



HORSESHOE PITCHING NEWSLINE



Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association
May/June 2025



2025 World Tournament Information, Newberry Horseshoe Tour report, membership Information and more in this edition of the Horseshoe Pitching Newsline!



Renew your NHPA membership for 2025 today!

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Horseshoe Pitching NEWSLINE

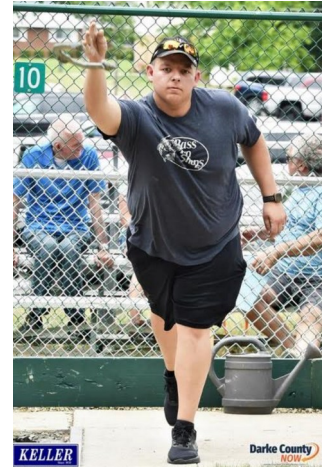
Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

2025 World Tournament Preparing for the Future of the NHPA

Ben Webb, NHPA President

2025 World Tournament

We're on a fast track to Sandy, Utah host of the 2025 World Horseshoe Tournament this July! As the season has kicked off in most states with leagues and tournaments happening weekly across the country, horseshoe pitchers everywhere are beginning to enjoy the warm weather this season. We have still been receiving many questions regarding the schedule and event length for the WT, the answer is still very unclear as entries come in. One thing that is becoming evident though is that the tournament will more than likely not need to utilize the last 3 days, making it a week and a half event. Unless we see a dramatic spike in entries, with entries exceeding 900, there would be no reason to tie up the venue for the full 2-week period. At the current state of entries, and the projected last couple of weeks increase in entries, it looks like a week and a half WT is the most likely probability. 1 week is on the table if we have less than 600 entries, but I'm confident we'll exceed that number as we currently have 430+ entered. There's still time to enter the 2025 World Tournament through our online link, if you have entered but aren't on the list in eShoe, please contact Brian Poole to check on your entry.



Hall of fame/team world

Looking at my horseshoe season calendar, there are several events on the horizon! On the first weekend in May, sixteen of the top 40-foot pitchers and sixteen of the top 30-foot pitchers will swarm to our Hall of Fame building in Wentzville, Missouri for the annual invitational tournament. An action-packed event where the best of the best meets to participate in a 2-day marathon of horseshoe pitching. Following that tournament is the annual Team World tournament in Beloit, Wisconsin, where defending Missouri, who claimed the 2024 Team World Championship, looks to defend their title. One of the longest running horseshoe tournaments in the country follows with the Ringer Classic in Greenville, Ohio, but the weekend before will find the 2nd stop on the Horseshoe Tour not far away in Ronceverte, West Virginia! These are just 4 of the events within the next few months, I would encourage anyone that's able to attend these events, if not as a participant but as a spectator. All 4 of these events have unique formats to determine their championships, a great opportunity to see some exciting games and matches in each of these events!

Cost cutting around the WT

Everybody's least favorite thing to talk about is money. We, as the NHPA, owe it to you, the members, to be as transparent as we can, even with those difficult topics. Following the election last year, once I got a clear look at the finances of our association and had some time to analyze those, it was obvious there was an issue. Our insurance cost increasing was a major blow to the annual budget. At face value, you would assume that this cost is what is causing us to just break even or turn negative in some years. I separated the WT budget from the general fund budget and by doing this I was able to see the issue isn't completely to do with the insurance or any other general costs, it's the cost the run the WT that has been causing the budget to struggle. When I categorized all of the general fund budget, we actually came out ahead pretty good at the end of the year. The issue is that the WT cost has been covered by some of the general funds. The NHPA bylaws indicate that \$3 per adult member goes toward the WT prize fund. As a bylaw, this would've had to be installed by the delegation meaning that this was agreed upon as allowable by the charter representatives at an annual convention. However, these are the only funds we are allowed, per the bylaws, to utilize for conducting the

Continued on Page 4

Ben Webb, NHPA President...continued

Another source of income for the event is our bid fee and the entry fees, along with any sponsorship we may have for the event. The trend of using funds from the general fund is ending this year, we have to be compliant with what we're allowed to do.

So, what does that mean?

Sponsorships solve some of the problems as we continue to work with our new model which is beginning to gain some traction. Cutting costs is never easy but at times it is necessary, but where do you make the cuts. This year we have made cuts in several areas. Dalton Rakestraw has been able to find us a much more affordable venue than we've seen in recent years, cutting our banquet costs in half. We also have brought on an NHPA Photographer, this will reduce the photography costs tremendously. Shelly Martinez, known for her work on the Horseshoe Tour, has signed with us to do photography at the 2025 World Tournament. Shelly always does great work and will no doubt do a phenomenal job capturing the 2025 WT. The singular drawback to this option is that there won't be onsite picture sales. Recent years have seen our council utilize photographers at an expense of over \$10,000. These photographers then come and sell our members the photos after we've paid them to be there. We did search for an option to provide onsite photo sales, but our searches all turned out to be a great expense for us. With the WT budget already being tight, I don't believe that spending an excessive amount of the available funds for someone to come and then sell back to our entrants as being an acceptable practice. Shelly will be taking the photos, then we'll be uploading those photos to a server where our participants will be able to view them. We are talking about charging a small fee to access the full database of these, but it would be very small and only done to recover some of the costs of this service. Were we to charge a fee of any kind, it would be no more than \$10 and would give an individual access to all of the WT photos to print or use on their own social medias. Now, I understand there are those that like the physical photo in a frame, we will also provide this option. I'm working on the pricing logistics of this but there will be an option to purchase your photos, in a frame, post-WT and have them mailed to you.

I understand that change is difficult, change is uncomfortable, and change is uncertain. This is a very small change to enable us to properly fund our WT in it's current state. WT photography started with one individual who loved the game and setup shop to offer a service to the NHPA members, but it evolved into a search for companies who would then sell on the backs of the NHPA and the members. Our council is entrusted with the stewardship of the NHPA funds. When I rewrote the NHPA Standard Operating Procedures, I included some core values of our association to guide the council. One of those being stewardship—in reference I wrote: “The NHPA council allocates the funds of the association effectively, wisely, and with the purpose of progression and growth.” This change is consistent with this theme, I have no doubt that Shelly will do an excellent job, and I'm very grateful for Shelly and her willingness to use her talent to assist the NHPA so greatly in this way.

Ben

Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything. George Bernard Shaw

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Newberry, South Carolina...Horseshoe Tour

Ben Webb, NHPA President

Did you say he was 13?

The Horseshoe Tour kicked off their 2025 season as they have for several years in Newberry, South Carolina. 71 pitchers from across the country flocked to the small South Carolina town to participate in the unique event. I spent a lot of time this weekend talking to several of our membership, and a lot of great ideas came from that. One idea that was mentioned to me was the key to a problem the council has been trying to solve for 8 months, one that we were stuck on. The comment came in the middle of an hour-long conversation, completely unrelated to the problem we were facing. As this person said, many great things can come when we start communicating.

Now, onto the tournament. I first went to Newberry in 2022 where I would win this tournament for the first time. I returned in 2023 to win it again and went back in 2024 to try for the 3-peat. Knowing that forever rival Tyler Howard was there in 2024, this tournament would have an extra element as the final four for the championship was set to be: Tyler Howard, Dan Watson, Dalton Rakestraw, and myself in 2024. However, I had won the tournament twice from being a lower seed, I was still optimistic....until it rained. When the rain came and the tournament was cancelled early Sunday morning, I left the lobby deflated, with a \$200 check and a third-place finish based on the qualifying round, these are the rules of the tour. It stuck with me though that I never seem to qualify well but thrive in the final round on Sundays. When we got to Clarksville, Tennessee that same year, rained again on Sunday, no final four, Tyler leaves with a tour win. 2024 was a historic year for the tour seeing three back-to-back rainouts.

By the time we got to the qualifying round in Newberry this year, rain was off the table for the weekend. As they did introductions, the top 3 seeds, were Tyler Howard, two time tour champion but had never played a final four on the tour. Myself, who had never lost a final four in Newberry, and tour legend Dan Watson from Alabama, who has likely won more final tour tournaments than Tyler and I combined have played in. We qualified in like fashion with Larry Hanes filling out the top 4 in the championship round for Sunday.

