

**THE OFFICIAL NHPA PLAYING RULES, REQUIREMENTS, GUIDELINES, AND SPECIFICATIONS  
FOR THE SPORT OF HORSESHOE PITCHING  
(aka The RGS Book)**

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**II. REQUIREMENTS** - This section includes requirements (in addition to the Playing Rules) that apply for Tournament/League Officials, local Sanctioned Tournaments/Leagues, Charter/State Information, the World Tournament, Special Tournaments, and also for Cadet and Junior Pitchers. Violations of these additional requirements will be enforced by designated penalties or by other penalties assessed by the Tournament/League Officials, Charter Officers, or by the NHPA Executive Council.

**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 tournament/league officials 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 sign-in, 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 game ties and class 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 Class 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, REQUIREMENTS, GUIDELINES, AND SPECIFICATIONS are followed.

### **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 on membership). This includes pacers and substitutes. Other eligibility requirements may apply for State tournaments and for the World Tournament.

### **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**

1. For singles and doubles events, all contestants must have completed at least half of their scheduled games to receive NatStats credit for that event, with a minimum of one hundred (100) shoes pitched.
2. In team tournament competitions, any team member who has pitched a minimum of one hundred (100) shoes during that event may receive NatStats credit.
3. For elimination tournaments, a contestant must pitch one hundred (100) or more shoes to receive NatStats credit for that event.

### **Section F – League Credit**

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

1. **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.
2. **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 accordance with RULE 1, Sections A-E.

#### **2. Mixed Play and Handicapping**

The Championship Class of the Men and Women Divisions in a State Championship Tournament cannot be mixed play. All other Divisions and Classes may be mixed at the discretion of the Tournament Officials. When/if other Divisions are mixed, the Champion of each Division will be the highest finishing player (based on ringer percentage) in their respective Division. Handicap formats may be used in State Championship play, but any Division Title must be determined by a non-handicap method 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 accordance with REQUIREMENT 5 (below), can authorize exceptions for special tournaments such as Invitationals, Juniors only, etc.

## **Section B – Newline Magazine**

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

### **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, REQUIREMENTS, GUIDELINES, AND SPECIFICATIONS, and with the By-Laws of the NHPA. Any 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.

**Note: Qualified Alternates in Championship Divisions** - Unless the tournament director has been contacted, contestants who have not checked in before the scheduled pitching time shall forfeit all games and be replaced by a qualified alternate. For Championship Divisions, alternates are determined by the results of Class Play and their names will be announced at the awards ceremony.

### **Section C - Championship Finals**

Finalists in each World Championship Division will be determined by NatStats averages and/or by the results of preliminary Class play within their Division. All contestants will be seeded according to their ringer percentages.

### **Section D – World Title**

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

### **Section E – 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 this title until the next authorized World Tournament.

### **Section F – Playoffs**

In World Tournament play, games won and lost shall determine the order in which the winners are placed. First place ties at the Championship level of each Division will be decided as follows: if two tie, a one-game playoff to forty (40) points; if more than two tie, a ladder-type playoff based upon ringer percentages; also forty (40) point games. First place ties at the Class level will be determined by forty (40) shoe playoff games. In all other Class ties (second and below), trophies and prize money will be awarded based upon ringer percentage, and if still tied, by total points scored. Percentage ties for all move-up positions into a Championship Class will be broken by a forty (40) shoe playoff game. If tied, additional innings will be played (see Rule 8, Section B.2).

## **Section G – 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 are to be recorded as two different sets of records. The NHPA Executive Council will decide on the authenticity of any disputed record.

## **Section H – 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 I – Awards**

The Prize and Trophy list will be developed and approved by a majority of the NHPA Executive Council members. This award list will also be published for the NHPA membership, in a timely manner.

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 and based upon the \$3.00 set-aside for each adult member reported from 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 NHPA 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 accordance with THE OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES, REQUIREMENTS, GUIDELINES, AND SPECIFICATIONS except that the NHPA Executive Council may approve a waiver if it will aid in the promotion of the sport and/or success of the event. The NHPA 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 RULE 1, Section A)

**Section A – Competing In 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 closest 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 information.