form of un-sportsmanlike conduct toward the contestants, Tournament/League Officials, or other NHPA members who are in the area of the courts, shall be subject to expulsion from the Tournament/League and from the Tournament/League site. This member shall also be subject to a one (1) year suspension from the NHPA (see Bylaws for additional information).

Section C – Dress Code

All contestants competing in a World Tournament shall have, as a minimum, their last name and State or Country abbreviation professionally lettered on the back of their shirts. Said shirts cannot be sleeveless. No cut-offs are permitted and closed-toe shoes must be worn. Further dress code restrictions may be imposed by the Executive Council if all entrants are notified no later than the mailing date of their pitching schedules. This Dress Code may also be adopted at the Charter level *or* may be enforced at the State *or* local level, if announced in advance by the Tournament/League Officials. Contestants that do not comply may not be allowed to participate in the event.

Section D – Alcohol, Tobacco Products, and Illegal Controlled Substances

During the World and State tournaments, the use of alcohol, any form of tobacco, or illegal controlled substances while in the confines of the courts shall be prohibited for all contestants, officials, and scorekeepers. This rule may also be adopted at the Charter level *or* may be enforced at the State *or* local level, if announced in advance by the Tournament/League Officials. Violations may result in the forfeiture of games.

Section E – Cell Phones

During the World and State tournaments, the use of cell phones shall not be allowed by anyone on the courts. This rule may also be adopted at the Charter level *or* may be enforced at the State *or* local level, if announced in advance by the Tournament/League Officials. Violations may result in the forfeiture of games.

Section F – Protests

If a contestant does not agree with a ruling or decision, a protest shall be made to the judge or Tournament/League Official(s) at the time the problem occurs. If the problem cannot be resolved on the courts, the Tournament/League Official(s) shall make the final ruling on all protests. This ruling may occur after the game has been completed.

GUIDELINES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS For Sanctioned League and/or Sanctioned Tournament Play – The Guidelines text is divided into two (2) parts. **PART I** provides suggestions/recommendations that may apply for league and/or tournament play, including suggested formats for Doubles Play. This section also includes guidelines for calling the score, keeping score, judging, and for the use of pacers. **PART II** includes requirements (aside from the Playing Rules) that apply for Tournament/League Officials, local Sanctioned Tournaments/Leagues, Charter/State Information, the World Tournament, Special Tournaments, and additional information for Cadet and Junior Pitchers. Violations of these additional requirements may carry penalties, to be assessed and enforced by the Charter Officers and/or Tournament/League Officials.

PART I – SUGGESTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEAGUE AND/OR TOURNAMENT PLAY

GUIDELINE 1 – DOUBLES PLAY

In doubles play, two contestants are partners against another team of two contestants. One contestant from each team will be at each end of the court and the tournament officials should match the contestants so that the highest rated contestant (by percentage) from each team will be pitching from the same end of the court. The Tournament Committee will determine the length of the game and method of play. When contestants are pitching their shoes, the contestants at the other end should be well behind and to the side of the pitcher's box (for their own safety) and in a stationary position so as not to distract the contestants on their own or adjacent courts. Otherwise, all the Playing Rules for singles play shall apply.

Section A – Regular Doubles

In regular doubles, both team members use the same pair of shoes and all contestants stay at the same end of the court for the entire game. To begin the game, the highest-rated contestants will decide on the first pitch and pitch their shoes, just as in singles competition. Their partners, at the opposite end, will decide on and call the score, retrieve the shoes, and pitch them back following the same procedure. The decision on who pitches first in each inning depends upon the scoring system being used, following the rules of singles play. A single score sheet should be used that clearly shows the ringers and shoes pitched by all contestants.

Section B – Walking Doubles

In walking doubles, all contestants will pitch their own shoes. A single score sheet should be used that clearly shows the ringers and shoes pitched by all contestants.

- 1. Shoe-limit Games** – The lower-rated contestants will decide on the first pitch and pitch their four (4) shoes. The higher-rated pitchers will then pitch their four (4) shoes and all pitchers will then walk to the opposite end, decide on the scoring, and pick up their shoes. The scores of the highest-rated team should be recorded first and they will also pitch first for the remainder of the game. Which one of them (and their opponents) pitches first depends upon the scoring system (cancellation or count-all) being used, following the rules of singles play. This procedure will continue until the game is over.

Point-limit Games – The higher-rated contestants will decide on the first pitch and pitch their four (4) shoes. The lower-rated contestants will determine the scoring for these shoes. The partner of the pitcher who scores (or the partner of the contestant who pitched last, in case of a no-score situation) will call or record the score and will pitch first in the next inning. All pitchers will now walk to the opposite end. The highest-rated contestants will pick up their shoes (already scored) and step back. The scoring of the last four (4) shoes pitched will be determined and called or recorded. The contestant calling the score always pitches first. This procedure is continued until the game is over. For safety or other reasons, the Tournament/League Officials may select an alternative walking sequence, as long as the scoring sequence remains the same.

GUIDELINE 2 – CALLING THE SCORE

When calling the score, ringers (if made) shall be reported first, and then points (see Playing RULE 6, Section B, 1-b).

Section A – Recommended Calls

Here are the **recommended** calls for points allowed, in the following situations:

- No ringers with the closest shoe in count – call “one point”.
- No ringers with the two (2) closest shoes in count – call “two points”.
- One (1) ringer with either no shoe in count or the other contestant having the closest shoe in count – call “one ringer, three points”.
- One (1) ringer with the closest shoe in count – call “one ringer, four points”.
- Two (2) cancelled ringers with the closest shoe in count – call “two dead, one point”.
- Two (2) cancelled ringers with one (1) un-cancelled ringer – call “two dead, three points”.
- Two (2) un-cancelled ringers – call “two ringers, six points”.
- Note:** No points shall be awarded in the following situations.
- All four (4) shoes out of count – call “no score”.
- Two (2) cancelled ringers with no other shoes in count – call “two dead, no score”.

- Four (4) cancelled ringers – call “four dead”.

Section B – Alternative Calls – As different phrases may be used in different regions of the country, here is a list of some of the more common **alternative** calls to become familiar with. *Note:* The recommended call (**in bold type**) is listed first, followed by most of the alternative calls that are used.