Early Sunday morning I walked to the court to meet my first match, Tyler. Tyler and I have played in almost every single tournament possible. I believe the only format we've never played in is in the Hall of Fame tournament. We've competed in 5 world tournaments together, 14 state tournaments, almost as many state doubles tournaments, the ringer classic, best 4 out of 7 series at regular tournaments. We've been on a team together in state doubles and opposite sides of the court more times than I could remember. I would imagine Tyler has a 70% plus win/loss record against me, always staying a ringer or two ahead. One of Kentucky's greatest stories, an almost 20-year back and forth rivalry that is far from over, Tyler was the natural horseshoe pitcher, and I was the one who had to practice for hours on end to get better. Every great player in any sport needs someone pushing them, chasing after their spot to make them get better. We had never met on the horseshoe tour though, this was the only place where I had some experience over Tyler, and it showed the first game. Horseshoe Tour format dictates the first game is critical. Best 2 out of 3, 30 shoe games can put someone on the bench fast in the horseshoe tour. I got off to a hot start on Tyler the first game and he started off slow, I won round 1 (20 ringer – 17). Tyler quickly found his bearings though as he won round 2 (21-17). Dan Watson had dispatched his opponent, Larry Hanes, to two games and would get to take a break. At the end of game 3, with a little universal bad luck on my side Tyler would advance to the final round with Dan Watson and I'd put my horseshoes in the truck. Defeating Tyler in game 1, although not the overall outcome I was looking for, gave me some satisfaction. In a rivalry as long as this one, I've come to learn you don't always have to win every event, you've just got to let them know they're not going to just walk over you.

Continued on Page 6

The final match for the tour championship, Tyler Howard and Dan Watson. Watson defeated Howard in Lansing, Michigan in the championship round, but that was points and this is shoes. Watson would hammer Howard in the first game 23 ringers to Tylers 19. There's a strategy in these games, if you get out to a solid start the first 10-14 shoe, coasting the rest of the game will normally get you by. In the 2nd game though, Tyler turned the tables with 21 ringers to Watson's 19. At this point, no one in the 40ft division had pitched to their potential until game 3 of the last round. Watson would fire a 73% game at Howard, but Tyler answered with an 86% game of his own to eliminate Watson and capture the tour championship in his first final four win. As they say, it's hard to win it, but it's harder to retain it, what will happen with this division on the next tour stop?

The Horseshoe Tour uniquely combines 30-foot players into the 30 ft division, and over the years we've seen both men and women win the 30-foot division. What we've never seen is a Junior Boy win the division, a 13 year old Junor Boy at that! The 30ft division was stacked at this tournament, but young Eli Sullivan came on a mission, with a plan, and with a turn? Eli is known for his single flip, hard, low ringers from 30ft that sound like a, well, hammer striking railroad spike. Eli, now almost as tall as me and with a lot more hair, has switched to a turn. I'm positive his first opponent would've thought that this change would make Eli an easier opponent as it takes time to gain confidence with a pitch. That may have been the case but only until the end of day 1. When the dust cleared on Saturday for the 30ft division. The final four for the championship was set to be April Campbell, Jerry Wingfield, and Kelly Campbell, all averaging within 8% of each other. Kelly was the #2 seed at 70%, but Eli was going to come into the finals 11.11% over Kelly at 81.11%!

Eli would play April Campbell first and eliminate April in 2 games, 18-13 ringers & 27-26 ringers. Kelly would struggle with Jerry Wingfield, dropping the first game 18-20 ringers, winning the second game 20-19 ringers, and then dropping the 3rd game with a really low game of 13 ringers to Jerry's 26.

Jerry would meet Eli for the tournament championship in the 2nd round, but Jerry quickly found himself in much hotter water than his first round. Eli hit Jerry with 27 ringers out of 30 shoes, a 90% game, putting Jerry on the edge of elimination right out of the gate. What Eli hadn't counted on was the tour experience of Jerry, being a seasoned tour veteran, Jerry wasn't going to just lay down for Eli. If you don't know Jerry, you aren't going to rattle him very easily. When I was qualifying on day 1, I looked over at Jerry who sat right outside the fence, asleep, Jerry don't worry about much. Eli came out guns blazing in the 2nd game with 25 ringers out of 30 shoes, you can't do much better than that, unless your Jerry who said he'll see Eli's 25 and raise him 1, defeating Eli, 26-25. Game 3, 1-1, 30 shoes from either winning the tournament or coming up short. Jerry would drop off this game only pitching 21 ringers for 30 shoes, but Eli never swayed. Pitching another consistent game in the 80's with 26 ringers for 30 shoes, Eli defeated Wingfield in the match and became the first youth division to win the whole thing on the Horseshoe Tour!

A big shoutout to Ron Taylor and his Horseshoe Tour staff on kicking off another successful season with yet another smooth event! Congratulations to all of the tour division winners from Newberry, I look forward to seeing everyone in Ronceverte, West Virginia!



My Definition of Christianity

Ken Heinritz, NHPA Chaplain

To my fellow horseshoe pitchers, I'd like to talk about the miracle of miracles: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Though American's and people across the globe recently celebrated that very precious day, I believe this is one holiday that should be celebrated year-round. Why? Is the Resurrection of Jesus really that important? Absolutely!!! I believe it is crucial to our faith. Allow me to explain. I Corinthians 15:17 says "And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile (*worthless*); you are still (*doomed*) in your sins!"



This topic is central to the Christian faith, yet most fail to recognize it's importance. We live without giving it much thought. If Jesus had not been resurrected from the dead, our faith would be meaningless. Jesus died the death we deserved to give life to all who believe in Him. He lived a sinless life, carried all our sins on His back, and died in our place. Why did He do this? Because He loves us. ("But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Rom. 5:8) You see, we are all sinners since Adam and Eve. (Rom. 5:12 "... just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.") And the penalty for sin is death and separation from God. But Jesus suffered and died to appease God's wrath. But then He rose again, proving He is God. Salvation is now offered to anyone who places their faith in Jesus, that is, understands that He died, was buried and rose again. When a person does this, God grants new life. It's as though Jesus' death paid the penalty that our sin deserved. He died in my place. Jesus's death & resurrection conquered sin and death. So, the one who calls out to Jesus for salvation, has been given victory as well. We no longer live in fear of death. The thought of dying lost its 'sting'. However, for those who fail to place faith in Jesus during their earthly lives, there is reason to fear. Because their sins have not been forgiven and therefore will be judged. This will be a terrifying day for many. But everyone who places faith in Jesus by believing in His death, burial, and resurrection has the promise of eternal life in Him. So, this topic of 'resurrection' is paramount to our faith.

Christianity is not all about rules or following certain laws. Rather, Christianity is about knowing Jesus and accepting Him as your Savior, which ultimately will cause you to want to live for Him.

“

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

See You Next Year
in



SALT LAKE!

2025 National Horseshoe Pitchers
Association World Tournament

July 21—August 2, 2025

FOR HOUSING REGISTRATION
AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
SALT LAKE, SCAN BELOW:



SPORTS
SALT LAKE

visitsaltlake.com

ATTENTION PLAYERS!

Sports Salt Lake has partnered with Event Connect to bring you all the BEST rates and deals for hotels while at the World Tournament in Sandy! Please use the QR code link and book your rooms via the website as this will help tracking all information for future world tournament hosts. Information like room nights, heads in beds etc. All these numbers and figures should be as accurate as possible each year to ensure the success of our event and in securing new locations in the future. Please if you already have reservations, consider cancelling, and using this booking link. It will help so much in our efforts! Also, it will help Sandy when potentially hosting again in the future!

See the note from Event Connect:

Sports Salt Lake with hosting the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association 2025 World Horseshoe Pitching Championships, has integrated the industry's leading tournament management system, EventConnect. This technology manages many things, including overnight accommodations for participants. Our pre-negotiated tournament hotels will ensure that all participants receive our best group rates, amenities, cancellation protection, and service. We highly encourage all hotel activities to take place on this secure network, which will provide the best experience possible.

