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## SANCTIONED CLUB/LEAGUE PROGRAM

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO:

- Forming your own Club or League
- Setting up Regulations and Rules
- Sanctioning with the NHPA
- Requirements & Reports

*8th Edition*

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# **INTRODUCTION**

The NHPA has a place for every person that is able to pitch horseshoes regardless of age, gender, race, religion, or handicapped impairment. The Sanctioned League Program is for both established clubs and leagues or any group that wishes to become organized and start a program. All members must be willing to join their State charter and the NHPA and all leagues must apply for an NHPA Sanctioned League Certificate. Area schools, church groups or junior youth associations can contact the NHPA for help in forming junior horseshoe leagues and clubs, and by so doing have a nationally sanctioned program with awards in their area and in their association.

## **NHPA SANCTIONED LEAGUE PROGRAMS COVERING ADULTS/JUNIOR-MIXED and TOTAL JUNIOR LEAGUES**

### **Explanations & Instructions**

#### **FORWARD**

This is the officially recognized and authorized Sanctioned League Program of the National Horseshoe Pitcher's Association of America. Any other programs, either inferred or instituted by clubs or leagues, are not recognized by the NHPA as sanctioned leagues. NHPA Sanctioned clubs/leagues take precedent over any other horseshoe club/leagues including non-sanctioned State or local leagues, since a national sanction issued by the NHPA is required for programs to qualify for NHPA benefits and awards. The program was started in 1978 and this Sanctioned League Program Booklet is the eighth edition to be updated and printed. The changes found in this edition reflect the changing needs of the NHPA including: the changing awards needed by today's leagues and the removal of antiquated and little used processes. While several of the original 13 clubs are still in the program, the program has grown to several hundred leagues each year, creating a financial burden for the NHPA to cope with. The NHPA fully supports the Sanctioned League Program and will continue to do so, but, there is a need to have the participants help fund the program. So this eighth edition of the guidebook, often called the "Red Book" suggests that clubs include fees for league patches. A donation of \$.50 cents per patch is suggested, but not required. The original intent of sanctioned league was to be a promotional program for the introduction of horseshoe pitchers and non-NHPA clubs to the NHPA and to promote the game of horseshoes as a competitive, healthy game, in an organized manner, which a league format does. The main objective of the program is to increase the rolls of the total membership of the

NHPA as an Association and promote support on both the National and State levels for a totally stronger and more united organization of Horseshoe Pitchers. If we are to grow nationally, it takes the financial support of all horseshoe pitchers, at both the league and tournament levels and the total involvement and promotion of the program by every NHPA State Charter Association to help promote league pitchers to the tournament level. By becoming NHPA members they can take pride in the knowledge that they are doing what they can to support their State/Charter, the National Association, and the growth and future of the sport of horseshoe pitching. In cooperation with this NHPA Sanctioned League Program, youth activities were established with hopes that the NHPA youth Program would become the best youth program in the nation. The hope was to: bring ideals of sportsmanship, to teach and learn, friendship, work habits, and human values for our youth by having them become involved in the game of horseshoes. This program is aimed at encouraging participation in a sports activities not requiring size or strength that all can participate in. So, in 1978 the NHPA began an exciting new program directed toward the local club and league pitcher. The program has been enlarged to aim at the backyard and picnic pitcher and promote the development of new leagues by all interested in playing the competitive game of horseshoes. This program provides National recognition for the accomplishments of those pitchers and leagues.

The benefits of sanctioning are:

- A. An official Certificate of Sanction and Sanction number, with the NHPA seal affixed, for verification of a league sanction.
- B. Eligibility of members for numerous NHPA awards.
- C. National Top Ten recognition for sanctioned league members only with special awards for the top pitchers.
- D. Publication of news articles in the NHPA Newslines e-magazine written by the National Club/League Director.
- F. National recognition and awards for the top scholar junior pitchers.
- G. Special Sanctioned Junior League Member patches.
- H. Sanctioned league ringer percent averages will be used as an NHPA sanctioned event if it covers 400 or more shoes.

## **PART 1**

### **I. SANCTIONING YOUR LEAGUE**

A. Contact the National League Director for a NHPA Request for Sanction form or look on the NHPA website.

B. Return this "fully completed" form, type written or clearly printed, as soon as possible. If request is for a TOTAL Junior League, please indicate Junior League on the form. If you have a copy of your league's By-Laws and league playing rules please include them.

C. Upon receipt of this form, the National Director will send you an official Certificate of Sanction, Sanction number, and all of the necessary league forms needed.

D. Assign or elect a League Director. This should be just one person and should be the only person to contact and work with the National Director.

E. Restrictions - For a league to be sanctioned and to maintain that sanction, ALL members MUST be members of the NHPA and MUST hold or obtain a current year's NHPA/State/Charter membership card. NHPA cards must be obtained from your State/Charter Association in your state of residency. All National dues, insurance and State/Charter dues for ALL club/league members MUST be paid to their State/Charter's Secretary/Treasurer. NO membership money should be sent to the office of the National Club/League Director. For a league to be sanctioned as a "Junior League" ALL participants must be 18 years of age or younger. NO adult participation is authorized in a Sanctioned Junior League.

F. A certificate, issued in the name of a league, officially sanctions all leagues for the year conducted by that particular group and also allows for a Championship or end of season tournament. Remember: THE END OF YEAR TOURNAMENT IS ONLY OPEN TO SANCTIONED LEAGUE MEMBERS and if you want NATSTATS credit for that tournament, it needs a tournament sanction number from the Regional Director.

G. League Sanction Certificate: Independent leagues, such as traveling leagues, are generally sanctioned as a SINGLE league and the sanction is valid for that one league per year only. However, all certificates are good for multiple leagues per year and allow for a End-Of-Year tournament.