- **one point** – (usually the same)
- **two points** – (usually the same)
- **one ringer, three points** – “one ringer three”, “ringer three”, “three points”
- **one ringer, four points** – “one ringer four”, “ringer four”, “four points”
- **two dead, one point** – “one ringer each, one point”, “ringer each, one”, “ringers alike, one”
- **two dead, three points** – “three ringers, three points”, “three on three”, “three on a double”, “three, three”, “ringers alike, three”
- **two ringers, six points** – “two ringers, six”, “six points”, “six”
- **no score** – (usually the same), “nobody”, “nobody home”
- **two dead, no score** – “one ringer each, no score”, “ringer each, no score”, “ringer each, nobody”
- **four dead** – (usually the same), “two ringers each, no score”, “four ringers, no score”

GUIDELINE 3 – KEEPING SCORE – Requirements and Suggestions

Scorekeeping is a very essential part of the sport of horseshoe pitching. Individuals recording the score during competition must be familiar with the type of game being played, called scores (see Section F below), the score sheets, round robin cards, the scoreboards and/or electronic score keeping devices; to ensure that recorded scoring errors do not occur.

Section A – Before the Game

Individuals interested in supporting the game by keeping score should inform the Tournament/League Officials of their intent. Usually, a sign-up sheet for scorekeepers is available, listing the time and date for classes of play. Once signed up, individuals are expected to be available on a timely basis. If for some reason they are unable to keep the scheduled signup, the Tournament/League Officials should be notified accordingly.

1. **Proper Dress** – Scorekeepers should be comfortably dressed, and handle personal matters before entering the court area.
2. **Score Sheets** – It is the responsibility of the Tournament/League Officials to provide the required score sheets at all designated courts. The score sheets should be examined to determine that they were properly distributed, and then make sure (by reviewing their round robin cards) that the correct contestants are ready to compete. Scorekeepers must sign all score sheets in case there may be questions later.

Section B – During the Game

All personnel within or near the court complex must be attentive at all times. Scorekeepers must keep their movement to a minimum, and be especially alert for contestants that are in the process of practice or competition, so as not to disturb the contestants and to avoid getting hit by pitched shoes.

1. **Recording the Score** – When the score is called, the results should be immediately posted on the scoreboard, or scoring device. Scorekeepers must then record the ringers and points scored on the score sheet and keep the game scores current. The scorekeeper should be prepared to stop the game when the agreed-to limit on shoes pitched or total points is reached.
 - a. Symbols are used on score sheets to indicate ringers. “Live” ringers are shown with a circle “O” and “canceled” ringers are shown with an “X”. This makes it convenient to summarize, if necessary, for proofing the score sheet for errors.

It is very important that scorekeepers record all ringers to assure that both pitchers receive credit for ringers they pitched, whether live or canceled. “POINTS” column entries should show the number of points called out to the scorekeeper for each inning while the “SCORE” column entry should show each pitcher’s accumulated score subtotal.

Section C – After the Game

During and at the end of each game, the scorekeeper must make certain the scores are properly tallied, and then fill in the round robin cards, if used. When the game has concluded, the contestants must remain at the end of the courts until the score sheet and round robin cards have been completed. Properly completed and signed score sheets will be collected as directed by the Tournament/League Officials. *Note:* The score sheet (not the scoreboard) shall be the official record of the game.

Section D – Scoreboards

For the benefit of spectators and contestants, scoreboards may be positioned at the courts. If so, once the score is recorded on the scoreboard, the correct score must then be marked on the score sheet, being cautious at all times not to disturb the contestants.

Section E – Electronic Scoring Devices

Various programs can be made available for electronic scoring; consequently the scorekeeper should be familiar with the program being used.

Section F – Hand Signals

Certain contestants regularly use hand signals to indicate their score. If this creates a score keeping problem, the contestant(s) should be informed accordingly and asked to use the common score calls in GUIDELINE #2 above.

GUIDELINE 4 – JUDGING

Section A – Responsibilities, Expectations and Duties (also see Judging Guidelines booklet)

Judges are to be appointed by the Tournament/League Officials.

1. **Responsibilities**
 - a. To enforce the rules and issue the proper penalties if and when violations occur.
 - b. To measuring for ringers, the closest shoe to the stake, or for shoes in count.
 - c. To resolve scoring questions or discrepancies, and to answer or resolve any rules questions, when called upon by the contestants.
 - d. To help make the correct decision in situations involving broken shoes, broken stakes, shoes and/or stakes that may be moved by contestants during measurements, shoes pitched out of turn, a contestant’s shoes mistakenly pitched by the opponent, and other questions which may arise.
 - e. To act as a liaison between the contestants and the Tournament/League Officials for all possible questions or situations.
2. **Expectations and Duties**
 - a. During competition, judges should always be available and remain visible to the pitchers. Wearing an orange vest is recommended.
 - b. Judges should be very familiar with the Playing Rules and should have a copy of the current rules with them for reference, if needed.
 - c. Judges should be reasonably healthy, with good hearing and eyesight.
 - d. In addition to their duties, judges should also help out on the courts, where needed. They may be asked to assist with items like keeping watering containers filled, spray paint available, or with picking up score sheets.

GUIDELINE 5 – PACERS

Section A – Use of Pacers All contestants, including pacers and/or league substitutes, must be current NHPA members (see Bylaws for additional information on membership). Pacers are commonly used in place of contestants who have entered a tournament but, for various reasons, do not show up. They may also be used when contestants have to drop out of a tournament due to illness or for other reasons. The use of pacers, if available, is often considered a better alternative than to have contestants “sit out” during a “bye” round.

Section B – Qualified Pacers

Pacers should pitch from the same distance as the others contestants in the Class, unless the Class is “mixed”. They should also be close to or within the same percentage “spread” as the Class and, if possible, wear a shirt with their name and State on the back.

Section C – Awards and Statistics

Since pacers are not "official" contestants in the Class competition, their games will always appear in the "loss" column, they are not eligible for prizes or awards, and their statistics are not to be reported to NATSTATS. Also, they may or may not be asked to pay the scorekeeper for the games they pitch.

PART II – OTHER REQUIREMENTS For Sanctioned Tournaments and/or Sanctioned League Play

REQUIREMENT 1 – TOURNAMENT/LEAGUE OFFICIALS

Section A – Duties and Responsibilities

All NHPA sanctioned tournaments and leagues shall have a designated director or committee to administer the activities of the event. The director or committee shall:

1. Before the Event

- a. Publicize the event well in advance by using the Charter tournament schedule, by posting/distributing "flyers", and/or by using all other available media. The information provided should include available Divisions, the date(s) and location of the event, amount of the entry fee, a prize list, the registration deadline, and any other special/pertinent information.
- b. If the tournament requires pre-registration, the Classes for each Division should be made up in advance and the contestants are to be seeded based on current NATSTATS averages (see RULE 11, Section D).
- c. Contestants should be notified of their pitching dates and times in a timely manner.