For Club Directors and/or Team Managers looking for assistance in activating a group block of rooms, please get in touch with our Account Coordinators at 1-888-723-206 Ext.823 or by email at events@eventconnect.io

For guests booking personal reservations looking for assistance in regards to a reservation, please get in touch with our Customer Success team at [1-888-723-2064](tel:1-888-723-2064) or by email at support@eventconnect.io



At EventConnect, we're proud to partner with organizations like Sports Salt Lake for the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association Championship Tournament, to make these unforgettable tournament experiences seamless. From travel coordination to secure hotel booking, our platform ensures every player, coach, and family member can focus on the game—and the growth that comes with it.

By handling their secure hotel booking and travel coordination, EventConnect ensures every player has a seamless experience. This allows athletes, family members, and coaches to focus on what truly matters, while tournament staff can dedicate their energy to delivering an exceptional event.



National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

Sponsorship Opportunities



\$75 – (circle one)

Website Sponsorship – Clickable Logo on the “partners” page of horseshoepitching.com for 1 year
1/4 Page advertisement in 1 edition of the NHPA Newslite

\$125 – (circle one)

Placement on the “World Tournament Sponsored by” banner
1/2 Page advertisement in 1 edition of the NHPA Newslite
1 – “court sponsored by” sign behind 1 pit at the World Tournament

\$150 – (circle one)

Website Sponsorship – Clickable Logo on the home page of horseshoepitching.com for 1 year

\$175 – (circle one)

World Tournament preliminary class trophy sponsorship – 1 class Full page advertisement in 1 edition of the Newslite
“Yard” style sign outside of the venue entrance displaying company information

\$300 – (circle one)

World Tournament championship class trophy sponsorship – 1 class
3’x5’ banner, hung alongside tarps of pitching area displaying company information (hung inside the pitching area)
Standing banner in the corridor of the event stadium

\$500 – (circle one)

2 - 3’x5’ banner, hung alongside tarps of pitching area displaying company information and/or logo’s

\$750 – (circle one)

2 - 3’x5’ banner, hung alongside fence of pitching area displaying company information

Company Information:

Sponsor Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Information for purchased advertisement:

Company Name: _____ Location: _____

Additional Wording (Banners):

Sponsor Signature: _____ NHPA Representative Signature: _____

If paid advertisement please remit payment to NHPA Representative or mailed to NHPA Secretary/Treasurer within 10 business days of signing of this agreement, checks should be made payable to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

Effective Date: _____



National Horseshoe Pitchers Association Sponsorship Packages



\$750, Silver Sponsor

Clickable Logo on the home page of
horseshoepitching.com for 1-year

2 – “court sponsored by” signs behind 2 pits at the
World Tournament

Full page advertisement in 2 editions of the Newline

1/2 – page advertisement in the World Tournament
program book

\$1,500, Championship Sponsor –

Clickable Logo on the home page of
horseshoepitching.com for 1 year

4 – “court sponsored by” signs hung behind 2 full
courts at the World Tournament

Recognition of sponsorship on 1 full set of
championship class trophies

Full page advertisement in 3 editions of the
Newline

Full page advertisement in the World Tournament
program book

2 – 3x5 banner, hung alongside the fencing of the
pitching area for the duration of the World
Tournament

\$1,250, Gold Sponsor

Clickable Logo on the home page of
horseshoepitching.com for 1 year

2 – “court sponsored by” signs behind 2 pits at the
World Tournament

1 – 3x5 banner, hung alongside the inside tarps of
the pitching area for the duration of the event

Full page advertisement in 3 editions of the Newline

Full page advertisement in the World Tournament
program book

Become a Title sponsor of the World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament!

Only 4 of this type sold per year

Clickable Logo on the home page of horseshoepitching.com for 1 year

4 – “court sponsored by” signs hung behind 2 full courts at the World Tournament

Recognition of sponsorship on 1 full set of championship class trophies

Full page advertisement in 3 editions of the Newline

Full page advertisement in the World Tournament program book

4 – 3x5 banners, hung throughout the venue for the duration of the World Tournament

Recognition as a Title Sponsor in press release and opening ceremonies

\$2,500

Attach additional sponsorship form for Sponsorship Package purchases

Recruiting is the Name of the Game

Austin Bailey, NHPA 1st Vice President

Greetings from Illinois I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter with their Families. It is truly a great time of the year especially because most of us are starting to get the nice weather that we all need to get back to the court's and get back to the sport we love. I want to encourage everyone to either take someone to a horse-shoe tournament this year or invite them to play in your local league—recruiting is the name of the game and we need more members for our sport to continue in the years to come. I am excited to see what the new season will hold for all of us here in the NHPA.

I want to strongly encourage people to attend tournaments in their local charters as well as maybe venturing out into neighboring states to keep the spirit of the game going. You do not just have to attend the World Tournament although it is a one-of-a-kind tournament. It is definitely a big family reunion and I look forward to it every year. There are several other tournaments around the country though that are worth attending as well. Team World comes to mind this year—they received 26 teams and they can only accommodate 24, so they unfortunately had to turn 2 teams away. I have played in this tournament for over a decade and I remember when we could not get 20 teams and now we are turning teams away. We encourage you to talk to people in your charter and try to attend next year in Beloit Wisconsin.

The sponsorship committee is in full form right now securing sponsorships for the NHPA. They don't have to be major sponsors either. We have a wide range of sponsorships that you can do, and there are nice benefits for sponsoring with the NHPA. I am truly looking forward to seeing what we can have done by the time the World Tournament gets here.

I want to also talk about a subject that none of us likes to discuss but it just sometimes has to happen. If you have a situation in a tournament, league, club or even your charter and are disciplined and feel that it is unwarranted and want to file a grievance, please reach out to me so we can handle the situation in the best possible way. I do not want any of our members to feel they do not get a fair outcome of whatever the situation might be. I am here to help and would be more than willing to help in any way that I can.

If any of you will be attending the HOF Invitational at the beginning of May or Team World the 3rd weekend in May I will see you there. Don't be a stranger! Come up and say hi or even discuss anything you might want to with me.

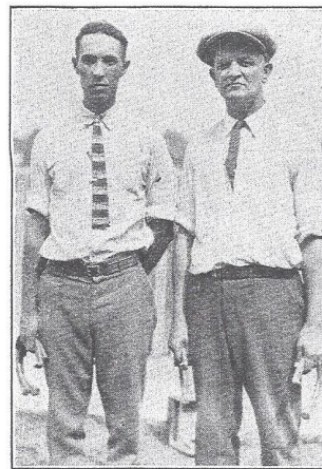
Ringers to All

Austin Bailey



Blast from the past The Horseshoe World... April 1927

HOOSIER PITCHERS



Joe Brooks and Ed Weaver, Indianapolis pitchers. Both are real boosters.

HORSESHOE PITCHER MAKES OTHER RECORDS

James A. Shuck, of Sharpville, Ind. is considered champion horseshoe pitcher around this part of the state, and was champion of Tampa, Fla., several winters ago.

Horseshoe pitching is not the only thing that he excels in. Several weeks ago the associated press carried Mr. Shuck's picture and story giving his records as free thrower of basket balls. This article stated that he was the best in the country and made records that are hard to beat. He made 592 free throws out of 600, and on several occasions made 100 consecutive baskets.

Although he is an expert at basket ball throwing, he says horseshoe pitching is more fun, and would rather pitch horseshoes than do anything else.

About 35 years ago, Mr. Shuck, who has a farm near Sharpville, Ind., cut 140 shocks of corn in one day. The Tipton county papers at that time stated that this was a world's record. At the age of 55 he cut 112 shocks of corn in 8½ hours.

Mr. Shuck and his brother David, in a contest, cut 8 cords of wood in 2 hours with a cross cut saw. Their opponents cut 7¼ cords, making 15¼ cords for four men in two hours. The papers at this time stated that this also was a record.

Although Mr. Shuck is 64 years old he is quite active and if you were to meet him you would think he was considerable younger. Mr. Shuck says lots of work and horseshoe pitching keeps him young and active.

Actively Pursing Additional World Tournament Locations

Dalton Rakestraw 2nd Vice President



“Come get loose at the moose!” -Lauren Nicely, Shreveport-Bossier, LA

That phrase rang out when Visit Shreveport-Bossier came up to my booth and sat down for another conversation for a potential future event! The Sports Event and Tourism Association (ETA) Symposium just completed yesterday in Tulsa, OK. I sit here in TUL airport writing my article with about a three-hour delay (thought I better make the best of my time.) The symposium had some high points for the NHPA. I can report there is still much interest in cities hosting our event! We are bidding out 2030. However, building these new connections and making friendships and partnerships with these communities is what it is all about! This is the only marketplace sports event until August, which will be in Miami. I am looking forward to continued success working with all suppliers and the NHPA.