H. Junior League Sanction Certificate: Issued to any league whose entire membership is made up of junior pitchers, even though they may and should have an adult Director.

I. Length of Sanction: An NHPA sanction is "permanent" year to year, unless terminated by the club of sanction or revoked by the NHPA. Termination occurs whenever a sanction number is unused during any calendar year. The Sanctioned League Director can waive the annual termination when requested due to extraordinary circumstances.

J. Period of Sanction Year - A sanction year begins on January 1st of any given year and concludes on December 31st of any given year.

## **II. NHPA MEMBERSHIP CARDS**

A. The NHPA has only ONE card authorized for sanctioned league activity. NO other cards are valid or recognized by the NHPA, except an official Canadian card. The authorized card is the National NHPA Card which is issued by the Charter Secretary and it entitles the holder to participate nationally in all NHPA levels of play: league, State, National, State Championships and National Championships.

B. To participate in a sanctioned league, a member must meet all National, State and Club regulations prior to his/her participation along with holding a current NHPA card current for the given year.

## **III. NHPA SANCTIONED LEAGUE DUES & INSURANCE**

A. National Card Dues: These dues include the current annual National dues as specified in the latest version of the NHPA Bylaws as well as your State/Charter Association dues. This entire amount is to be sent by each individual in check or money order form made payable to their state of residence Association, to their State/Charter's Secretary/Treasurer. The secretary would then send the individual their card and enter their name on the State's membership rolls.

Junior Members should follow the same procedure as adults and the fee is specified in the latest version of the NHPA Bylaws. State/Charter dues may also need to be addressed if they have dues for junior pitchers.

## **IV. PROCEDURES FOR A SANCTIONED LEAGUE**

A. The duties of the league director (contact person).

1. At the start of the pitching season, the membership report should be filled out completely and mailed to NHPA National Director's office. This initiates the league. Names can be added during the league and reported in the final stat sheet. There is no need to update the membership report after the initial send in.

2. After your league has finished for the season, complete the final stats form and the material request form. If your club has more than one league, fill out a separate final stats sheet for each league. Send this to NHPA National Director's office. Allow enough time to receive your materials before setting up your league's presentation of awards ceremony and consider a donation for the materials you request.

3. If you have juniors in your league that are eligible for the Junior Scholar Pitcher Awards, the verification form must be in by December 31st.

B. All these forms are available on the NHPA website, [horseshoepitching.com](http://horseshoepitching.com) or from the National League Director. A more detailed explanation of completing all

these forms follows.

## **V. REPORTS AFFECTING YOUR LEAGUE SANCTION**

A. Your league is effectively sanctioned each year upon receipt of a Final Stats Sheet providing the sanction has not been terminated because you previously failed to hold an annual league.

1. Leagues must fill out a membership report indicating full names, addresses, gender, division type and current NHPA card numbers at the beginning of the league.

2. New members or late pitchers can be just included in the Final Stats sheet.

3. On the Final Stats sheet list ALL members in alphabetical order, separating Men, Women, Junior Boys and Junior Girls and you MUST include the ages of ALL junior pitchers. If juniors are pitching with adults and are listed on an adult membership form please put their ages in the left hand margin of the form. Juniors are eligible for top ten honors.

4. MANDATORY - It is mandatory that you give the current year's NHPA card number for ALL members. Any report received without current NHPA card numbers for all members will result in those pitchers with missing numbers being omitted from NATSTATS reporting. Card numbers must be checked to assure that they are for that person's State/Charter and are for the current year.

5. It is recommended that the league director ask to see all cards when signing up members for the current year.

6. The membership report should also be sent to your State/Charter Secretary to verify that all pitchers are current members of the NHPA.

B. When all of the aforementioned has been done, (completely and correctly), your league will become or remain an officially sanctioned part of the National Horseshoe Pitcher's Association.

The NHPA welcomes any and all leagues and their members and sincerely hopes that you will continue to be a part of the Sanction League program to compete in organized horseshoe pitching.

## **VI. END OF SEASON FINAL STAT FORM**

A. The end of season/league final stat form should be sent to the National League Director at the conclusion of each league or each separate league's season.

1. A member is eligible for a patch for their single highest game of the season/league if that member has pitched a game in the next higher 10% bracket from their previous high game percent patch earned in a previous season. A game must consist of a minimum of 20 shoes. For example: If a member has received a 20% patch, then during some later season they must pitch a 30% or higher game to receive another patch. Should they jump from 20% to 40%, they will receive a 40% patch and not the 30% patch.

2. If a club is established and most members have

received their highest skill, a league may change their pitching format, say from 30 shoe to 40 or 50 shoe, all members would then be eligible again for high game patches. Changing from count-all to cancellation does not warrant members receiving patches again, only the number of shoes pitched per game must be changed.

3. Instructions for completing the final stats form are on the back of the form. Submit exact dates from the start of each league to the end of each league. (Example: June 3, 2015 to August 16, 2015) Do not just write in June through August.

4. No member is eligible for any awards or patches if they pitch less than 400 shoes.

5. All scores, points and ringer percentage MUST be SCRATCH only. Do not add handicaps in any of these figures. If you use a handicap system, they should be used only to determine wins or losses and not figured in or put on the final stats form.

6. To receive these awards, the Final Stat form must be received by the National Director prior to December 31st of each given year. Submissions after this date may receive awards if they are still available at the discretion of the National Director.

## **VII MATERIAL REQUEST FORM**

A. This form is self-explanatory, and the instructions are on the form. It is very important that it be filled out completely, giving all information requested. This form must be sent in for each league for you to receive the items listed on it.

## **VIII 'AWARDS' & THEIR MEANING**

Sanctioned leagues should include in their rules or by-laws guidelines for eligibility of awards as listed in A through I. Requirements given for each award described below are suggested minimum standards.