2. During the Event

- a. During registration, verify that all entrants are current NHPA members.
- b. Arrange for scorekeeping for each court.
- c. Appoint an official judge(s) and provide them with judging tools, and a copy of the current RGS book.
- d. Before Class play begins:
 1. Announce the method of play (cancellation or count-all), the length of the games (how many shoes or points) and information about alternate pitch, if it will be used.
 2. Announce how winners will be determined, and how ties will be broken
 3. Announce the amount and method for paying scorekeepers (if used).
 4. If scoring devices are used, provide the contestants with a name placard.
 5. Provide a schedule and/or round-robin card of games to be played, including court assignments.
- e. Have statisticians available for the checking and recording of game scores and for the compilation of class results, as the tournament proceeds.
- f. Make the final decisions on any protests, and answer any questions that may arise.
- g. When necessary, make the decision to halt play due to inclement weather or other emergencies and decide when play shall resume, if or when conditions improve.
- h. Present the awards at the end of play.

3. After the Event

Tournament and League results must be submitted to NATSTATS upon completion of any tournament or league. See REQUIREMENT #2, Section I, below, for details and additional information.

REQUIREMENT 2 – ALL NHPA TOURNAMENTS/LEAGUES

All NHPA Tournaments/Leagues shall be conducted at the discretion of the Tournament/League Officials, providing THE OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES, GUIDELINES, AND SPECIFICATIONS are not violated. (See REQUIREMENT #5 below for exception)

Section A – Sanctioning

All NHPA Tournaments shall be sanctioned by the Charter Regional Director in accordance with the published guidelines or directives for NHPA Regional Directors. All NHPA Leagues shall be sanctioned by the Director of the NHPA SANCTIONED CLUB/LEAGUE PROGRAM.

Section B – Eligibility

Tournament entry and league participation is restricted to contestants holding a current NHPA membership card (see Bylaws for additional information) and also to players who meet any imposed eligibility requirements, unless otherwise allowed by the Charter Executive Council. This includes pacers and substitutes.

Section C – Fees

All registration (entry) and any other fees shall be determined by the Tournament/League Officials.

Section D – Division Size

Any division not receiving at least four (4) entries can be canceled, but the entrants shall be given an opportunity to pitch in a Class of another Division.

Section E – Tournament Credit

To credit contestants with an official tournament for NATSTATS purposes, at least half of the scheduled games must be completed, or a minimum of one hundred (100) shoes must be pitched.

Section F – League Credit

All seasonal, sanctioned Club/League play must be four hundred (400) or more pitched shoes to qualify as an official event for NATSTATS purposes.

Section G – Count-All Scoring

The Count-All System of scoring is to be optional throughout any sanctioned event. The exception to this shall be the World and State Championship Tournaments where only the preliminary qualifying rounds may use the count-all method of total points to determine the Championship Classes.

Section H – Total Ringers/Shoes

All ringers and shoes pitched under one sanction number, including additional shoes for breaking of ties and play-off games, shall be included when figuring the totals for that event.

Section I – Reporting Results

- a. **Tournaments** – The Tournament Director or statistician must send Tournament results to the Charter statistician (recommended) and/or to NATSTATS as soon as possible, upon completion of the tournament. A period of not more than two (2) weeks is recommended.
- b. **Leagues** – League results must be sent to the NHPA Sanctioned Club/League Director as soon as possible, upon the completion of the league season. A period of not more than two (2) weeks is recommended. The Sanctioned Club/League Director will forward these results to NATSTATS.

REQUIREMENT 3 – CHARTER/STATE INFORMATION

Section A – Championship Play

Each Charter must hold an NHPA sanctioned State Championship event annually unless there is more than one Charter in the State, in which case the State Tournament will be rotated unless otherwise agreed upon by the involved Charters.

1. Divisions

The State Championship Tournament must advertise and provide an entry form stating the intent to crown champions in at least Men, Women, Junior and Elder Divisions. Other Divisions are an option left to the discretion of the tournament officials. All age limitations for Divisions shall be in accord with RULE 1, Sections A-E.

2. Mixed Play

The Championship Class of the Men and Women's Division in a State Championship Tournament cannot be mixed play. All classes below the Men's and Women's Championship class, as well as all classes in any other Division, may be mixed at the discretion of the Tournament Officials. When other Divisions are mixed in these Championship classes, the champion of each Division will be the highest finishing player in their respective Division. Handicap systems may be used in State Championship play, but any Division Title must be determined by a non-handicap system of play.

3. Residency

State Championship Tournaments are open only to those NHPA members who legally reside in that State and meet the regular eligibility requirements imposed for the event. An exception to this shall be active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their immediate family (if married) who may pitch in the State Championship event of any State in which they are stationed/reside, provided they meet the other eligibility requirements of that Charter. No one will be allowed to pitch in more than one State Championship Tournament per year.

4. Full and Short Distance Pitchers

All sanctioned tournaments shall provide a playing opportunity for all eligible Full and Short distance pitchers. The NHPA Executive Council, in accord with REQUIREMENT #5 (below), can authorize exceptions for special tournaments such as Invitationals, Juniors only, etc.

Section B – Newsline Magazine

All Charter officers must be members of the NHPA and subscribe to the official NHPA magazine, currently Horseshoe Pitching Newsline. Two Charter officers housed in a common residence require only a single subscription between them.

Section C – Delegates

Only NHPA members in possession of a current combined State/National card are eligible to vote on any matter pertaining to the election of Charter officers, the sanctioned tournament schedule, or anything else that may directly or indirectly involve NHPA business, Bylaws, or official Playing Rules.

Section D – Compliance

Each Charter must comply in all ways with THE OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES, GUIDELINES, AND SPECIFICATIONS, and the By-Laws of the NHPA. Deliberate violation of same will be cause for possible NHPA suspension of Charter Officers, the revocation of the Charter, or both.