While attending, I got to hang around our wonderful hosts for 2025, Sports Salt Lake. Caryn, Clay, Cass, Evan, Zorem, and others were all in attendance. It was so great to get to know them more personally and professionally. I can report that I lost the Silver Medal match in the Salt Lake Games booth at the symposium. The games were mini curling, mini basketball hoops, mini darts, and mini cornhole. It was a great time, and I really enjoyed it. Sports Salt Lake is sure to bring an excellent tournament to the table for us. The Mountain American Expo Center will be transformed into our pitching arena and looking sharp! Don't delay, the deadline IS APPROACHING! This is your event! Friendships, fun, memories. It all builds up and is enjoyed by horseshoe pitching enthusiasts across the world for our premier event! If you chose not to go, YOU WILL MISS OUT! I think I even talked Caryn and Cass into pitching in our event!

Also at symposium, I met with Jodi Maguire, our 2026 and 2029 host in Visit Wausau! Jodi is anxiously waiting for next year and the official planning to begin. Jodi will be at Team World and the World Tournament. Visit Wausau is making magnets, shirts, stickers, you don't want to miss out in 2026 for sure!

The publicity and promotions committee directors have been actively working hard to continue our little successes for us. Little changes that can help us build our foundation that we need to help grow.

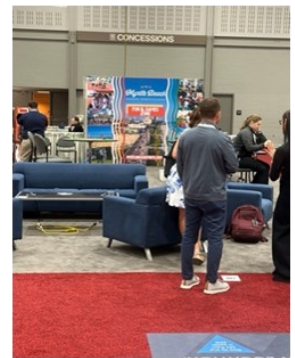
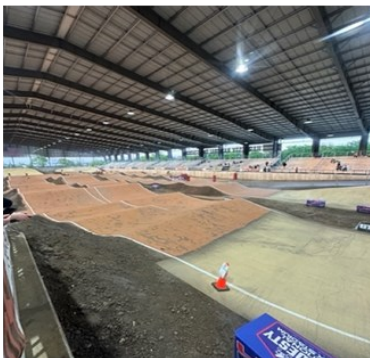
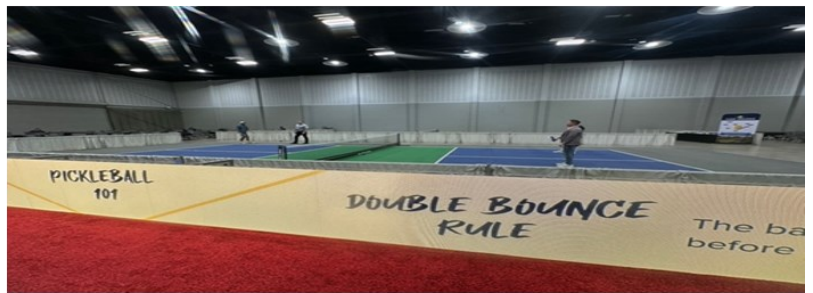
The delegate meeting and the Hall of Fame/Awards Banquet will be at the Ladu Dance Studio/Events Center in Sandy. Banquet tickets are on sale now on the NHPA website: www.horseshoepitching.com

My friend Vered Lopez, President of USA Catchball sent me an article for our New-sline. Her article truly explains how two completely different sports can connect and become a friendship that will last a lifetime. Sending you all best wishes and see you in Sandy!



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Dalton Rakestraw, NHPA 2nd Vice President



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Dalton Rakestraw, NHPA 2nd Vice President

Catchball Meets Horseshoe: A Friendship Forged in Sport

How do two seemingly unrelated sports—Catchball and Horseshoe Pitching—become the bridge to an unexpected friendship? It all began at the S.P.O.R.T.S. Conference in Wichita, Kansas, where I met Dalton during an after-hours event at Chicken N Pickle. As fate would have it, we struck up a conversation that quickly turned into a passionate exchange about the sports we love and champion.

Dalton was instantly intrigued by Catchball, just as I was fascinated by the traditions and community surrounding Horseshoe Pitching. We swapped stories, laughed over shared experiences, and bonded over our mutual belief in the power of sport to bring people together. The fun didn't stop there—hours later, we bumped into each other again at the airport, only to discover we were on the same flight home. It felt like a sign that this new connection was something special.

So, what is it about Catchball that captures so much attention?

Catchball is the fastest-growing sport for women today. A modified version of volleyball, it incorporates catching, passing, tossing, spiking, and blocking. What sets it apart is its accessibility—Catchball can be played both recreationally and competitively, making it perfect for women of all ages and skill levels.

Currently, Catchball is being played in 25 states across the U.S. and in over 50 countries worldwide, with more than 250,000 women actively participating. But it's more than just a sport—Catchball is a global movement that empowers, strengthens, and unites women from all walks of life. Our community is one like no other: a place where women play sports, have fun, and build lifelong friendships.

As the President/CEO leading this organization, I am beyond excited about the journey ahead. From spontaneous friendships like mine with Dalton, to international connections between players, Catchball is proving that sports have no boundaries—and that true connection can come from the most unexpected places.

I am so excited for the future of Catchball and its continued success. The best is yet to come! And to all you Horseshoe Pitcher athletes, cheers to new friendships!

Vered Lopez,
President
USA Catchball Association
www.usacatchball.com



Rules Proposals for 2025

Jerry LaBrosse, 3rd Vice President

This year we received two proposals for the Committee to work on. I am happy to report the work is done and the proposals are going to be discussed and voted on by the delegates at the 2025 annual convention in Sandy Utah. Per the NHPA Bylaws, they are posted here.



PRC 1

RULE 1 - PITCHING DIVISIONS

Section A - Juniors (See REQUIREMENT 6, for exceptions and additional information)

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.

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 8 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.

Proposal

RULE 1 - PITCHING DIVISIONS

Section A - Juniors (See REQUIREMENT 6, for exceptions and additional information)

1. **Junior Boys** (any male pitcher eighteen (18) years old or younger for the entire calendar year OR through September 30th of the year of completing high School - not to exceed 19 years of age)

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.

2. **Junior Girls** (any female pitcher eighteen (18) years old or younger for the entire calendar year OR through September 30th of the year of completing high School - not to exceed 19 years of age)

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.

Rationale :

Quite simply, if NHPA desires to see success with scholastic horseshoe pitching programs, it CANNOT treat those high school seniors who turn 19 the year they graduate, separately from their peers who turn 18 the same year, as is currently the case for both divisions and distance (males). This proposal includes the entire NHPA membership year (September 30) so that the affected high school seniors can also be eligible to participate as a junior at that year's World and State Tournaments. Finally, aligning the end of NHPA Junior eligibility with the year of completing High School better aligns NHPA horseshoe pitching with other organized sports that take the favorable promotion of its scholastic youth seriously.

Continued on Page 17

Rules Proposals (continued)

PRC 2

Current Rule

REQUIREMENT 2 - ALL NHPA TOURNAMENTS/ LEAGUES

Section E - Tournament Credit

1 . For singles and doubles events, a contestant must have pitched a minimum of 100 shoes to receive eShoe credit.

Exception: If all games of the round-robin schedule have been pitched in less than 100 shoes, these statistics may be submitted for eShoe credit .

2 . In team tournament competitions, any team member who has pitched a minimum of one hundred (100) shoes during that event may receive eShoe credit.

3 . For elimination tournaments, a contestant must pitch one hundred (100) or more shoes to receive eShoe credit for that event.

Proposal

REQUIREMENT 2 - ALL NHPA TOURNAMENTS/ LEAGUES

Section E - Tournament Credit

For all sanctioned events, a contestant must have pitched all their assigned games to receive eShoe credit.

Exceptions:

1. If tournament is interrupted due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., weather, etc.) and cannot be rescheduled and finished, credit is given for the games completed up to suspension of play.