### **A. *NHPA Sanctioned League Champion Patch***

Depending on your league format, the following pitchers would receive this award.

1. Each player on the winning team.
2. Individual winner of a singles league.
3. End of Season Tournament winner or winners, if league champion is decided with this format.

### **B. *NHPA Sanctioned League Class Champion Patch***

1. The winner or winners of any tournament held by your club, when such tournament has no bearing on your league schedule.

### **C. *NHPA Sanctioned League High Average Patch***

1. Should be awarded to the person with the highest ringer percentage for the total league season.

#### D. *NHPA Sanctioned Club High Game Patch*

1. Should be awarded to the person who had the highest single ringer percentage game during the league.

#### E. *NHPA Sanctioned League High Game over Ave. Patch*

1. Should be awarded to the person who had the highest ringer percentage game over his or her end of season ringer percentage (NOTE, end of year average).

#### F. *NHPA Sanctioned Club Sportsmanship Award Patch*

1. Rules of eligibility are what your club wants them to be. Often the league officers decide who receives this award. Other leagues award this patch by total vote of the club membership. This is an award which a club can issue with no bearing on pitching ability or to that person who gives of himself and doesn't get the chance to actively pitch in the league.

#### G. *NHPA Sanctioned League Rookie of the Year Patch*

1. Again, the league should have some guideline rules for the awarding of this patch. It should be issued to a new pitcher. A rookie is normally a first year participant. This patch would be an award a club would decide whether it could use or not.

#### H. *NHPA Most Improved Award*

1. The men's and women's Most Improved Award, designed specifically for the NHPA, should be awarded to the man or women in the league who has improved his or her percentage the most from the beginning of the season to the end.

2. A club may request separate awards for women, if the club has a separate women's league or the club has sufficient women members to make separate awards feasible which should at least 1/3 as many women as men.

### **IX. SANCTIONED LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP PATCHES**

A. At the option of a club, there is also an NHPA Sanctioned League Member patch available. This patch may be ordered at a cost of \$1.00 per patch, through the National Director's office and may be ordered in a lot by the club or singularly by an individual.

1. If ordered by a club or league in a lot, one (1) free patch for every ten (10) ordered will be sent. If ten are ordered you will receive eleven. Make checks payable to the NHPA and mail with your request to the National Director's office.

2. An NHPA Junior Sanctioned League Member patch is available FREE of any charge to each member of a total Junior Sanctioned League, one per member. These patches are sent automatically to all members of a newly sanctioned Junior League, upon receipt of a complete membership report, after which they should be requested for new members only.

## **X. 'NHPA SANCTIONED CLUB NATIONAL TOP TEN' PROGRAM**

A. The Top Ten is a separate award program for league pitchers who pitched outstanding games or seasons during or through league play.

B. To be eligible for the Top Ten award a pitcher must have pitched a total of at least 400 shoes for the season.

C. Final Stat Sheets must be submitted to the National Director for a club's members to be eligible for this National award program. The National Director will determine the Top Ten lists from his/her database. Final stats forms **MUST** be submitted each year before the 31st of December and only those members listed on this form will be considered for Top Ten recognition. This form must be completed in full, using only **SCRATCH** ringers and average. **DO NOT ADD IN HANDICAPS** ALL totals and averages must be for the **ENTIRE** season/league, not for just one game except High Game Percent which is for the one-single highest game pitched during the season/league. High Game Over Average is calculated by using the High game subtracted by the season ending average. Please carry all figures out to hundredths. (For example, for high game over points it should be 24.46 not just 24 or 24.5).

D. National Award Divisions – Two separate divisions are available: one for 40 shoe games and one for 50 shoe games. For all of these high point categories, only count-all formats are counted. In all National Award groups, categories exist for both adults and juniors and both are mixed.

E. Individual Category Requirements - To be eligible for these awards and recognitions a pitcher **MUST** pitch a minimum of 30 shoes per game. Individual awards are given for each of the following pitching divisions: Men, Women, Elders, Boys, Girls, and Cadets.

F. Available awards within the Top Ten Program:

1. National Divisions (Adults & Juniors)
  - a. National Award Categories (count-all only)
    - i. High Point Seasonal Average
    - ii. High Point Game
    - iii. High Point Game over Average

2. Individual Awards

- a. Individual Award Categories are for: Men, Women, Elders, Boys, Girls and Cadets
  - i. High Ringer Pct. Season
  - ii. High Ringer Pct. Game
  - iii. High Ringer Pct. Game Over Avg.

G. Types of Awards-Adults

1. All positions: Website posting, Certificate, & Patch
2. Top two positions: Plaques

## H. Awards-Juniors

1. All positions: Website posting, Certificate & Patch
2. Top two positions: Plaques,

## **XI. OTHER SANCTIONED CLUB/LEAGUE AWARDS**

### A. NHPA Sanctioned Club Director of the Year Award

1. Each year the top League Director (NHPA contact person) will be chosen by the National Sanction League Director. The basis for the selection will be the quality of the director's performance of his/her duties, plus those above and beyond the normal, such as: promotion, support, ideas, and interest in the NHPA and the Sanction League Program.

2. The award winner shall receive a NHPA plaque and shall have a picture (if available) and article published in the NHPA Newslines.

### B. NHPA Consecutive Year Sanction Award

1. A league will be recognized by the NHPA for each five (5) years of consecutive sanction. Any league that drops from the program for one year will lose their sanction number and will lose all past seniority/years of being sanctioned and must start over as a newly sanctioned group if they reinstate. Unusual circumstances may alter cancellations upon appeal.

- a. The award will be a perpetual style plaque.

## **PART 2**

### **I. FORMATION OF LEAGUES & USE OF HANDICAPS**

Frequently the NHPA is asked how to start and conduct a league. Unfortunately there is no one single good method that all can use. Many factors will influence your decision; number and location of courts; courts lighted or unlighted, number of pitchers, time available for pitching, and the amount of absenteeism. We offer here some general rules and some specific examples of league formats and methods of play. Also included is a description of some of the handicap methods that are being used.