REQUIREMENT 4 – WORLD TOURNAMENT PLAY

Section A – Committee and Director

The World Tournament Committee shall consist of all members of the NHPA Executive Council present at the World Tournament. The NHPA President shall designate the World Tournament Director who will confer with the President on the format and schedule.

Section B – Divisions

A World Tournament shall include separate Championship Divisions for Juniors, Open Men, Open Women, Seniors, and Elders. If Class, pitching performance is used as a "qualifier" for determining who will advance to Championship Division play, the Championship rounds shall be assigned a separate sanction number and both Class and Championship play shall each count as a separate tournament.

Section C – World Title

The title of Champion Horseshoe Pitcher of the World can be contended for only in tournaments authorized by the NHPA Executive Council.

Section D – Division Winners

The winner of each Division of the authorized World Tournament shall be declared the Champion Horseshoe Pitcher of the World for their respective Division, and shall hold the title until the next authorized World Tournament.

Section E – Playoffs

In a World Tournament, games won and lost shall determine the order in which the winners are placed. Pitchers tying for first place of a Division shall decide the winner as follows: if two tie, a one-game playoff to forty (40) points; if more than two tie, the first place shall be decided by a ladder-type playoff based upon ringer percentages; in all others ties (second and below), trophies and prize money shall be awarded based upon ringer percentage. First place ties at the "class" level will be determined by forty (40) shoe playoff games.

Section F – Records

Any record set in any Sanctioned Tournament shall be called a World Record. Any record set in a World Tournament shall be called a World Tournament Record. These statistics will be different sets of records and recorded as such. The NHPA Executive Council will decide on the authenticity of any disputed record.

Section G – Eligibility

All entrants shall have their eligibility and entering percentage verified by NATSTATS.

1. **Qualifying Events** – All adult entrants to the World Tournament who reside in the United States must have completed at least four (4) NHPA sanctioned events at their Division pitching distance during the twelve (12) months preceding the cut-off date listed on the current World Tournament entry form. *Note:* Only one event is required for Juniors.
2. **Exemptions** – An exception to the requirement of four (4) sanctioned events shall be active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their immediate family (if married), provided they meet the other eligibility requirements. Entering averages for foreign entrants and active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their immediate family, not in the NATSTATS database, will be verified by other means. (See RULE 11, Section D.1)

Section H – Awards

The Prize and Trophy list will be developed by members of the NHPA Executive Council and approved by a majority of that Council.

1. Minimum cash awards are as follows:

- a. The Championship Division cash prize list, including the Junior Trusts, will be paid from the NHPA funds collected based upon the \$3.00 set-aside for each adult member reported in the previous year.
- b. The Men's Open Championship cash prize for first place shall be a minimum of \$2,500 and the Women's Open Championship cash prize for first place shall be a minimum of \$2,000.
- c. The Executive Council shall determine an amount of money, not to be less than \$3,000, to be added to the World Tournament cash prizes. This money may come from any source available to the NHPA Executive Council.

REQUIREMENT 5 – SPECIAL TOURNAMENTS OR EVENTS

Section A – Events

The Charter Executive Council may authorize or conduct, at its discretion, special tournaments, matches, exhibitions, open, invitational, or celebrity pitching events anywhere that it deems suitable.

Section B – Waiver

Any Special tournament or event, including the World Tournament, will be conducted in accord with THE OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES, GUIDELINES, AND SPECIFICATIONS except that the Charter Executive Council may approve a waiver if it will aid in the promotion of the sport and/or success of the event. The Charter Executive Council may authorize a limit to the number of entries to any Special Tournament or Special Event if it feels time, available courts, or any other conditions make it impossible to reasonably schedule an unlimited number of entrants. In such cases, limits may be set by any manner deemed suitable.

REQUIREMENT 6 – CADET AND JUNIOR PITCHERS – Additional Information (See also Playing Rule 1, Section A)

Section A – Adult Divisions

Junior pitchers may compete in an Adult Division of a mixed tournament without harm to their Junior standing provided no separate Junior Division is offered in the same tournament. When a Junior Division is offered, in any non-handicapped tournament, a Junior may pitch with the adults without harm to their Junior standing, but only when their average is at least ten (10) percent higher than the next Junior. *Note:* These same requirements will apply to Junior Cadets; for their movement into the Junior Division.

Section B – Eligibility

Junior pitchers who request admittance and are accepted into an adult class outside the conditions set forth in Section A above, will forever forfeit their Junior eligibility. A Junior Boy who forfeits his Junior status must pitch from the full distance. *Note:* The same above requirements will apply to Junior Cadets; for their movement into the Junior Division.

Section C – Awards

All Junior Cadet and Junior play (mixed class or otherwise) will be conducted on an amateur basis. Awards presented to these Divisions by the Tournament/League Officials should have no immediate monetary value. The awarding of trophies, medals, or ribbons is recommended. Any award with monetary value, including trust funds from the Charter, State, World Tournament or the Junior Scholar Pitcher Awards Program, shall not be issued before the successful completion of high school.

Section D – Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of all Junior Cadet and Junior pitchers (or their parents/guardians) to make sure that their amateur standing is not jeopardized by any violation of the above guidelines.

SPECIFICATIONS – The Specifications Section includes information about specific measurement requirements for equipment and for court layout (including Covered and Indoor Courts), the sanctioning of horseshoes and courts, and the allowable repairs for horseshoes. Diagrams are included here (see back cover), but for individuals or clubs that are constructing new courts, detailed plans can be found on the NHPA website at www.horseshoepitching.com.

I – EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

SECTION A – Sanctioned Horseshoes (also see diagram on the inside, back cover)

All horseshoe designs and prototypes must be approved and sanctioned by the NHPA before the shoes they represent can officially be manufactured and used in NHPA sanctioned competition. The maximum weight and measurement standards are as follows: The horseshoe weight shall not be more than two (2) pounds, ten (10) ounces (there is no minimum weight). No horseshoe can exceed seven and one-quarter inches (7-1/4") in width or seven and five-eighths inches (7-5/8") in length. The opening of the shoe must not exceed three and one-half inches (3-1/2"), measured from a parallel line three-fourths of an inch (3/4") inward from a straightedge touching the tips of the shoe points. (A one-eighth inch (1/8") tolerance to three and five-eighths inches (3-5/8") is allowed on used shoes) No part of any horseshoe shall exceed one inch (1") in height when placed, with calks down, on a level surface. Shoes not meeting these requirements shall be declared "illegal". Illegal shoes shall not be used in any NHPA sanctioned competition and all games pitched with illegal shoes shall be forfeited. All horseshoes used by a pitcher may be checked at any time, before or during competition, to verify that they are legal shoes. A judge or other Tournament/League Official will do this checking.

