

## NHPA Delegate Meeting – World 2023

- **Gary** calls the delegate meeting to order and goes over the meeting rules. He states that there are 82 votes available on rule and bylaw changes, of which 55 would be 2/3 votes.
- **James Kinney Jr.** goes over the P&L for the NHPA's fiscal year, stating that the Gross Profit for fiscal year 2022 was \$307,916.21 and the total expenses were \$286,890.54, making a profit of **\$21,025.68**. He states that the NHPAs total current assets was \$313,705.
- **Gary** makes a motion to approve the financial report as given by Jim Kinney, which is approved.
- **Gary** states that a presentation from the city of Tri-Cities Washington is next on the agenda, which is the site for the 2024 World Tournament.
- **Kevin Lewis** takes the microphone and shows a video extolling some of the activities available in the state of Washington. He and his companion, Natalie, discuss some of the water, wine, and so on related activities and events available in the area, and discuss some of the history of the area.
- **Natalie** states that the World Tournament will occur in the Toyota Center and the Toyota Arena Conference Center, which were recently updated. She talks about the hotels in the area, as well as the food, and RV parks close by. She also explains that there is a large amount of parking, which is all free, and practice courts within 15-20 minutes of the venue.

### Proposed Rule Changes

- **Brian Poole** states that the board has approved all proposed changes, but that if delegates want to make an amendment to the proposed changes, the amendment will be voted on as well.
- **Brian** starts the proposed changes with Proposed Rule Change # 1, Adding a new rule, that **Elder's Women, a new pitching division, will be eligible to pitch upon a purchase of an NHPA card, dated through the calendar year they become 70 years old. Elder women may pitch from any place on either of the extended platforms and shall observe the 27' foul line, but they must start before the foul line, and can take one step while releasing the shoe. Elder women must notify their charter director in advance of the date they intend to begin pitching from the short distance. She must then remain a short distance member until next year's membership card is purchased. At that time, she may switch back to the open member's division, until next year's membership is purchased.** He states that this proposal is similar to the Elder Men's rule, except for Elder Women. It is stated that the original proposal requested that a 24' foul

line be added, but that the committee did not believe it to be conducive to this rule proposal. He then opens the floor for discussion.

- **Rick Northern California** – He states that he thinks this is a step in the right direction (pun intended ●) and that he would like to see this rule amended to have the Elder Women move up to the Cadet pitching distance. He also states that he would like to see the age limit be 65 instead of 70, like the Elder Men’s currently is. He states that he believes that letting them move up in distance will bring more pitchers rather than score keepers.
- **Kansas Delegate** states that he agrees with the before amendment, and that he was going to propose that instead of having them stand behind the 27’ foul line, they could stand on the foul line and take one more step. He also states, similar to the previous statement, that the reasoning is that when men move up to the 30’ line at 65 it results in a 27% decrease in distance when pitching, and that the current rule proposal is only allowing the women a 2.7% decrease in distance.
- **Marcus Iowa**, states that he agrees with the age of 65 being the limit, similar to men, and that he would like to see the originally proposed 24’ foul line added, because some women do not take a step at all when pitching, and if they start at the 27’ foul line and don’t take a step, the NHPA is penalizing them for not taking a step.
- **Sheila Shepard, Colorado** asked if this proposal would be creating a whole new class, which was confirmed by the committee. She stated that she agrees with the whole proposal.
- **Kenny Lopez , Arizona** stated that the rule proposal was not clear about the “step” that women were allowed to take, and asked if they were allowed to step over the foul line. Brian stated that the rule should say “start before” the 27’ foul line instead of saying “observe” the foul line.
- **Chuck**, states that while listening to others speak he had a thought. As the delegate from Iowa stated, some women do not take a step when pitching. He proposed that instead of saying they must start before the line and take one step, while releasing the shoe during the step, they should say that they can take one step forward, whether taking that step before releasing the shoe or after.
- **Kentucky Delegate**, asked about the foul line, stating that in his state there is no foul line, so will there be no foul line at the World Tournament? Brian stated that just as there is now, there will still be a foul line at 27’. He also asked where the money was coming from for the new division’s prize money, trophies, etc.? Brian stated that in their current rules, it was stated that they have to have 48 pitchers in a division to even be added to the World Tournament.