### **II. GENERAL INFORMATION**

To be successful, a horseshoe league should have some type of weekly, organized competition. The most satisfactory is a team league, with the teams playing a round robin schedule of matches. Smaller leagues, can organize their competition on an individual basis playing either doubles or singles, but larger clubs should organize the competition with teams represented by three or more players. It is better to keep the number of players on a team to a minimum thereby having more teams.

The league schedule should be drawn up at the start of the season and all rules and provisions of play listed. Once rules and provisions are agreed upon they should be adhered to and followed. Your first set of rules may

not cover all contingencies. You should establish an executive committee composed of your officers and teams captains who will rule on any disputes. When you first start a league you may want to empower one person to act as commissioner to make final decisions. Of course, you will later incorporate these or similar rulings into your league by-laws.

### **III. LEAGUE RULES**

It is virtually impossible to write a sample constitution that all leagues can use because of the many different ways to conduct leagues. Here are some topics that should be covered and rules should be posted prominently for all to see.

A. Officers & their duties - President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Director, Statistician, and so forth. An Executive Committee composed of the officers and team captains. An Activities Committee to plan your banquet, periodic tournaments, court maintenance, and the like.

B. Method of Play – Establish: type of games (point-limit or shoe-limit), how many games a night, how many games by any one player, the schedule of games, the starting time, and how long to wait before forfeiting. If playing scratch doubles, how many games can be played by the same partnership, assuming there are more than two on a team. If opposing teams are to occupy more than one court, have home team players move over one court after each game, and visiting team players stay on the same court. Home team to post lineup first. The schedule should indicate home team.

C. Playing Rules - NHPA rules are to be enforced. Decide whether or not players will alternate first pitch. Alternating first pitch is recommended in handicap play.

D. Postponements - Set time limit for team captain to notify opposing captain. Decide, in case of rainouts, if a rained out match is to be played at a later time or not played at all. Your decision will depend on how rigid a schedule you want for the ending date of the league.

E. Forfeits, Dummy Scores - Forfeits should be avoided if at all possible as the league standings can be affected. If a player has no opponent he may be required to pitch against a dummy score equal to his average or a set number of points. He must exceed that total to gain a win.

F. Handicaps – Decide: method of handicapping and how often to change handicaps, (weekly or bi-weekly), whether to use season average thus far or average for the past few weeks, and whether to use 80%, 90%, or 100% handicap.

G. Awards – Establish: how many, for what achievements, the minimum number of games played to be eligible,

cash prizes, trophies, or both. See Part 1, Awards, for some criteria.

H. Dues – Decide: how much a week for prizes and banquet? The fixed amount to pitch in the league? Decide when dues are paid (at beginning of league or weekly).

I. Sponsors - Getting your local businesses involved, providing shirts, trophies, etc. Be sure you have a trophy to give each sponsor or at least the winning team's sponsor. Framed sponsor certificates is another idea.

#### **IV. LEAGUE FORMAT**

The basic concept of league play is that two teams play a match on a given day. The players of one team pitch against the players of the other team. Wins by individual pitchers count toward their teams win total. As noted earlier, the exact format will depend upon the number of courts and pitchers. The ideal format, assuming adequate facilities, is for one team to place its members on adjacent courts. The opposing team will do likewise and the first round is pitched. After the first round, one team's players will move over one court and the second round of games will be pitched. The same procedure is followed until the required number of rounds, have been played. Allow 2 to 2 1/2 hours at least for all pitching. Four 50 shoe games or the equivalent have been found satisfactory. Unfortunately there are not always a sufficient number of courts.

These are some suggestions if not enough courts are available:

A. Teams of three on one court, single games - Each player pitches two 40-shoe games against one or more players of the opposing team. If only two players are present (sometimes players sit out a night on a rotating basis) they each pitch three games. If only one is present he pitches all six games.

B. Teams of three on one court, doubles - Essentially the same format as (A). Partnerships changed after each game or after two games so that (1) everyone pitches the same number of games and (2) teams will not keep its top pitchers together. A variety of scoring methods can be used for this format.

1. 20-shoe doubles - Each player pitches 20 shoes.

2. 50-shoe doubles - The first player pitches 24 shoes, the second player pitches 26 shoes. In the second game the first player pitches 26 shoes, the second player pitches 24 shoes. Each game counts for a win, but a player's averages, scores, and handicaps are based on 50 shoes. Each player's handicap in the actual game is one half his 50 shoe handicap.

3. 50-point games, no handicaps used.

C. Teams of three or more on two or more courts - same methods as (A) and (B) above, but two to four players sitting out at any one time.

There are disadvantages in having more than one extra player per court on each team. If this is a concern in your club, you may want to consider alternative schedules.

A. Separate into two divisions, each division pitching on a different day (or at different times the same day). Plan a playoff between divisional champions to determine the overall champion.

B. Form two or more leagues - It may well be that your players will favor more than one format. With two or more leagues each league can establish its own method of play.

Not all clubs choose to utilize the team concept. Some prefer singles (one-man team), doubles (two-man team), or class (tournament-type) play, although the latter is the least effective. Some examples of these formats follow:

A. 10 courts, about 20 players, singles - Half the players stay on one court all evening. The other half move one court after each game. A handicap, count-all scoring, four 50- shoe games would be played. The statistician keeps track of who has played who and schedules court assignments accordingly. If there are more than 20 players, or an odd number, some players will draw a bye in one game. At the end of four rounds all those who had byes will pitch to complete their four games. This format has flexibility in that players need not pitch every week.