SECTION B – Altered Horseshoes

Any sanctioned shoe that has been changed from its original design (calk, notch, etc.) shall be considered an "altered" shoe. An "altered" shoe is illegal and cannot be used in any sanctioned event. Contestants using altered shoes in a sanctioned event shall be subject to penalties, which could include a one (1) year suspension from the NHPA (see Bylaws for additional information). **Note:** The NHPA Executive Council has the right to waive the "altered" shoe provision for a physically challenged contestant.

SECTION C – Legal Horseshoe Repair

Through prolonged use, horseshoes may become bent or warped and "mushrooming" or "roll-over" may occur on the inside of the "toe" area, or elsewhere. Horseshoes may also crack or break into two or more parts. When possible, these conditions may be corrected by filing, grinding, heating, pounding, or welding of the shoes, so long as the original design of the shoe is not altered in the process and so long as they still meet all of the measurement requirements for NHPA sanctioned horseshoes. (see Section A above)

Section D – Horseshoes Sanctioned in Other Countries

Any horseshoes sanctioned in other countries may be used during NHPA sanctioned play, but only by contestants from that country, and only if the shoes meet NHPA horseshoe specifications. They are not allowable for use by U.S. citizens in NHPA sanctioned events unless the horseshoes have also been sanctioned by the NHPA. (see Section A above)

Section E – Pitching Accessories

It is legal for a contestant to carry and use a blunt-ended hook or horseshoe pick-up device, but it cannot exceed thirty-six inches (36") in total length. Any hook cannot protrude more than two inches (2") from the main shaft. Care should be taken in using the hook so as not to endanger the opponent or other contestants. Contestants are also encouraged to carry a file and towel to keep their shoes burr-free and shoes and hands clean and dry.

II – SPECIFICATIONS FOR COURT LAYOUT (also see diagram on back cover)

SECTION A - Sanctioning of Courts

Court conditions inconsistent with the NHPA specifications listed below are discouraged primarily because of the need to standardize the conditions and results of play for everyone.

1. **Full Court Sanction** – Courts that meet all of the specifications listed below in Section B may receive a Full Court Sanction Certificate from the Regional Director of that Charter, once these specifications are verified. Any sanctioned event may be contested on these fully sanctioned courts.
2. **Conditional Court Sanction**
 - a. **Permanent Ground Level Courts** – The NHPA recognizes that while some older courts may not meet all of the specifications listed below in Section B, they may meet the fundamental requirements of pitching distances, minimum pit dimensions, stake dimensions and placement, and legal pit substances called for in these specifications. Accordingly, such existing courts may receive a Conditional Court Sanction Certificate from the Regional Director of that Charter. At such time that the courts are modified or re-built to meet *all* of the court specifications (see Section B), the courts may then qualify for Full Court Sanction Certification. Any sanctioned event may be contested on conditionally sanctioned, permanent courts *except* State, Regional, or World Championship events, which must be contested on fully sanctioned courts (see Section D for exceptions).
 - b. **Portable Raised Pits** – Any sanctioned event may be contested on approved Portable Raised Pits. (see Section C, below).
3. **Court Complexes** – Since only one court sanction certificate will be issued in locations where there are multiple courts, *all* courts within the complex must meet the minimum specification requirements of pitching distances, pit dimensions, stake dimensions and placement, and legal pit substances, for the issuance of a Conditional Court Sanction Certificate. Likewise, *all* courts within a court complex must meet *all* of the specifications listed below, in Section B, to qualify for the issuance of a Full Court Sanction Certificate by the Charter/Regional Director. **Note:** All sanctioned events must be contested on fully or conditionally sanctioned courts.

SECTION B – Court Specifications

1. **Court Dimensions** – The rectangular playing area of a horseshoe court shall be six feet (6') wide and forty-six feet (46') long. An additional two feet (2') of buffer zone, along each side and behind each pitching box, is recommended for safety reasons. This combination of measurements results in an overall court area that is ten feet (10') wide and fifty feet (50') long. All surfaces within this area shall be level. A north-south orientation for outdoor courts is recommended, to minimize the effects of sunlight.
2. **Court Surfaces** – There are no specific court surface material requirements other than the use of suitable pit substances (see #9, below). The same surface material should be used for all pitching platforms and crossover areas surrounding the pit. For outdoor courts, recommended materials for all walkways, platforms, and crossover areas include concrete or paved asphalt. For indoor courts, concrete, wood, or suitable carpeting is recommended for all platforms and crossover areas. Other court surfaces may consist of any natural or man-made material, so long as it provides a safe, non-skid surface. Suitable drainage of surface water away from pits and platforms is recommended for outdoor courts. Shrubs, signs or other objects must not block the view of pitchers or interfere with their necessary movements on the court.
3. **Multiple Courts** – In facilities with multiple courts, the following layout guidelines shall be observed:
 - a. **Side-by-side Courts** – For safety reasons and to minimize distractions, the stakes of adjacent courts must be no closer than ten feet (10') apart. A distance of twelve feet (12') is recommended.
 - b. **Back-to-back Courts** – The stakes of back-to-back courts must be a minimum of sixteen feet (16') apart and a visual and protective barrier (a minimum of six feet (6') high is recommended) must separate the courts.
4. **Pitcher's Box** – The pitcher's box is a six-foot (6') by six-foot (6') area at each end of the court. It is composed of two main parts: The Pit, and the Pitching Platforms. The back of each box should be forty-six feet (46') from the back of the opposite box.
 - a. **The Pit** – The pit is a rectangular area filled with the "pit substance" into which the shoes are pitched. The *maximum inside length* of the pit (in the direction in which the shoes are pitched) is seventy-two inches (72") and the *minimum inside length* is forty-three inches. (43") The *maximum inside*

width is thirty-six inches (36") and the *minimum inside width* is thirty-one inches (31"). The pits shall be centered on the courts' lengthwise centerline, which is also midway between the full-distance pitching platforms. For safety reasons, the use of sideboards to contain pit material is not recommended. If used, they shall not exceed a height of seven inches (7"). **Note:** The areas behind and in front of the pit are referred to as "crossover" areas. (see RULE 3, Section D.3)