- **Stan Griggs, Missouri** asked if that's done, and if they get 20 pitchers in the World, and there's not enough to do a class then what will happen to those pitchers? He stated that he believes that it should be that a 65 year old woman should be able to stand at the 27' foul line no matter what, as he feels the chances of getting 48 pitchers in that class is unlikely. He stated that he feels that instead of creating a whole other division, letting women do that would work.
- **Southern California delegate**, stated that **he wanted to make a motion** on the floor to amend the proposed rule change to state "65 years" or older instead of 70. The motion is seconded and voted on. Brian stated that **the amendment has passed**, and so the rule change will say 65 years instead of 70.
- **Barry, Washington**, stated that he was all for it, but that there will have to be adjustments to roughly 80% of courts as the platform at the end of the courts will have to be adjusted so pitchers aren't stepping off into the grass. He also stated that the proposed class may work for World and bigger tournaments, but that when pitching in League play it would be a problem, as there wouldn't be enough participants to do it.
- **Ron Highley, Missouri** stated that similar to what Stan said, he doesn't think that another division is needed. He stated that if a woman was to declare when entering the tournament that she was an "elder woman" and then was to observe the elder women's rules, the woman could pitch in Women's division without having to create a whole new division.
- **Chris, Florida**, asked where the stopping point would be once a woman starts on the 27' line and takes a step. Brian stated there wasn't a set spot, it was just one step.
- **Michigan delegate**, stated that she was all about changing pits, but that Cadet pits were built at 20' so why should things be changed for younger pitchers but not Elder Women. She stated that there should be a foul line still to make it fair across the board.
- **Victoria Highley, Missouri**, asked what the age for Seniors Women was, which was replied to as age 60. She stated that the Senior Women should be allowed to step up rather than creating a whole new division.
- **Georgia delegate**, she stated that not just at World, but at the rest of the time as well, that women should have two lines similar to men, and that the 24' foul line should be added, and that Elder women should be allowed to pitch from 24'.
- **Minnesota delegate**, stated that she agreed that a foul line was needed for women who don't step. Brian stated that as mentioned before a proposal could be made that women can take one step, either before or after releasing the shoe, and there could also be an amendment to change the foul line to the 20' if someone wanted to make a motion.

- **Ron Highley, Missouri, made a motion** that the words “releasing the shoe” be taken out of the rule phrasing, so women could take one step at any time, and that the words “standing behind” be changed to “standing behind or on” the 27’ foul line. The motion is seconded. In discussion about the amendment, **Delmore from Florida**, stated that this is making everything way too complicated, and that just adding a 24’ foul line would fix everything. **Rick Desanta** stated that there was already a built in cadet line, and proposed they just make the foul line be that. **Brian** stated that the current motion had to be voted on first. Ron’s motion was voted on, and **the amendment did not pass.**
  - **Georgia Delegate**, made a motion to amend that the wording is changed to have women observe the 24’ foul line. The movement is seconded and opened for discussion. Several delegates propose that instead of putting the 24’ foul line in, to go ahead and move up to the cadet foul line. A motion is made to amend the amendment to use the cadet line instead of the 24’ line. The Illinois charter stated that adding the 24’ foul line would be difficult for a lot of the smaller clubs that don’t have the funding to change the courts. The motion to amend the amendment is seconded and voted on. **The amendment is passed.**
- Brian continues the proposed changes with Proposed Rule Change # 2, in requirements for each charter information and state championship play. **The wording in the current rule would be changed from “Residency” to “Residency Eligibility” as the header, and the new paragraph would say “State championship tournaments are open to those NHPA members who meet the residency eligibility requirements imposed for the event of the state charter. An exception to this shall be active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their immediate family (if married) who may pitch in the State Championship event of any state in which they are stationed/reside, provided they meet the other eligibility requirements of that Charter. No one will be allowed to pitch in more than one State Championship Tournament per year.”** This proposed change would take out the requirement that members must legally reside in the state.
  - **Tina Hawkins Oklahoma**, proposed an amendment to that removing the words “if married” from the rule. She mentioned that with the current wording, the children of a single person who is stationed in another state would be excluded from pitching. The motion is seconded and voted on. **The amendment is passed.**
  - There is no more discussion on Proposed Rule Change # 2.
- Proposed Rule Change # 3 is for Rule 11, Section D, # 1 and states that the wording would be changed from **“This qualifying must be scored in writing and witnessed by two (2) NHPA members” to “one (1) NHPA member.”**
  - No discussion on this proposed rule change.
- Proposed Rule Change # 4 is for Guideline 1 Section A Regular Doubles, and the proposed wording strikes out the words **“The highest-rated contestants will decide on**

