

**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)**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PLAYING RULES – Page 7

RULE 1 - PITCHING DIVISIONS

- Section A - Juniors – page 7
- Section B - Open Men – page 8
- Section C - Open Women – page 8
- Section D - Seniors – page 8
- Section E - Elder Men – page 8

RULE 2 - GAME PREPARATION

- Section A - Court Assignment – page 8
- Section B - Pit Preparation and Maintenance – page 9
- Section C - Painting of Stakes – page 9
- Section D - Start of Each Tournament/Class – page 9
- Section E - Court Rotation – page 9

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

- Section A - Innings – page 9
- Section B - Value of the Shoe – page 9
- Section C - Delivery of Shoes – page 10
- Section D - Position of Contestants During Delivery – page 10

RULE 4 - FLOW OF THE GAME

- Section A - Possible Delays – page 11

RULE 5 - FOUL SHOES

- Section A - Removal from Pit – page 12
- Section B - Enforcing Violations – page 12

RULE 6 - SCORING THE GAME, CALLING THE SCORE

- Section A - Methods of Scoring – page 13
- Section B - Calling the Score – page 14
- Section C - Recording the Score – page 15

RULE 7 - PITCHING ROTATION DURING THE GAME

- Section A - Cancellation Rotation – page 15
- Section B - Count-All Rotation- page 16
- Section C - Handicap Rotation – page 16
- Section D - Pacer Rotation – page 16
- Section E - Pitching Out of Turn – page 16

RULE 8 - LENGTH OF THE GAME, BREAKING OF TIE GAMES

- Section A - Length of Game - 16
- Section B - Breaking of Tie Games – page 16

RULE 9 - BROKEN OR CRACKED SHOES

Section A - Broken Shoes – page 17
Section B - Cracked Shoes – page 17

RULE 10 - LOOSE OR BROKEN STAKES

Section A - Loose Stakes – page 17
Section B - Broken Stakes – page 17

RULE 11 - TOURNAMENT/LEAGUE PLAY

Section A - Standard Method of Sanctioned Tournament Play – page 18
Section B - Determining Class Winners, Breaking of Ties – page 18
Section C - Ringer Percentage – page 18
Section D - Seeding Contestants – page 18
Section E - Mixed Classes – page 19
Section F - Handicapping – page 19
Section G - Forfeits – page 19

RULE 12 - APPROPRIATE NHPA MEMBER CONDUCT

Section A - On the Courts – page 20
Section B - Sportsmanship – page 20
Section C - Dress Code – page 20
Section D - Alcohol, Tobacco Products, and Illegal Controlled Substances – page 20
Section E - Cell Phones – page 20
Section F - Protests – page 21

GUIDELINES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS – Page 21

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

GUIDELINE 1 - DOUBLES PLAY

Section A - Regular Doubles, page 21
Section B - Walking Doubles, page 22

GUIDELINE 2 - CALLING THE SCORE

Section A - Recommended Calls, page 22
Section B - Alternative Calls, page 23

GUIDELINE 3 - KEEPING SCORE

Section A - Before the Game, page 23
Section B - During the Game, page 24
Section C - After the Game, page 24
Section D – Scoreboards, page 24
Section E - Electronic Scoring Device, page 25
Section F - Hand Signals, page 25

GUIDELINE 4 - JUDGING

Section A - Responsibilities, Expectations and Duties, page 25

GUIDELINE 5 - PACERS

Section A - Use of Pacers, page 26
Section B - Qualified Pacers, page 26
Section C - Awards and Statistics, page 26

PART II - OTHER REQUIREMENTS For Sanctioned League and/or Sanctioned Tournament Play

REQUIREMENT 1 - TOURNAMENT/LEAGUE OFFICIALS

Section A - Duties and Responsibilities, page 26

REQUIREMENT 2 - ALL NHPA TOURNAMENTS/LEAGUES

Section A - Sanctioning, page 27

Section B - Eligibility, page 28

Section C - Fees, page 28

Section D - Division Size, page 28

Section E - Tournament Credit, page 28

Section F - League Credit, page 28

Section G - Count-All Scoring, page 28

Section H - Total Ringers/Shoes, page 28

Section I - Reporting Results, page 28

REQUIREMENT 3 - CHATER/STATE INFORMATION

Section A - Championship Play, page 29

Section B - Newline Magazine, page 29

Section C - Delegates, page 30

Section D - Compliance, page 30

REQUIREMENT 4 - WORLD TOURNAMENT PLAY

Section A - Committee and Director, page 30

Section B - Division – page 30

Section C - World Title – page 30

Section D - Division Winners, page 30

Section E - Playoffs, page 30

Section F - Records, page 31

Section G - Eligibility, page 31

Section H - Awards, page 31

REQUIREMENT 5 - FOR SPECIAL TOURNAMENTS OR EVENTS

Section A - Events, page 31

Section B - Waiver, page 32

REQUIREMENT 6 - CADET AND JUNIOR PITCHERS

Additional Information

Section A - Adult Divisions, page 32

Section B - Eligibility, page 32

Section C - Awards, page 32

Section D - Responsibility, page 32

SPECIFICATIONS – page 33

I - EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

Section A - Sanctioned Horseshoes, page 33

Section B - Altered Horseshoes, page 33

Section C - Legal Horseshoe Repair, page 33

Section D - Horseshoes Sanctioned in Other Countries, page 34

Section E - Pitching Accessories, page 34

II - SPECIFICATIONS FOR COURT LAYOUT

Section A - Sanctioning of Courts, page 34

Section B - Court Specifications, page 35

Section C - Raised Pits, page 37

Section D - Court Sanction Waiver, page 38

Section E - Specifications for Covered and Indoor Courts, page 38

GLOSSARY – Page 38

Altered Shoe – Burr, page 38

Bylaws – Dress Code, page 39

Extended Platforms – Inning, page 40

Judges – Pit, page 41

Pit Substance – Round, page 42

Round Robin Play – Scoring Area, page 43

Scoring Radius – Welded Shoe, page 44