b. Pitching Platforms

1. **Full-Distance Pitching Platforms** These pitching platforms flank each side of both pits and are parallel to each other. They shall be eighteen inches (18") to twenty and one-half inches (20-1/2") wide (depending upon the width of the pit) and shall be a minimum of six feet long (6').
2. **Short-Distance Pitching Platforms and Walkways** – The pitching platforms, on each side of both pits, shall be extended forward for the full length of the court to provide a continuous walkway and to accommodate short-distance pitchers. These platforms shall be level with and be of the same width as the full-distance platforms. The surface material should be the same as the full-distance pitching platforms.
5. **Imaginary Stakes** - Imaginary stakes are a useful reference, for short-distance pitchers, on where to stand. They shall be marked (often by a spot of paint or other marker of the same diameter as the official stake) midway between the extended platforms, or on the inside edge of the extended platforms, at distances of thirty feet (30') and twenty-three feet (23') from the opposite stake.
6. **Stakes** - The stake is the target at which the shoe is pitched. Stakes shall be positioned in the very center of the pitcher's box, on the court's lengthwise centerline, with a minimum of twenty-one inches (21") from the stake to the front and back of the pit substance. The distance between stakes shall be forty feet (40'). This distance is to be measured from the front of each stake, level with the pitching platform. Stakes shall be one inch (1") in diameter and shall be made of cold-rolled steel, mild iron, soft metal, or NHPA-approved synthetic material. The top of each stake shall be no less than fourteen inches (14") and no greater than fifteen inches (15") above the level of the pitching platforms (see exception for raised pits in Section C, below). Stakes shall be securely mounted (see diagrams on back cover) and have a three inch (3") lean toward the opposite stake.
7. **Foul Lines** – Foul lines shall be defined by straight lines extending across the full-distance and extended platforms and shall be placed perpendicular to an imaginary line between the stakes. The thirty-seven foot (37') and twenty-seven foot (27') foul lines shall be measured from the front of the opposite stakes. A single, twenty-foot (20') foul line shall be marked on each platform at the exact mid-point between the stakes. Foul lines shall be measured at the level of the pitching platforms (see exception for "Raised Pits" in Section C, below). While the width of foul lines may vary (two inches (2") is recommended), their location shall be marked in a way that is clearly visible to the pitchers and judges.
8. **Backstops/Backboards and Protective Barrier**
 - a. **Backstops/Backboards** – For safety reasons, every pit should have a backstop/backboard. It shall be at least three feet (3') behind the stake, be at least one foot (1') high, and extend to the width of the pit. For spectator visibility, a mesh netting or chain-link material is recommended. If made of solid material, it should be a color that will provide a contrasting background so as to make the stake more visible for the contestants. **Note:** The backboards of raised pits are usually attached to the inside of the wooden framework and may therefore be as close as twenty-one inches (21") to the stake.
 - b. **Protective Barrier** – For safety reasons, all court complexes shall be surrounded by a protective barrier. This barrier should be at least eight feet (8') behind the stakes. A chain-link type of fence at least four feet (4') high is recommended.
9. **Pit Substance** - Clay, sand, dirt and NHPA-approved synthetic materials are all legal pit substances. The *minimum* depth of the pit substance shall be four inches (4"). An eight inch (8") depth is recommended for ground-level pits.
10. **Overhead Court Clearances** – The air space above all courts shall be free of all natural or man-made objects such as tree limbs, wires, etc. for a height of at least twelve feet (12') above the playing area.

SECTION C – Raised Pits

Also known as temporary or portable pits, raised pits are often used for events of a relatively short duration such as the world tournament, a local fair, or an exhibition. Normally constructed of treated plywood and framing lumber (2X4s and/or 2X6s), the height of the pit framework shall not be more than seven inches (7") above the level of the adjacent platforms. For sanctioned events, the *minimum* inside dimensions shall be the same as stated in Section B, 4.a above. After the proper positioning of the pits (see positioning of stakes in Section B.6, above), foul lines shall be measured from the bottom of the stake, before the approved pit substance is added. The pits should be anchored in such a way that they will not move during their use. The top of each stake shall be no less than eighteen inches (18") and no greater than nineteen inches (19") above the inside, bottom of the pit. The pit substance in the scoring area surrounding the stake shall be maintained at a depth of four inches (4"), between games.

SECTION D – Court Sanction Waiver – Some Court Sanction requirements may be waived by the Regional Director and/or the NHPA Council under special circumstances (see GUIDELINES, PART II, #5, Section B, and Regional Director Guidelines).

SECTION E – Specifications For Covered and Indoor Courts

The regulations for covered and indoor courts are exactly the same as for permanent ground level courts with the additional stipulation that they shall have a minimum twelve-foot (12') vertical clearance to the lowest possible obstruction.

GLOSSARY

This glossary includes the definitions for most of the horseshoe terms used in this RGS Book, and for terms found in other horseshoe-related literature. To make them easier to find, these terms/definitions are arranged in alphabetical order. At the end of each definition, there may be references to other areas of the RGS book where additional or more specific information can be found. The use of this glossary may also make it easier to find the location of a term that is used within the RGS text material. Additional information can also be found on the NHPA website at www.horseshoepitching.com. **Note:** This glossary is intended as a quick reference only. Any final rulings or decisions should be based on the text information found in the Playing Rules, Guidelines, or Specifications sections.

Altered Shoe – Refers to any shoe that has been changed from its original design. (See I – EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS, Section B.)

Alternate Pitch – Alternate first pitch is a pitching rotation used to give each contestant an equal number of first and second pitches during a game. (See RULE 7, Section A.2)

Backstops/Backboards – Refers to the barriers installed at the far end of each pit for safety reasons. (See II – SPECIFICATIONS FOR COURT LAYOUT, Section B, 10.a; also see drawing on back cover)

Caliper – A measuring tool that can be adjusted to determine which shoe is closest to the stake.

Cancellation Scoring – A method of play, whereby opponents' ringers cancel each other. The same holds true for opponents' shoes (single points) that are of an equal distance from the stake. (See RULE 6, Section A.1.)

Class – Refers to the group(s) of pitchers (usually 6-12 contestants/class) within a particular Division.