**the first pitch and pitch their shoes, just as in singles competition.” This would mean it would be up to the tournament director to decide who pitches first.**

- No discussion on this proposed rule change.
- Proposed Rule change # 5 is for Guideline 1 Section B Walking Doubles. In #1 Shoe limit Games the proposed change would be striking out the sentence **“The lower-rated contestants will decide on the first pitch and pitch their four (4) shoes.” and adding “The tournament director will determine who starts the pitching.”**
  - No discussion on this proposed rule change.
- Proposed Rule Change # 6 is for Guideline 1 Section B Walking Doubles. In #2 Point-Limit Games the proposed wording is **“The tournament director will determine who’s pitching and how the pitching rotation continues.”**
  - No discussion on the proposed rule change.
- Proposed Rule Change # 7 is for Requirements 1 Tournament/League, During the Event. The proposed change is adding a second line to section a, which says **“Leagues can pick non-members as pacers to encourage non players to participate”**
  - No discussion on this proposed rule change.
- Proposed Rule Change # 8, under Requirements 2 Section B, **after the word “pacers” add “except in league where non-members are used as pacers”**
  - No discussion on this proposed rule change

## **Proposed Bylaw Changes**

- Proposed Bylaw change # 1, under Article IV, Section 3 Letter C, **add the words “or electronic meetings, or by any means available.”**
  - No discussion on this proposed Bylaw change.
- Proposed Bylaw Change # 2, under Article V, Section 5, will **change the words “will receive a travel allowance” to “may request a travel allowance” and add the words “The President with council approval has full authority to grant a request, modify a request, or deny a request.”**
  - No discussion on this proposed bylaw change.
- Proposed Bylaw Change # 3, under Article V, Section 8, Letter A, the proposal **adds a Letter B with the wording “All officers must serve a maximum of three consecutive elected terms” with the footnote “Those in office shall go retro beginning the first year they were elected in office.” which would result in a maximum of nine years in office.**
  - **Kentucky Delegate**, stated that in his opinion this bylaw should not pass, as the NHPA has a hard enough time finding leaders to run the organization, and that the chance that someone can’t be found for a position is high. He stated that rotating out leaders could cause the NHPA to lose the dedication that their current leaders have.