2. Player forfeiture of an assigned game does not affect tournament credit (see Rule 11 section G – Forfeits)

Rationale

Under this proposal, players must simply play all the games that they are assigned to play (exemptions noted), whether that method of play is round-robin, team, rounds, elimination, etc. By removing the 100-shoe requirement for tournament credit the hindrance to promoting different, yet fully legitimate, ways of playing horseshoes is also removed for the NHPA. Additionally, it allows for better promotion for youth where fewer shoes are more appropriate.

Some individuals may be concerned that the potential minimum becomes only a single game in a single-elimination style event. Although that may indeed be very few shoes, being a single loss, odds are that it will not affect the eShoe top-3 events that constitute a NHPA ringer percentage. Similarly, a 2 games loss in double-elimination would likewise have no effect on the top-3.

Eliminating this restriction will allow the NHPA to better attract the thousands of organized players now pitching the very popular double-elimination 21-point method of play. This fact alone should have the NHPA council and every delegate fully in favor. But there is more. It also will allow tournament officials to set up youth classes with faster games (e.g., 20 shoes), without even thinking about the total number of shoes, instead focusing on what is appropriate for kids. Additionally, removing this restriction opens opportunities for innovation in the sport, something direly needed for modern relevance.

Finally, at present, events of under 100 shoes are fully submittable and are already in eShoe. There is no check in place to question if these under-100 shoe events meet the existing exemption. Thus, accepting this proposal will align the NHPA rules with the eShoe technology and remove the future burden and expense to police results for 100-shoe adherence, saving the NHPA time and money.

Ohio has a new Regional Director

Barb Carson, 4th Vice President



Hello Everyone and Happy May.

Well here we are in May already. Where is the time going? It was a long cold and busy winter. I am so ready for sunny days and warmer temperatures. I hope all of you had a safe winter and are looking forward to Spring and Summer.

The pitching season is in full swing and it's exciting to see all the results being posted on our official website. The NHPA is truly the sport where Friends become Family. I have pitched in 4 Tournaments in 2025 and it was so good to see old friends and meet new friends. We are truly a horseshoe family and I was glad to see new pitchers pitching in those tournaments. Keep up the good work in your gaining new NHPA members.

I would like to thank all of the Regional Directors for their hard work and dedication in getting the patches to all of the TD's for their 2025 tournaments.. All states have received their 2025 patches. I have already had requests for more patches because the tournament turnout is larger than last year or additional tournaments have been requested from the TD's. That is so good to hear and a great problem to have. I do have plenty of patches left over, so please do not hesitate to request additional patches if you are going to need more.

I am sorry to say that Darrell Miller from my home state of Ohio has resigned as Regional Director. Darrell has assumed the position of the Ohio Horseshoe Pitching Association as President. Darrell will be missed as the RD here in Ohio, as he is very dedicated to the NHPA and his job. He will be an asset as President for the OHPA and I am looking forward to continue working with him here in Ohio. Good luck Darrell in your position and I personally thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to the NHPA and Ohio.

I have replaced Darrell with Carol Sanford from Chillicothe, Ohio. Carol is the TD for many tournaments in Chillicothe and also is the Director of leagues there. I know Carol very well and she will be an excellent RD and a great addition to our team. You can find Carol at every tournament, but don't turn around because she will take your picture. She is currently our 5th VP and Photographer for the OHPA. I am looking forward to working with Carol as an RD. Welcome Carol Sanford to our team. You will do a phenomenal job as the RD.

Well the 2025 League season is also in full swing. So exciting to see new pitchers pitching in Leagues also. All 2025 Leagues that I have received so far have been entered in the Top 10 system for 2025 as well as all results have been reported and entered in eshoe. If any League Directors have not submitted your results to me and players need to have those results in eshoe for qualification for your 4 tournaments to be able to pitch at the World Tournament in Sandy, UT, please email those results to me as soon as possible and I will get them entered and reported in eshoe as soon as I receive them.

Thank you League Directors for sending your 2024 League results to me by the January 15th deadline. All 2024 League results have been entered into the Top 10 system and I am pleased to announce that the Top 10's have been calculated. The awards and certificates will be going out in the mail around the middle of the month. Congratulations to all who have made the Top 10. Great pitching everyone. Keep it up. I want to thank everyone who is involved with the Sanction Leagues for your hard work and dedication in taking time out of your day to be the Director and calculating the results at the end of the league season. I do have one request of you. Please do not take a picture of your results sheet and text it to me. A lot of them are very light or blurred and it's hard to read. I would like to ask all of you to please email them to me at Bcarson848@gmail.com. Thank you for all of your help and cooperation. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I am still waiting for some recommendations for League Director of the Year. If you feel that someone deserves to be recognized, please send me their name and a short biography on them.

Continued on Page 19

Barb Carson (Continued)

I want to thank all of you for your support and for being very patient with me during my learning process. I am still learning and I want to thank Jerry Smith for all of his help on making sure my training went smoothly. Jerry was also very instrumental with working on the Top 10 results as I don't have the software yet to calculate those results. Thank you Jerry for all of your help with everything.

Ben and I are planning and working out the details to be able to have a Quarterly meeting with League Directors, RD's and Charter Officers. As soon as those details are finalized, we will let everyone know. We will also be having a meeting at World. Details to follow soon.

Well, only 3 more months until the World Tournament in Sandy, UT. If you haven't sent your entry form in yet, hurry and do so. You don't want to miss the deadline to enter which is May 19, 2025. You won't want to miss it. The view of the mountains is all around and is spectacular. There are so many places to eat and plenty of shopping areas. I would highly recommend adding a couple of days to your stay just to explore the area and take in all the beauty that the Salt Lake City Utah area has to offer.

Once again in 2025, I will be asking for volunteers to help me with player check in at the World Tournament. Check-in occurs on the Monday and Thursday of the 1st week and Monday and Thursday of the 2nd week. Times for check in are based on the pitching schedule and the number of entries. Please let me know if you would be willing to volunteer. It usually takes about 30 minutes out of your day to get everyone checked in. Please also let me know if you are interested in being a Shift Director,

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Barbara Carson
4th VP Regional Director Administrator
Sanctioned League Director
7618 Willow Woods Dr, North Olmsted, OH 44070
Bcarson848@gmail.com
216-548-9337



What is your Favorite Tournament?

Josh Olson-5th Vice President

What is your favorite Tournament of the YEAR? I think if I were to ask a few people what they thought my personal favorite tournament would be that I play in, they would probably say, the State Tournament, or the World Tournament. For me, I would have to go with the Team World Tournament in Beloit, Wisconsin has been my favorite tournament since the first one I attended and that was back in 2013.

Speaking of Team World, have you ever been or participated in the Annual Tournament? Did you know this is the 39th edition of the event? This year the event has 9 different states and Canada participating. 24 teams playing across 3 fun-filled days of non-stop pitching. It makes for a very long day for the Beloit Horseshoe Club and Jeff Secord the Tournament Director. If you enjoy competition and really want to experience a tournament with a unique team twist, this is it! You should look to form a team from your charter and make the trip next year. Good luck to everyone who is going to Beloit this year, Missouri has the traveling trophy and bragging rights along with the targets on their back with defending that title. There are some good teams this year playing in the event and it will make for some very exciting horseshoes to watch and participate. Did you also know, this year Team World will have 4 of our defending World Horseshoe Champions as well? Can you guess who they are?

That is all for now, don't forget to sign up for the World Tournament, by the time you read this, the deadline will be a few short days away. See you on the courts! -Josh



Are you interested in becoming the NHPA Webmaster?

The National Horseshoe Pitching Association (NHPA) is seeking a horseshoe pitcher invested in the growth of the NHPA to learn and grow horseshoepitching.com. The NHPA Webmaster requires knowledge in Wordpress for designing, developing, maintaining, and optimizing the website. Our current development platform uses Wordpress. Tasks for the position include: managing all content on the website, managing appropriate plug-ins, receiving updates from NHPA officers and posting them on the website, proactively updating the site during the NHPA World Horseshoe Tournament, and updating all files on the site as requested ensuring website functionality, implementing security measures, and optimizing website performance for search engines (SEO).