B. 10 courts, 40 players, singles or doubles play - Play two games simultaneously on the same court (walking doubles). All four players pitch their shoes before they move to the other end of the court. Decide before the game, which end pitches first.

C. Class play - The members are classed as in tournament play, by ringer or count-all average or by a qualifying score. All competition is within each class. The classes can remain unchanged throughout the season, or everyone can be re-classed after each complete round. This system is usually ill-advised unless the club has a large number of players. Six-man classes are about as large as you would want.

D. High-low doubles - Players are paired, and the league is balanced by putting the highest average with the lowest average, 2nd high with 2nd lowest, and so forth. One example would be to play 25-point games, and base handicaps on the order in the standings. When 1st place team plays 4th place team, the 4th place team receives 4 points.

## **V. MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS**

Schedule - When you first form your league you may not be sure exactly how many teams you will have. The first night of league play, schedule team No. 1 against No. 2, No. 3 against No. 4, etc. If you started with eight teams and added two more teams the second week you can designate them No. 9 and No. 10 and switch to a ten-team schedule. Take your schedule from an NHPA

schedule card and play the last round first. Teams 9 and 10 would pitch a makeup match at some convenient time.

A. Scorekeeping - (1) You can provide for alternatives, substitutes, or byes in your schedule. The person/s not pitching can keep score, (2) The players can carry a clipboard and scoresheet with them as they pitch. The player pitching last in an inning records the score from the previous inning, and hands the board to his opponent when it is his turn to pitch, (3) Keep the clipboard at one end and record two scores at the same time.

## **VI. HANDICAP SYSTEMS**

A. Definition - A handicap is a predetermined number of bonus points given to a player in addition to the actual "scratch" score pitched in a game. It may be applied in either of two ways. (1) Both players may have handicaps added to their scratch scores. (2) The lower average player receives bonus points based on the difference between the two players' averages.

B. Percentage of Handicap - Theoretically, players of differing abilities will be made equal by using 100% handicap. In practice, this can unfairly penalize a very good pitcher (over 50% average) because he mathematically has less room for improvement in a particular game. Since the purpose of handicap play is to provide close competition regardless of the averages, most leagues use either 80% or 90% of full handicap. This means that the lower average pitcher receives only a fraction of the full handicap. The full handicap is multiplied by a factor of 0.8 for 80% handicap or 0.9 for 90% handicap.

## **VII. COUNT-ALL POINTS HANDICAP SYSTEM**

The most popular method of play for handicapping, especially in leagues, is Count-All Points scoring. The customary rules are:

- A. Both players can score in the same inning, receiving credit for all points and ringers.
- B. Games are of a fixed length - most commonly 50-shoes, although 40-shoe, 30-shoe, or even 20-shoe (usually associated with doubles play) games are popular.
- C. Players should alternate first pitch, regardless of who scored last.
- D. Games tied at the end of the game stand as ties. Each player credited with half a win.

Averages are determined by dividing a player's total points scored by the total number of games played. If he has 320 points for six games, his average is 53. His handicap is the difference between his average and the maximum number of points possible in a game. In the 50-shoe game the maximum possible score is 150 points. Our 53 point average player would have a handicap equal to 97 at a 100% (150-53). It is not necessary to use full handicaps. Suppose no one in your

league averages or is likely to average more than 100 points. You can modify the table for a lower maximum score. All players' handicaps should be posted before a match begins. Players' handicaps are added to the actual "scratch" scores. The player with the higher "game with handicap" is the winner. Tie games should stand as ties.

Handicaps can be used two ways. (1) When two players meet they compare averages. The lower average player receives a spot score equal to the difference between the two averages multiplied by the league percentage of handicap. (Diff. X .8 if the hdcp. is 80%). (2) Each player has a handicap equal to the difference between his average and: a perfect score for the number of shoes pitched, or a modified maximum score as explained earlier in paragraph titled, "It is not necessary to use full handicaps."

Unlike the Count-All Points method of scoring and handicapping, the next handicap system is based on a player's ringer percentage average instead of his point average.

### VIII. QUICK AND EASY HANDICAP BASED ON RINGER PERCENTAGE

20 shoe game:

Hdcp. = one half the difference of the ringer percentages:

40 shoe game:

Hdcp. = the full difference of ringer percentages:

50 shoe game

Hdcp. = 1.25 X the difference in ringer percentages

60 shoe game:

Hdcp. = 1.50 X difference this works out to be about an 83% handicap.

### IX. CANCELLATION SCORING HANDICAP SYSTEM SHOE-LIMIT GAMES

This system converts a player's ringer percentage into points, three points for each ringer in a 100-shoe game. A factor, found in the following Table, is determined based on the number of shoes to be played and the percentage of handicap. Each player's ringer percentage is multiplied by the factor, which is: number of shoes in game x 3 points x Percentage of handicap. For 50-shoe games, 80% handicap, the factor is 1.2. The Table shows the factors for various length of games and percentage of handicap. Multiply each player's entering ringer percentage by the factor, resulting in an "adjusted" average.

TABLE: *Factors used to adjust players ringer percentages for Percentage of Handicap*

	Shoes	100%	90%	80%
Number	50	1.5	1.35	1.2
of shoes	40	1.2	1.08	.96

in game	30	.90	.81	.72
or	6	.18	.162	.144
Overtime	4	.12	.108	.096

All the rules of cancellation scoring apply to this system, with the single exception that players should use ALTERNATE FIRST PITCH, regardless of who scores in an inning.

Conclusion - We hope you have found these descriptions of league formats and handicap systems helpful. If you have questions about certain methods of play, contact the National Director. It will be helpful if you will specify the format you are considering, the number of people who will be pitching, and the number of courts that are available.

## **X. BREAKING TIES**

Whenever possible ties in the final standings that can be broken, should be broken. If they can't be, make duplicate awards.