Count-all Scoring – A method of scoring where both contestants receive credit for all live shoes scored in each inning. (See RULE 6, Section A.2, also GUIDELINE PART I, #2, Section F)

Crossover Areas – Refers to the areas in front of and/or behind the pits, where contestants may cross over to the opposite platform after the delivery of their shoes, if they've pitched first. (See RULE 3, Section D.3). Contestants may also "cross" over as they move toward the opposite end of the court, in anticipation of who may be pitching first in the next inning.

Dead Shoe – Another term for a foul shoe that was delivered in non-compliance with one of the rules of the game. This term may also refer to a ringer that has been "cancelled" by an opponent's ringer. (See RULE 3, Section B, 1.b)

Division – There are currently five (5) divisions recognized by the NHPA. They are: Juniors, Open Men, Open Women, Seniors, and Elders (this division includes Physically Challenged Men). Some of these Divisions may not be contested at all tournaments. (See RULE I, Section A-E)

Doubles Play – In doubles play, two contestants are partners against another team of two contestants. (See GUIDELINE PART I, #1, Section A and B)

Extended Platforms – A forward extension of the full-distance pitching platforms, toward the opposite pit, for an additional ten feet (10'), or for the entire distance between the opposite platforms, to accommodate short-distance pitchers. (See II SPECIFICATIONS FOR COURT LAYOUT, Section B.4, b.2; also see court diagram on back cover)

Feeler Gauge – A tool containing thin strips of metal of varying thicknesses. Used mainly by judges to determine measurements for the closest shoe and/or for determining if shoes are ringers.

Foul Shoe – Another term for a “dead” shoe that was delivered in non-compliance with one of the playing rules of the game. (See RULE 4)

Handicap – A handicap is a predetermined number of bonus points given to a player in addition to the actual “scratch” score pitched in a game. Handicapping may be used where there is a large “spread” of ringer percentages within a class. (See RULE 11, Section E; also the NHPA Sanctioned Club/League “Red” Book)

Heel or Heel Calk – The area of the horseshoe (at the open end) that includes the “tips” and the “hooks”. (See drawing on back cover)

Hooks – Refers to a tool used, by some, to pick up horseshoes from the pit. May also refer to a portion of the heel calk, designed to secure ringers. (See I – EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS, Section E)

Inning – The game is divided into innings. In singles play, each inning consists of four (4) pitched shoes; two (2) by each contestant. (See RULE 3, Section A.)

Judges – Judges are appointed by Tournament/League Officials to enforce the Playing Rules of the game, and to help resolve any questions that may arise during the event. (See GUIDELINE PART I, #4)

Leaner – A live shoe that comes to rest vertically while touching the stake. This shoe has a scoring value of one (1) point. (See RULE 3, Section B, 1.b)

Legal Shoe – Any official horseshoe that is sanctioned and approved by the NHPA. (See I – EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS, Section A)

Live Shoe – Refers to any shoe that has been pitched in compliance with the rules of the game and that comes to rest within the pit area. (See RULE 3, Section B, 1.a)

Medical Exemption – Physically challenged male pitchers may be given permission by their governing Charter or NHPA officials to move onto the extended platforms and observe the twenty-seven-foot (27’) foul lines before the age of seventy (70) years. The prior completion and approval of a Medical Exemption Form (available from Charter/State Secretaries) is required. (See RULE 1, Section E.2)

Mixed Classes – Mixed classes may include pitchers from any of the different Divisions such as Open Men, Open Women, Juniors, Elders, etc. (See GUIDELINE PART II, #3, Section A.2)

National Card – An annual membership card required for all pitchers participating in NHPA Sanctioned Leagues and/or Tournaments. (See NHPA By-Laws, also NHPA Sanctioned Club/League Program “Red” Book)

NATSTATS – Stands for National Statistics; a service of the NHPA that receives, stores, and calculates the current, average ringer percentage for all NHPA members who have competed within the calendar year. (Also see NHPA Website listed above)

Newsline Magazine – More officially, “Horseshoe Pitching Newsline” is the official magazine of the NHPA. (See GUIDELINE PART II, #3, Section B)

NHPA – Stands for National Horseshoe Pitchers Association; the official organization for the sport of horseshoe pitching. (See the NHPA website listed above for additional information)

NHPF – Stands for the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation; the official spin-off organization of the NHPA, established to promote the game of horseshoes, and to provide and maintain the NHPA Hall of Fame facility. (See the NHPA website listed above for additional information)

Out of Count – Refers to a shoe that is outside of the scoring area and/or a foul shoe. (See RULE 3, Section B.3)

Pacer – Refers to an individual who may fill a vacated position during round-robin tournament play. (See GUIDELINE PART I, #5)

Pit – A rectangular area around the stake, and between the platforms, that is filled with a pit substance into which the shoes are pitched. (See RULE 2, Section B, and II – SPECIFICATIONS FOR COURT LAYOUT, Section B, 4.a)

Pit Substance – The material into which horseshoes are pitched. Clay, sand, dirt, and approved synthetic compositions are all legal pit substances. (See II – SPECIFICATIONS FOR COURT LAYOUT, Section B, 11)

Pitcher's Box – The six-foot (6’) by six-foot (6’) square area located at each end of the court. This area includes the pit, and pitching platforms. (See II – SPECIFICATIONS FOR COURT LAYOUT, Section B, 4)

Pitching Platforms – The area from which contestants deliver their horseshoes. The full-distance pitching platforms flank the pits for the entire length of the pitcher’s box. (See II – SPECIFICATIONS FOR COURT LAYOUT, Section B, 4.b)

Point Limit Game – Refers to a game that is played to a pre-determined number of points. (See RULE 8, Section A.1)

Point Limit or Shoe Limit Game – Refers to a game that is played to a pre-determined number of points *or* to a pre-determined number of shoes. For example, forty (40) points or fifty (50) shoes; whichever comes first. (See RULE 8, Section A.3)

Portable Pits – Usually made of treated plywood and framing lumber, these above-ground-level pits are often set up and used in arenas or other hard-surfaced areas for exhibitions, special tournaments, and/or special events. (See II – SPECIFICATIONS FOR COURT LAYOUT, Section B.6)

Ringer – A ringer is a shoe that comes to rest while encircling the stake. A straightedge touching either the points or any part of the heel calks of the shoe must clear (not touch) the stake in order to be declared a ringer. A ringer has a value of three (3) points. (See RULE 3, Section B, 2.a)

Ringer Percentage – A pitcher’s ringer percentage (for a game, tournament, or NATSTATS) is determined by dividing the total number of ringers by the total number of shoes pitched. (See RULE 12, Section C)