Key Responsibilities:

- **Website Design and Development:**
 - Build and customize WordPress themes and pages as requested
 - Implement for optimal viewing across devices.
 - Integrate third-party plugins to enhance website functionality.
- **Content Management:**
 - Publish new content, including articles, images, and videos.
 - Update existing content as needed.
- **Website Maintenance and Optimization:**
 - Perform regular backups and updates to WordPress core, themes, and plugins
 - Monitor website performance and troubleshoot technical issues
 - Implement security measures to protect against cyber threats
- **SEO Implementation:**
 - Optimize website content for relevant keywords
 - Implement on-page SEO best practices including meta descriptions and header tags
 - Monitor website analytics and adjust SEO strategies accordingly
- **Collaboration:**
 - Work with designers to implement visual elements on the website
 - Collaborate with content creators to ensure website content aligns with brand messaging

Required Skills:

- **Proficient in WordPress:** Deep understanding of WordPress core functionality, themes, plugins, and custom development
- **Front-End Development:** Strong knowledge of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript
- **PHP Programming:** Basic understanding of PHP for custom WordPress development
- **SEO Best Practices:** Awareness of current SEO trends and techniques
- **Problem-solving:** Ability to troubleshoot technical issues and find solutions

Communication Skills: Clear and concise communication with NHPA officers and members

Compensation:

Compensation for this position is negotiable with the NHPA executive council.



National Horseshoe Pitchers Association
2025 World Horseshoe Pitching Championship
 July 21 - August 2, 2025 Salt Lake City, Utah



NAME: _____		2025 NHPA Card # _____ (or Canadian #)				
Address: _____						
City: _____	State/Prov: _____	Zip/Postal Code: _____				
Telephone: _____	Cell: _____	Birth Date: _____				
Email: _____						
Circle One >>>>>> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; margin-left: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">I will Print My schedule</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Email my schedule</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Mail my schedule</td> </tr> </table>				I will Print My schedule	Email my schedule	Mail my schedule
I will Print My schedule	Email my schedule	Mail my schedule				
Circle the Division you are Entering: (You may enter only one Division) (See notes at bottom on page)						
Open Men 40 ft	Sr Men 40 ft	Elder Men 30 ft	Open Women 30 ft			
Sr Women 30 ft	Elder Women 20 ft	Jr Boys 30 ft	Jr Girls 30 ft			
Cadet Boys 20 ft	Cadet Girls 20 ft					
Note #2	Note #1	Note #2	Note #3			

All application information above is required. Form will be returned if not signed below or is incomplete.

ENTRY DEADLINE MAY 19, 2025

NO REFUNDS will be made after June 1, 2025.

NOTE: A processing fee of \$15 will be deducted from all refunds.

PARTICIPANTS LIABILITY RELEASE: In consideration of participating in such activity, I hereby waive, release and forever discharge the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA), all officers, employee's, agents and the servants of the NHPA, and all fellow participants of this event, for any and all action, cause of action, damage, loss or injury, which I may suffer as a consequence of participating in the World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament. The NHPA and its legal representatives (NHPA Officers) assigns, and retains the right and permissions to publish, without charge, photographs taken during the 2025 World Tournament. These photos or videos may be used in any publication, or in audio-visual presentations including "Live" interviews, promotional literature, advertising, sponsorships, or in other similar ways that the NHPA sees fit to use on behalf to represent and promote the NHPA World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament and the sport.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

* Mail top half only *			
Entry Fees	US Adults --	\$130 before Feb 1, 2025 --	\$150 Feb 1 to April 30, 2025 --
	All Juniors/Cadets --	\$25	
	Adults outside US --	\$135 before Feb 1, 2025 --	\$155 Feb 1 to April 30, 2025 --
	Canadian Entries must use a Money Order if sending payment		\$175 on May 1, 2025
	Entry Fee includes Scorekeeping Fee		

Mail to: NHPA
 2660 S Fairway Drive
 Pocatello, ID 83201

Telephone & Email inquires to:
 Phone: 208 201-3326
 Email: sec.treas@horseshoepitching.com

All Entries must be on this signed form and mailed with a postmark no later than May 19, 2025. You may enter anytime prior to May 19, 2025 using this form or on our website link. Entries received with a postmark after May 19, 2025 shall be put on a waiting list and entered into the World Tournament only as spaces are available. All Adults must have pitched in a minimum of four (4) US/Canadian sanctioned events in the twelve (12) months prior to May 19, 2025 in the same division you are entering. Only one (1) event is required for Juniors/Cadets. Exceptions for US Armed Forces members and family and Foreign competitors (other than Canadians) are outlined in Rule 11, Sec D.1 of the RGS Book. Contact NHPA for more information regarding qualifying exceptions. All Averages used will be the average on record in NHPA-eShoe as of May 19, 2025. Anyone qualifying under an exception must have those scores recorded by the same date. All NHPA and any special tournament rules apply. Please see note regarding refunds.

READ CAREFULLY: Any Adult male pitching from the full distance platform may enter the OPEN Men's Division regardless of age, just as any Adult Female may enter the OPEN Women's Division. To enter the Senior Division, you must be 60 years of age or older before the end of 2025. Any Man/Women that turns 65 years of age in 2025, or has an approved Medical exemption may enter the Elders Division. Entrants in the Junior Boys and Junior Girls Division must be 18 years old or less for the entire 2025 calendar year. Cadet Boys & Cadet Girls Division entrants must be 12 years old or younger for the entire 2025 calendar year.

NOTE #1: 30 ft Men with a Medical Exemption must be in NHPA eShoe as "Exempt" to pitch in this Division. A copy of the Exemption Form must be sent with this application.

NOTE #2: For Prelim Class play, a minimum of 48 pitchers must enter Sr Division's or it may be canceled. All entrants will then pitch in the Open Division if canceled.

NOTE #3: Junior Boys & Junior Girls Divisions will be mixed for preliminary class play. Cadet Boys & Cadet Girls Divisions will be mixed for preliminary class play.

The pitching schedule will be finalized by May 31, 2025 and published on the NHPA website www.horseshoepitching.com. If you indicate above to receive the schedule by mail, it will be mailed to the address you have listed above during the 2nd week in June. Please write address clearly & readable.

Please note: The NHPA reserves the right to disallow your participation for any of the following reasons: Any errors on this form, if your records don't appear in NHPA eShoe or any false or misleading information on this form, cannot validate Medical Exemption, or for any other reason by majority vote of the NHPA Council. The NHPA also reserves the right to add qualified entrants and to make class participant changes after the above deadline. No pitcher will be moved from a class or pitching time, without notification, after the final schedule has been published.

How Are YOU Promoting Horseshoes?

By Michelle Foard, Social Media and Publicity Director

Happy May everyone. Up here in Mn we are just getting ready for leagues. Last year I tried posting on some community pages on Facebook. I didn't have much of a response. I did that again this year and had a much better response. I posted in the city our club is located in, but also in the surrounding community pages as well. Even if you aren't on FB ask a club member if they are and have them help promote on city pages. Another group I posted on was a singles page for Mn. I did get a few people interested, but both were farther away. I did check to see if another club was near them. Other pages to try would be a sports page listed for your State. There are many pages on Facebook you could use to help promote your club.



I created a flyer for use in Mn. I adjusted it for use on the National level. I have QR codes for links to the website, Facebook, TikTok and Instagram. It also gives basic info about horseshoes. You could create a flyer like this and post at gas stations, laundry mats or restaurants. Any where that has a bulletin board you can put a flyer up. Of course word of mouth is a great way to help promote our clubs as well. Do you have horseshoe stickers on your car? Do you wear horseshoes shirts out and about? These things can give you the option to speak to someone about horseshoes. I have gotten horseshoes off market place and tell people I am getting extra shoes for the Horseshoe Club I run. So many are amazed there are clubs. Most people are getting rid of the horseshoes from the cabin or it was dad's old pair. Make conversation anytime you can.

So Team World is coming up soon! I am going strictly as social media. I plan to record games and of course do pictures and videos. I will try to get some good games. Maybe Alan Francis will play Tom Moffat? That would be a great game to catch. Facebook live deletes video after 30 days. So I may record them and then repost to FB. Also in some areas reception isn't the best. I might try doing a Tik Tok Live and use my other phone to get split screen. Those lives I can download and repost as well. So if you don't have Tik Tok no worries. So stay tuned May 16, 17 and 18th for Team World coverage. Missouri will be trying to defend their title!