In leagues where everyone is pitching the same number of shoes per game, ties for High Point Game, High Ringer Percent Game, High Game Over Average, and High Game with Handicap cannot be broken. The first two because they are scratch, whole number scores. The second two because of the handicaps, and thus the averages upon which they are based are whole numbers. Duplicate awards are called for.

Ties for High Average and Most Improved Pitcher can almost always be broken by refining calculations to extra places. Only in the case of a "dead heat" should duplicate awards be made. For Most Improved, the "base" average should also be carried out to extra places to help break apparent ties.

Ties among teams for First Place should be broken by a playoff, preferably by the number of wins. If, because of time constraints, weather, or something else, no playoffs can be held, other tie break methods can be used. Some of these are:

- A. Total team points, if count-all was used
- B. Determine team with most wins (one might have 60 wins, 4 ties, another 59 wins, 6 ties)
- C. Team with most wins by roster pitchers (non-substitutes).

Whatever the method, it should be agreed on in advance. If this has not been done, try using the methods suggested. Should none of these be satisfactory and playoffs are impossible, declare co-champions. NHPA awards will be made available.

Individual awards - Some clubs adopt a rule of "one award per person". If a player won High Average and High Game, he only wins High Average or whatever award is considered most prestigious. This rule usually applies if cash prizes are being made. It should not be

applied to NHPA awards. NHPA patches should be given to the pitchers who earned them. This rule only applies to individual awards. It does not apply to League Champion or Class Champion patches.

## **XI. THE NHPA-LEAGUE CONTACT PERSON**

The NHPA League Contact person or League Director is the person in your club who sends your club's reports to the National Sanction League Director. This designated "League Director" is the person authorized to contact the National Director. All materials and reports should be submitted by the league director and all NHPA materials and awards will be sent to that league director. Problems within your league should be referred to your League Director, so he or she can receive help from the NHPA for solving these problems. Who you select as the League Director is up to you and will no doubt depend on how big your club is and how many leagues you run.

## **PART 3**

### **I. NHPA SANCTIONED JUNIOR LEAGUE PROGRAM**

This is the officially recognized and authorized Sanctioned Junior League Program of the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association of America. Any other programs, either inferred or instituted by clubs or leagues, are not recognized or authorized by the NHPA.

NHPA Sanctioned Junior Leagues take precedence over any other junior horseshoe leagues, non-sanctioned, state or locally sanctioned, since this is a national sanction issued by the only recognized sanctioning body for the game of horseshoes.

Benefits of sanctioning:

- A. An 8 x 10 NHPA Certificate of Sanction for each Junior League, with a separate sanction number.
- B. Eligibility of participants for NHPA awards.
- C. National recognition and awards for the top ten pitchers.
- D. National recognition and awards for the top scholar pitchers.
- E. Articles published in the National Horseshoe Pitchers Newslines
- F. Special Sanctioned Junior League Member patches.

### **II. REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURES**

A. Application for Sanction -To apply for sanction, send the form entitled Request for League to the National Director, indicating Junior League on the form.

B. Assign a Junior League Director or have your current League Director act as contact person to the NHPA. This is the person authorized to contact the National Director

on league matters.

C. Restrictions - For a league to be sanctioned as a "Junior League", all participants must be 18 years of age or younger. No adult participation in this league is authorized.

D. League Certification of Sanction - A Junior League will be issued a separate NHPA Sanction Certificate and sanction number, with such being indicated with 'Jr' as the middle two digits in the number code. All sanctions will be permanent unless dropped by the club or league, or withdrawn by the NHPA.

E. NHPA dues for Sanctioned Junior League members shall be the current annual National dues as specified in the latest version of the NHPA Bylaws, plus State dues.

1. A Junior member holding the current year's NHPA card shall be considered paid in full.
2. To be eligible for NHPA league and National awards, a junior MUST have a current (valid) NHPA National card.

F. The Sanctioned Junior League Membership form must be filled out in full, giving club or league name, year, League Director (contact person), date, report number and the League Sanction number. Each member's full name and address, youth's age and card number. Ages must be given for ALL juniors, regardless of whether they pitch in an adult mixed league or in a total junior league.

G. The membership report must be sent as soon as possible prior to or immediately after the start of sanctioned league play, EVERY YEAR. Failure to do so could result in the Sanction being cancelled.

### **III. LEAGUE RESPONSIBILITIES & SUGGESTIONS**

A. Junior Sanctioned leagues shall be required to be run for the benefit of the youth involved, with the following goals of the adult administrators.

1. Fair, unbiased play and enjoyment a priority.
2. Teaching the basic skills, techniques, conduct and sportsmanship needed for good competition.
3. Game regulations and participation requirements.
4. Teach them the correct rules of play from the very beginning as set up in the NHPA official Rules of Play/Constitution and By-Laws.

B. No Sanctioned league shall permit any juniors to participate if such junior carries failing grades in school.

1. The policing of the above shall be as set by the league administration, with each officer keeping the benefit of education as the priority of the youth involved.

C. Junior leagues should play 30, 40, or 50 shoe Count-All scoring formats, with some form of handicap scoring involved. Count-All is highly recommended, although it would be good to introduce and teach cancellation

scoring, at such time the Director feels they are ready so as to prepare them for future tournament play.

1. The NHPA suggests that team play or doubles play be instituted for the benefit of interest and the teaching of team spirit and effort needed in team participation.
2. Please, stress - SAFETY - GOOD CONDUCT- SPORTSMANSHIP and the learning of all official NHPA RULES. This applies to ALL adult leagues as well!

D The NHPA also suggests that team jerseys, and/or caps be provided to each league member. Young people enjoy the uniform idea, and such creates a feeling of belonging and being a part of something.

1. NHPA T-shirts and caps can be obtained at a minimal cost to clubs and leagues.
2. It is suggested that clubs and leagues consider plaques or trophies for league awards.