“Ringers Only” Scoring – A variation of Count-all scoring where both contestants receive credit for only the ringers they have pitched in each inning. (See RULE 6, Section A, 2.b)

Round – Refers to any *one* of the games of a round-robin schedule. (See Round-robin Schedule, below)

Round-robin Schedule – Refers to the printed/posted schedule of round-robin play used in tournament competition. In round-robin play, each contestant is scheduled to play all other contestants in the Class. (See GUIDELINE PART I, #3, A.2)

Sanctioned Club/League Program – The NHPA Sanctioned Club/League Program introduces new and veteran horseshoe pitchers to League Play and provides instruction for an exciting, competitive, and healthful activity for all men and women; young, old, and/or physically challenged. (See the NHPA Sanctioned Club/League “Red” Book for additional information)

Sanctioned Tournament – The NHPA Tournament Sanction Certificate certifies that “THE OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES, GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE SPORT OF HORSESHOE PITCHING (aka The RGS Book) will be enforced, including the requirements of membership and use of sanctioned horseshoes. (See NHPA Regional Directors Guidelines)

Scorekeeping – The recording of scores is a very essential part of the game and the scorekeeper must be familiar with a variety of calls, how to record the score, etc. (See GUIDELINE PART I, #3 for additional information)

Scoring Area – Refers to the pit area within which a live shoe may come to rest and still score points. It can be thought of as the area which includes the one inch (1”) stake, plus the six inch (6”) “Shoe in Count” area surrounding the stake, plus an additional distance of approximately nine inches (9”) around the stake where a shoe *could* come to rest and still be a “Shoe in Count”. This scoring area becomes an approximate thirty-one inch (31”) diameter circle with the stake in the very center.

Scoring Radius – May be used in reference to the fifteen inch (15”) distance between the stake and the outside perimeter of the scoring area. This area extends outward, in all directions, from the stake and includes the “Shoe in Count” area.

Scratch Play – Refers to a game where a handicap system is not used. (See GUIDELINE PART II, #3, Section A.2 and NHPA Sanctioned Club/League “Red” Book)

Seeding – The placement of contestants, by the Tournament Director of Committee, into Classes for tournament play. For sanctioned events, this placement should be based on their current NATSTATS average ringer percentage. (See GUIDELINE PART II, #1, Section A, 1.b for additional information and exceptions)

Shoe in Count – Refers to any live shoe that is a ringer, or that may come to rest at a distance of six inches (6”) or closer to the stake. (See RULE 3, Section B, 2.a & b)

Shoe Limit Game – Refers to a game that is played to a pre-determined, even number of shoes. (See RULE 8, Section A.2)

Shoe Out of Count – Refers to any shoe that comes to rest further than six (6”) inches from the stake. (See RULE 3, Section B.3)

Single Point – Refers to any (non-ringer) live shoe that is six inches (6”) or closer to the stake.

Stakes – The stake is the target at which the shoe is pitched. (See II – SPECIFICATIONS FOR COURT LAYOUT, Section B.7)

Straightedge – Usually a metal bar tool that is straight along one or more edges, is about eight inches (8”) in length, and that is used in the measurement of ringers.

Time Limit – Contestants must deliver both shoes within thirty (30) seconds. (See RULE 3, Section C.2)

Toe – Refers to the area of the horseshoe that is farthest from the open end. (See drawing on back cover)

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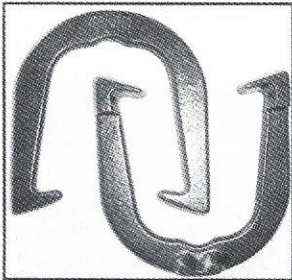


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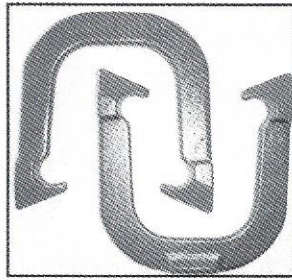


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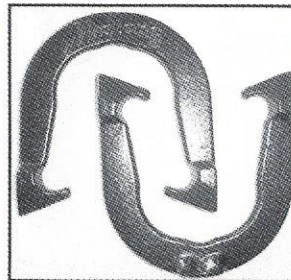
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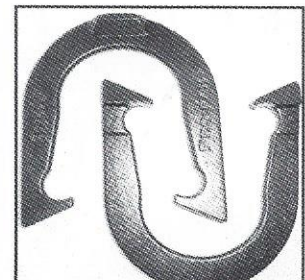
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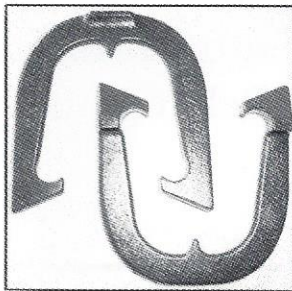
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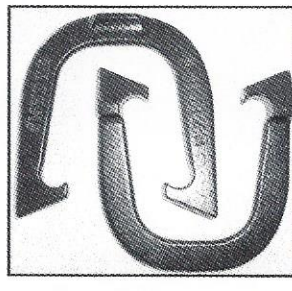
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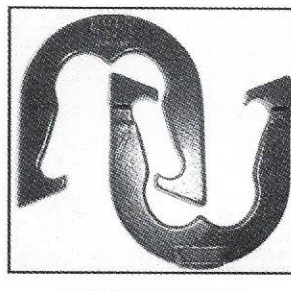
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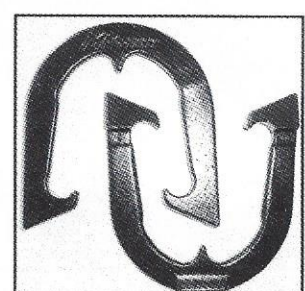
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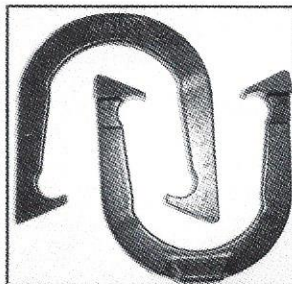
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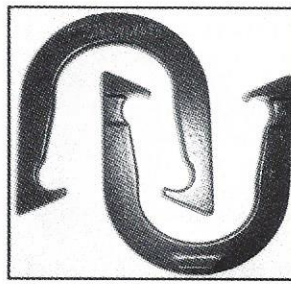
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