As the World Tournament deadline approaches I will again this year make promotional photos for those going. I will be taking donations for Mn Horseshoe Youth Scholarship. So the money will go directly to that program. No profits for me. If you are interested please message me on FB. I need a clear photo of you pitching and a background idea. I generally put your state with a US flag in the state. I have used State flags and also tribal flags. It is honestly up to you.

Hope to see many of you soon!

Michelle



EXPLORE *Pitching Horseshoes*



FIND THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU!

Horseshoe Leagues

There are leagues all over the State. Leagues run most week nights and some have morning leagues. Learn your skill by practicing at league.

Tournaments

During the summer you can find a tournament almost every weekend. Plus you can find tournaments all over the country. So when you go on vacation check your destination for pits near by.

State Tournament

Once a year the State Tournament is held. You need 3 events to qualify for State. So a league and 2 Tournaments work. You will be placed in divisions by your average. The State Tournament is open for all abilities.

World Tournament

The World Tournament is a once a year event that is open to everyone who has 4 events. The World Tournament changes locations every year. This is a great way to get out and see the Country. This event is usually a 2 week event depending on entries. It is a great place to compete with people all over the World.



National Horseshoe
Pitchers Association



Website



National Horseshoe
Pitchers Association



Facebook



NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION

We Welcome Your Feedback

By Jim Kinney, NHPA eShoe Director

It is now well into April and the outside pitching venues have started leagues in this area of the Midwest. The NHPA has had a lot of changes in the past few years but the eShoe program has been going strong when it comes to tracking tournaments, leagues, and members during this time. We have also added some new features to the eShoe program to help anyone who is looking for stats or following entries. We have been trying to listen to everyone who has an opinion of the eShoe program. A lot of pitchers have had great ideas to help facilitate the everyday use of the program. We cannot change or add everything that has been suggested but we do listen to everyone who has suggestions. If you see anything that can help those who depend on the program daily, please email or text me and we will consider all suggestions. If you have a positive comment on the program, we would like to hear them also. There is a lot of work that has gone into the creation and implementation of the eShoe program. We are always available to anyone who needs help with anything within the program and we keep monitoring as much as we can to make sure everything runs smoothly.



The one thing that has come up more than anything is the renewal of a member online. Some members who have held a membership number in the NHPA, either resent or in the past, are still selecting the “JOIN” button when renewing their membership number and are assigned a second number. If you fall in this category you need to choose the “RENEW” button. I know sometimes there is someone who does not know which way to choose. If this is the case, you need to contact your charter secretary/membership director to give you some insight into what you need to do. You can also contact me if you do not have this information. If you know you have been assigned a second membership number or know anyone that has obtained a second membership number by mistake, please contact me or your charter secretary/membership director to make sure the charter gets the proper credit for the online purchase. Only new members who have never been an NHPA member needs to use the “JOIN” button on the website.

Good luck to all in 2025. Keep pitching those shoes and spread the word to anyone you can that pitching for fun or pitching for competition can be accomplished in the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association. Get involved in the growth of our great organization.

See ya on the courts.

Jim Kinney Jr
NHPA eShoe Director

(816) 738-0868

eshoe@horseshoepitching.com



Champions Rise: A Tale of Triumph and Determination

By Stan Griggs, NHPA World Tournament Statistician



Champions Rise: A Tale of Triumph and Determination

Stan Griggs,
NHPA World Tournament Statistician
NHPA Hall of Fame Chairman

It's that time of year again that many of us are preparing for the journey and anticipation of our next World Championships. Let's take a minute to shine the spotlight on who our Champions were in 2024, they all have their own tale of triumphs.

Men's World Champion - Alan Francis



Alan has just won his 28th Men's World Title and will be making his 44th WT appearance in 2025.

The amount of championships he has won in his career is staggering, but when you dig deeper into the the numbers you will understand why.

He is on a current 80 game win streak dating back to 2018, the last time he lost a game in championship play was in Game 10 against Tyler Howard who pitched an 87.2% to Alan's 82.3%

Prior to that loss, Alan was on a 99 game win streak that started in 2012 and ran thru 2018. How long will

this current streak last? only time will tell, but as you contemplate that question know this; With these two amazing winning streaks covering a period of thirteen years he is carrying a record of 179-1.



Continued on Page 27

*Stan Griggs, NHPA World Tournament Statistician...continued****Women's World Champion - Penny Steinke***

Penny won her first Women's World Title Crown that she can add to her two Junior Girl's World Titles. She will be making her 25th WT appearance in 2025.

She needed to defeat the defending world champion, Sarah Chaffee in game 15 to force a playoff.

The two Wisconsin women were now battling for the title, in a one game winner take all event.

So the crown was going back to Wisconsin but the question was who takes it.

Penny finished strong with back to back wins over the defending and 2-Time Women's World Champion Sarah Chaffee.

***Elder Men's World Champion - Tom Moffat***

Tom won his first Elder Men's World Title in his very first attempt. He will be making his 3rd WT appearance in 2025.

With a record of 14-1 his only loss came in that unlucky game #13 and had an over-all average of 77.22%

Our friend and neighbor from the North will be back to defend his title.

Continued on Page 28

*Stan Griggs, NHPA World Tournament Statistician...continued****Women's World Champion - Penny Steinke***

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Continued on Page 29

*Stan Griggs, NHPA World Tournament Statistician...continued**Senior Men's World Champion - Ken Fraser*

Ken won his first Senior Men's World Title and will be making his 15th WT appearance in 2025

Working his way through the ranks as he started his pitching career in the Junior's then moving on to the Men's and now representing the Senior's with a World Title.

He came out HOT in the prelims averaging an impressive 76.73% for all games.

Finishing strong in the championship rounds with a final average of 70.18%. Not losing a single game in either prelims or the championship games with a total record of 22-0.

*Senior Women's World Champion - Sheila Shepard*

Sheila has now won her 10th Senior Women's World Crown and will be making her 21st WT appearance in 2025.

Having previously pitched in the Women's Championship Class over the years, she has owned the Senior Women's Division these past 15 years.

Finishing off the podium only once over all these years. With an over-all record of 101-14 giving her a winning percentage of .8783

Continued on Page 30

*Stan Griggs, NHPA World Tournament Statistician...continued**Junior Boy's World Champion - Hastin Begaye*

Hastin won his first Junior Boy's World Title to go along with his 2021 Cadet Boy's World Crown and will be making his 7th WT Appearance in 2025.

He has shown the true caliber of a Champion, having pitched in the championship classes every year he attended.

Going undefeated in both the prelims with a 82.25% and the championship rounds with a 77.10% gave him a final record of 17-0 for his World Tournament.

*Junior Girl's World Champion - Lily Strong*

Lily won her first Junior Girl's World Title while making her 7th WT Appearance.

Another one of our younger stars who worked her way through the divisions from Cadets onto the Juniors.

She has pitched in the Junior Girl's Championship Class in four years.

Coming out on TOP in 2024 winning the Crown.

Continued on Page 31

*Stan Griggs, NHPA World Tournament Statistician...continued**Cadet Boy's World Champion - Gavin Begaye Jr.*

Gavin won his first Cadet Boy's World Title in only his second attempt at World Tournament competition and will be making his 3rd WT appearance in 2025.

He comes from an amazing horseshoe family and in family style swept the field with a perfect record of 5-0 and averaged 58.50%.

You all better keep your eye's on the Begaye Kids, they come to win!

*Cadet Girl's World Champion - Addisyn Goddard*

Addisyn won her first Cadet Girl's World Title and will be making her 3rd WT Appearance in 2025.

Having pitched in the Cadet Girl's Championship Class the past two years she is now moving on to the Junior Girl's Division.