E. The following are suggestions for the fundraising of funds for league awards and jerseys and other equipment by Sanctioned NHPA Leagues:

1. Registration Fee - A registration fee could be charged for a Junior League. A league using this type of fund-raising must adhere to the following NHPA directives.
  - a. NHPA Junior Sanctioned Leagues should not charge a fee higher than \$5.00.
  - b. The entire registration fee must be put into the Junior program.
2. Sponsorship of Junior League activities by area and local businesses. Most businesses, in point of fact, hold a certain amount of money for the purpose of youth oriented donations. An administrator may need do little more than visit the business and request a donation.
3. Hold a yearly fund raising event with door prizes.
4. At adult leagues, hold 50/50 raffles, splitting the income 50-50 with the winning person.

#### **IV. FORMATION OF JUNIOR LEAGUES**

A. Any club or group with approximately six or more juniors can set up a separate Sanctioned Junior League. In most cases, and for teaching purposes, the doubles team concept would be best for junior league set-ups. It also teaches working and striving for a goal as a team. How many teams would depend on the number of juniors involved, available courts, and whether lighted courts are available. League officers must be sure if night games are involved, that league play ends at a reasonable time.

1. Always remember, when working with juniors you not only have a responsibility to the youth, but also to the parents. Without the backing of the parent, you will not have the juniors.

B. The administrative part of the league should be set in motion with officers, playing rules, type of play and a printed schedule available prior to getting the juniors involved.

C. Establish the format of play, number of shoes per pitcher per game, count-all, or cancellation, and whether games will be singles, doubles or more than two to a team. The number of shoes pitched should be determined, to some degree, by their ages. You may not want to use 50 shoes, if you are working mainly with juniors under the age of 13. Teach and allow them to do their own score counting and measuring. Make a schedule with starting times, the waiting period prior to a forfeit, how many games will constitute a match, whether using alternate pitch or winning points pitch, who will call points to the scorekeeper and etc. Also put into effect your handicap system 100%, 90%, or 80%.

D.

Count-All - Junior league shall use the normal scoring system, where all points count.

E. Pitching Distance - Any junior may belong to and pitch with an NHPA Sanctioned League. Juniors will pitch from anywhere on the full or extended platforms and observe a 27 foot foul line except those age 12 and under who may observe a 20 foot foul line.

F. All juniors pitching a minimum of 400 shoes are eligible for all awards through this program except the Junior Scholar Pitcher Awards which have special eligibility requirements as stated in another part of this book.

G. All junior pitchers must be a paid NHPA member for the year in which any Sanctioned League award is considered.

H. To hold interest through a season, a league may divide the season into two halves, having first and second half winner, with playoffs at the end for the League Champions.

1. If enough teams are available, at least 8, you may add two or more divisions to this, creating division play-offs prior to the League Championship playoff.

2. You may also wish to divide the Juniors into classes and actually let them have their own year-end tournament, giving Class Champion patches to each class winner, thereby introducing them to tournament play.

## **PART 4**

### **I. NHPA SANCTIONED LEAGUE JUNIOR SCHOLAR PITCHER AWARDS PROGRAM**

Though the NHPA provides a method for Junior League sanctioning and it is great for young people to dedicate their time to the sport, the priority of the NHPA should be their education. While encouraging them to pitch and practice, it should not be a detriment to their scholastic abilities, nor their scholastic successes.

The Junior Scholar award program is dedicated to a goal of encouraging our youth to attain their highest levels possible in the classroom as well as on the horseshoe courts and to instill in them the basic fact that a true athlete and champion is healthy in mind as in body.

The NHPA junior programs, both in pitching and scholastic concerns, were developed and instituted for the future of the game of horseshoes and to helping our youth make contributions to the betterment of our society. Teaching juniors the fundamentals of the game, the enjoyment of participation, the pride they can feel from doing well, will insure a higher level of talent, understanding and sportsmanship in the game of horseshoes and for their lives in general.

#### **A. WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

1. Any junior who is a member in good standing and participates in an NHPA SANCTIONED JUNIOR LEAGUE or SANCTIONED ADULT LEAGUE and who holds a current NHPA Junior Membership card.

#### **B. WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE?**

1. Any junior pitching in a non-NHPA sanctioned league is not eligible for any honor or scholastic pitcher award connected to that league. A non-sanctioned league is any league not holding an official NHPA Certificate of Sanction on file with the office of the NHPA National League Director. A league with full NHPA membership alone does not constitute a Sanctioned NHPA league.

#### **C. CLASS & AGE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. To be eligible, a junior must be in grades 7th through and including 12th of a public/private school or in an approved home school situation.

2. A junior must also be a minimum of 12 years of age and no older than 18 years of age. Anyone, especially 18 year olds, who knowingly and willingly forfeits their "Junior" status at the State or National level also forfeits their eligibility in this program. Boys and girls will be eligible to compete as juniors up to and including the entire calendar year in which they turn 18.

#### **D. PITCHING REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Juniors must participate in a normal pitching schedule and format as used by the participating league and meet all league and playing rules as set by their league administrators and the NHPA.

2. All junior members shall be required to pitch in

a minimum of two-thirds of all scheduled matches. A league may raise this eligibility standard, but may not make it lower than that set by the NHPA.

#### E. SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS:

1. To be considered eligible the pitcher must maintain a scholastic grade point average of 3.00 or above on a scale of 4.00, 85.00% or above on a scale of 100%, or average equal to a B or above on any other scale used by their school. This GPA must be for the entire school term, not just 1, 2, or 3 quarters or semesters. A league may have authority to raise this minimum GPA, but shall not make it lower than that set by the NHPA.