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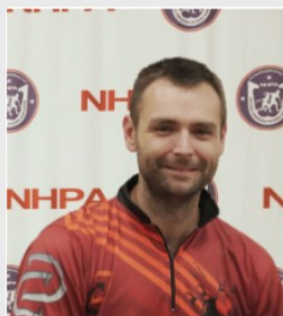
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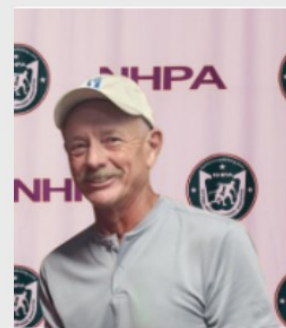
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Stats

Alabama	Nebraska-West	Mens Top 100
Alaska	Nevada	Womens Top 100
Arizona	New Hampshire	Elders Top 100
Arkansas	New Jersey	Boys Top 50
California-North	New Mexico	Girls Top 25
California-South	New York	Cadets Top 25
Colorado	North Carolina	Complete File
Connecticut	North Dakota	
Delaware	Ohio	Alberta
Florida	Oklahoma	British Columbia
Georgia	Oregon	New Brunswick
Hawaii	Pennsylvania-East	Ontario
Idaho	Pennsylvania-West	Quebec

<https://www.nhpa-eshoe.com/Home/Stats>

Womens Top 100 Stats 4 May 2025

Rank	Card #	First Name	Last Name	State	Division	Ringer Percent	Events Played
1	280216	Sarah	Chaffee	WI	Women	84.15	7
2	190875	Jennifer	Gegg	MO	Women	82.21	13
3	330031	Marlene	Ray	TN	Women	82.06	18
4	330030	Maxine	Griffith	TN	Women	81.84	18
5	623905	Lindsay	HODGINS	AB	Women	79.33	8
6	350626	Shalee	Cason	FL	Women	79.07	10
7	800439	Pam	Meyer	MO	Women	78.47	11
8	280078	Penny	Steinke	WI	Women	78.17	22
9	490476	Skyla	Rioux	CT	Women	78.09	6
10	664710	Sylvianne	Moisan	QC	Women	77.32	11
11	360294	Amy	Francis	OH	Women	75.06	9
12	802026	Blanca	Hettinga	OR	Women	73.22	18
13	220130	Doris	Hieden	TX	Women	72.61	9
14	300441	Denise	Daly	MI	Women	71.65	8
15	380338	April	Campbell	VA	Women	71.62	8

(Continued on Page 35)

Mens Top 100 Stats *4 May 2025*

Rank	Card #	First Name	Last Name	State	Division	Ringer Percent	Events Played
1	360940	Alan	Francis	OH	Men	85.36	9
2	320063	Ben	Webb	KY	Men	78.19	17
3	300151	Andrew	Adams	MI	Men	76.87	12
4	290652	Austin	Bailey	IL	Men	74.72	10
5	390143	Randy	Zeiders	PA	Men	74.27	12
6	260084	Dan	Watson	AL	Men	74.08	16
7	440124	Ken	Fraser	NY	Men	73.71	8
8	320292	Tyler	Howard	KY	Men	71.71	25
9	657381	Drew	BECKER	ON	Men	71.17	5
10	10058	Matt	Fuller	WA	Men	70.35	8
11	190693	Michael	Bowman	MO	Men	69.23	17
12	350369	Walter Ray	Williams Jr	FL	Men	68.65	27
13	480259	Raymond	Bedard	MA	Men	68.53	28
14	290100	Dalton	Rakestraw	CA	Men	68.28	31
15	420271	Jerry	Dean	MD	Men	67.85	6

Elder Mens Top 100 Stats *4 May 2025*

Rank	Card #	First Name	Last Name	State	Division	Ringer Percent	Events Played
1	614016	Tom	MOFFAT	BC	Elder Men	77.56	26
2	370298	Junior	Peters	WV	Elder Men	76.86	8
3	310517	Dale	Moles	IN	Elder Men	76.18	7
4	290240	Steve	Denault	IL	Elder Men	76.00	9
5	191256	Virgle	McCown	MO	Elder Men	75.94	13
6	350350	Bob	Gray	FL	Elder Men	75.63	14
7	220577	Danny	Patterson	TX	Elder Men	73.67	13
8	420337	Tom	Mills	MD	Elder Men	73.31	11
9	220870	Tom	Routh	TX	Elder Men	73.30	13
10	662691	Simon	COTE	QC	Elder Men	73.09	6
11	660765	Jacques	HOULE	QC	Elder Men	72.98	4
12	280026	Jeff	Gustafson	WI	Elder Men	72.56	17
13	350363	Ron	Deckard	FL	Elder Men	71.82	13
14	280082	Ken	Jaeger Sr	WI	Elder Men	71.77	14
15	390293	Ricky	Grim	PA	Elder Men	71.36	15

(Continued on Page 36)

Girls Top 25 Stats *4 May 2025*

Rank	Card #	First Name	Last Name	State	Division	Ringer Percent	Events Played
1	280115	Lillyan	Kildahl	WI	Junior Girls	43.21	7
2	191533	Sadie	Wolken	MO	Junior Girls	41.31	7
3	95096	Adilaide	Ohms	UT	Junior Girls	37.88	10
4	802674	Madeline	Workman	NV	Junior Girls	31.03	2
5	800812	Lilli	Light	MT	Junior Girls	29.56	3
6	803569	Aislinn Raye	Klapik	CT	Junior Girls	29.07	11
7	800889	Lindy	Anderson	UT	Junior Girls	27.84	7
8	802875	Natalie	Dilger	NV	Junior Girls	27.19	20
9	190880	Rhilynde	Myler	MO	Junior Girls	26.00	10
10	800480	Addison	Ashton	KY	Junior Girls	25.90	8
11	150396	Uria	Gabel	ND	Junior Girls	24.82	7
12	804138	Laila	Broken Rope	SD	Junior Girls	22.00	2
13	610079	Nia	SIGANAKIS	BC	Junior Girls	21.60	7
14	31233	Kaidence	Begaye	CA	Junior Girls	20.83	1
15	616571	Ericka	MCNAB	BC	Junior Girls	20.43	2

Boys Top 50 Stats *4 May 2025*

Rank	Card #	First Name	Last Name	State	Division	Ringer Percent	Events Played
1	31151	Hastiin	Begaye	CA	Junior Boys	80.59	5
2	380630	Eli	Sullivan	VA	Junior Boys	80.56	5
3	480516	Zack	Grzembski	MA	Junior Boys	61.50	15
4	802657	Tom	Grose	NV	Junior Boys	57.79	9
5	803169	Ryder	Smith	MT	Junior Boys	57.34	9
6	803797	Kai-ba	Jeff	CA	Junior Boys	52.89	2
7	95078	Coulson	Ohms	UT	Junior Boys	48.73	9
8	490452	Riley	Malino	CT	Junior Boys	48.04	10
9	280127	Blake	Benzing	WI	Junior Boys	44.55	4
10	803828	Matt	Hulse	UT	Junior Boys	43.23	5
11	804592	Gregory	Cormier	CT	Junior Boys	41.43	11
12	280226	Bradley	Benzing	WI	Junior Boys	41.03	5
13	805506	Seth	Geoghan	CT	Junior Boys	40.73	5
14	31223	Adakai	Begaye	CA	Junior Boys	39.56	4
15	802631	Ethan	Seright	UT	Junior Boys	39.14	5

(Continued on Page 37)

Cadets Top 25 Stats *4 May 2025*

Rank	Card #	First Name	Last Name	State	Division	Ringer Percent	Events Played
1	801315	Evan	Bedard	MA	Cadet Boys	54.86	17
2	804918	Kendell	Beck	GA	Cadet Boys	44.75	7
3	804087	Gavin	Begaye Jr.	CA	Cadet Boys	44.40	3
4	804088	Eben	Begaye	CA	Cadet Boys	43.02	3
5	802539	Zachary	Smith	IA	Cadet Boys	42.68	22
6	803456	Jeremiah	DeMello	WA	Cadet Boys	41.71	11
7	804890	Jensen	Martin	VA	Cadet Boys	32.80	3
8	802970	Alexzander	Schmidt	GA	Cadet Boys	28.92	5
9	804586	Olyvia	Cormier	CT	Cadet Girls	28.47	11
10	803471	Olivia	Bilodeau	CT	Cadet Girls	26.44	13
11	803792	Jacob	Barney	UT	Cadet Boys	24.22	11
12	802184	Waylon	Basler	MO	Cadet Boys	23.00	1
13	804848	Kateri	Navarro	CA	Cadet Girls	20.89	4
14	805289	Andrew	James	WI	Cadet Boys	20.77	5
15	221110	Kaden	Guerrero	TX	Cadet Boys	20.49	1



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