2. Since this program is a scholarship, the recipient must enroll in a higher education or training program before the age of twenty-one (21) to receive their award. The council will approve appropriate programs and if the recipient fails to apply or meet these standards in the allotted time, he/she forfeits their scholarship.

#### F. WHO IS RECOGNIZED AND AWARDED?

1. All those maintaining a GPA of B or above shall be recognized, if submitted on the required form by December 31st of the year in which the school term was completed, (example: school term of 15/16 must be submitted before December 31, 2016). These forms must be verified by both the league director in charge and the school of attendance. A copy of each student's total year report card and birth certificate must accompany this form when it is submitted.

2. In any cases of grade average ties, such ties will be at the discretion of the NHPA Council as to how the ties will be broken.

#### G. WHAT ARE THE AWARDS EARNED?

1. Honor/Scholar Society - Each junior making this honor listing receives an NHPA Scholar Patch,

2. NHPA Scholar/Trust Fund Pitcher - The NHPA Council has the option of awarding Junior Scholar Pitcher Trust Fund Awards, as it sees fit. The NHPA Council will make a determination as to how these monetary awards shall be awarded and to how much each award is. There will be no requirements as to how these awards are given out relating to gender or age. These awards could be received by all boys, all girls, or a combination of both. The students receiving these shall also receive an NHPA Certificate of Verification, an NHPA Scholar Patch, and a Trust Fund amount as set by the NHPA. These trust funds shall be set by the NHPA Executive Council, with all such requirements for the awards being met by the pitchers receiving them. These funds will be set up by the NHPA Secretary and held in the bank until each recipient has successfully completed high school and enrolls in a

higher training program (see section E-2 above).

H. CAN THIS BE EARNED MORE THAN ONCE?

1. Any junior meeting the grade, age and pitching requirements is eligible for this award from one school term to the next whether he or she has won this award previously or not.

I. LEAGUE REQUIREMENTS:

1. All league directors shall send a junior membership report to the National Club/League Director, with name, address, age and NHPA card number indicated. All juniors must be indicated on either a separate junior membership report or indicated as a junior on an adult club/league's membership report.

J. PARENT OR GUARDIAN REQUIREMENTS:

1. A parent or legal guardian shall be required to verify the scholastic grade average if the junior is selected as an NHPA Junior Scholarship Trust Fund Award winner. The parent or legal guardian shall also be required to verify age and provide a copy of the Birth Certificate. The National Club/League Director shall send forms for this purpose.

K. SCHOOL OF ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

1. The school of attendance shall be required to verify the scholastic grade average for the entire school term of the junior earning this award. Such a form must be filled out in full, signed by the Principal and returned to the National League Director. Home schooled award winners must have the home school teacher verify their qualifying GPA's.

L. NATIONAL RECOGNITION:

1. All Scholar/Honor Society winners shall be listed and published in the NHPA Newslines.

2. NHPA Scholarship Trust Fund Pitcher recipients may provide a snapshot of themselves along with an article telling about themselves to the National Director.

M. CLUB & SCHOOL RECOGNITION:

1. The League may, if so desired, request a Certificate of Merit for display in the club house, verifying them as having an NHPA Junior Scholarship Pitcher in their league. Request for these Certificates of Merit should be sent to the office of the National League Director.

## **PART 5**

### **I. The Sanctioned League Annual Tournament**

The NHPA will annually sponsor and hold a Sanctioned League Team Tournament generally in the beginning of October. The tournament will be directed by the National Sanctioned League Director and be held at the National Hall of Fame facility in Wentzville, Missouri. Teams will

be made up of three pitchers from any combinations of divisions and must all be from the same charter or league. The entry fee will be set by the NHPA Council at the winter meeting and will include court and scorekeeping fees. All monies collected will be used by the tournament or returned to the players as prize money. Attempts will be made to encourage and receive outside sponsors and any sponsor funds will be used for prize money.

The tournament format will be set up as two ten team classes (3 player teams), cross seeded by combined team pitching percentages and then alternating between classes. The players on each team will be placed as either player 1, 2, or 3 position based on their individual pitching percentages. Team players 1 will compete in a round robin against the other nine team's player 1's as will the 2's and the 3's. Each round will have the same teams playing each other for the 1's, 2's, and 3's. The team against team competition for each round carries a bonus point for the team which wins the most games. Games that end in a tie will remain a tie and rounds that end with 1 ½ wins for each team will carry no bonus points. The competition will be handicapped at or around 85%. The Tournament Director will fine tune the tournament details as needed. Some individual awards may be given out. Details will be published on the NHPA website when they are finalized. This format may be altered if necessary. The sign-up process will begin at the World Tournament on a "first come, first serve" basis. During the first three weeks of sign-ups, no more than two teams will be accepted from any given charter. After the three week initial sign-up period, any valid team from any charter will be accepted and entered into the tournament on a "first come, first serve" basis. Each team will select a Captain who will communicate with the Tournament Director as needed. Entry fees are expected at the time of acceptance into the tournament. The NHPA has the right to cancel the tournament if insufficient entries are received.

## **II. Future Authorization Policy**

The NHPA has the authority to add Leagues fees, if needed.

LEAGUE PATCHES







# REQUEST FORM FOR NHPA CLUB/LEAGUE SANCTION

State \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Club/League \_\_\_\_\_

## INFORMATION FOR NHPA DIRECTORY OF COURTS & CLUBS

Number of Courts \_\_\_\_\_ Address of Court Site \_\_\_\_\_

Lights? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Clay or Sand \_\_\_\_\_

Club President \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Club/League Contact: (person to whom NHPA league National Director will send all materials and correspondence).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Area Code \_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Play? (please circle)    Count-all    Cancellation    Doubles    Singles

No. of Shoes \_\_\_\_\_ Teams? If teams, number on each team? \_\_\_\_\_

*So that the NHPA may serve you better, please provide complete information. Use reverse side or additional sheets,*