- **Georgia Delegate**, agreed with the previous statement, and stated that even if leaders could be found, putting a maximum amount of terms could cause the leaders to become less dedicated as well.
  - **Colorado Delegate**, stated that nine years is a long time, and that they believe that officers should be rotated out and the NHPA should get new blood in. They stated that they believe there are plenty of people around and that they would be able to find enough people within the organization to rotate out.
  - **Unkown Delegate** stated that it might be a good idea to put an amendment on that that says “if there are no candidates at that time available, then they can be re-elected.”
  - **Stan Griggs, Missouri** stated that the officers do a lot and that 9 years is a dedication, and that if someone wants to run they should be able to run, without term limits.
  - **Southern California Delegate**, stated that he was in favor of this and agreed that 9 years is a long time and that after the term was over if nobody else wanted to run then they could be re-elected at that time. He stated that bringing in new people would just bring in new ideas and a fresh vision. He **made a motion** to amend this change to include “if no one is running, then they can serve additional three-year terms until someone else is interested in the position.” The motion is seconded and voted on. **The amendment passes.**
  - **Unknown delegate** asks the assembled delegates how many of them would be willing to take the place of and spend the time that the current officers spend taking care of the organization and re-iterates that he believes the bylaw change should not pass.
  - **Wisconsin Delegate**, stated that this isn’t pushing anybody out, as the amendment saying that if nobody runs they can keep going.
  - **Georgia Delegate**, stated that if this were to pass, that would mean that if 9 years had passed and one person was interested, they would have to step aside and let the one person who’s opposing them be an officer, which would mean that person was not even technically voted in. This would create a situation where someone who wasn’t necessarily qualified could end up in a position.
  - **North Dakota Delegate**, stated that there are a lot of specialized positions, which it takes a long time to get good at. He stated that he does agree to change, but that was why they have elections.
  - The time limit is up, and the bylaw change is voted on.
- Proposed Bylaw Change # 4 is for Article III Section 7, the proposed wording states “**A membership can be issued by E-shoe or the Charter in which the member maintains legal residency.**” and strikes out the wording “**determined by the filing of federal and**

state tax returns, voting, and/or driver license laws.” It also adds the wording “The NHPA can grant exceptions to legal residency on a case-by-case basis following established council guidelines.

- No discussion on this bylaw change.
- Proposed Bylaw change # 5

## Results

In Proposed Rule Change # 1-5, 55 votes were needed for the rule change to pass. #6-8, 54 votes were needed for the rule change to pass. Bylaw changes need 54 votes to pass.

- Proposed Rule Change # 1 received 49 Yes, 30 no, so it **did not pass**.
- Proposed Rule Change # 2 received 77 yes, 2 no, so it **did pass**.
- Proposed Rule Change # 3 received 79 yes, 0 no, so it **did pass**.
- Proposed Rule Change # 4 received 76 yes, 3 no, so it **did pass**.
- Proposed Rule Change # 5 received 76 yes, 3 no, so it **did pass**.
- Proposed Rule Change # 6 received 77 yes, 2 no, so it **did pass**.
- Proposed Rule Change # 7 received 79 yes, 0 no, so it **did pass**.
- Proposed Rule Change # 8 received 79 yes, 0 no, so it **did pass**.
- Proposed Bylaw Change # 1 received 79 yes, 0 no, so it **did pass**.
- Proposed Bylaw Change # 2 received 79 yes, 0 no, so it **did pass**.
- Proposed Bylaw Change # 3 received 21 yes, 58 no, so it **did not pass**.
- Proposed Bylaw Change # 4 was dependent on # 3, so it **did not pass**.
- Proposed Bylaw Change # 5 received 64 yes 15 no, so it **did pass**.

## Other Discussions

- **Gary** asked Jerry Smith to speak about some of the things the NHPA has proposed for the next World Tournament.
  - **Jerry** states that the basic plan will be to switch the lower players and the better players into the first week and have everyone move up in order to add some more time for Saturday ... He states that the final game of the tournament will be the champion game to attempt to build up excitement. He states this will be the basis of the new format. There will be 48 courts, and as many people as possible will be packed into the first week to give them a chance to move up.
  - A comment is made to potentially take 4 players to the final, so that one player won't have a bye and a chance to rest up before the game.
  - Jerry agrees that this is a good point and that they could potentially do 4 players instead.
- **Gary** asks that each officer go over some things they are currently working on.
  - **Brian** states that he is in charge of the bylaws and rule changes, grievances, and issues that come into the council.

- He states that if someone has a future bylaw change, they need to be submitted to him by September 30<sup>th</sup> or October 1<sup>st</sup>, so he'll have plenty of time to review the requests and decide if it should be submitted to the board.
- **Gary** asks Laurie Lampkin to report.
  - **Laurie** revealed several things going on behind the scenes, starting with several states who were interested in the current World Tournament, but that several of them wanted the NHPA to pay for their venue and alter some of the contracts, and the NHPA didn't have that funding, so they weren't able to be viable options. She states the other obstacle that has come up is that with Michigan and Monroe, Monroe ended up booking up their venue, causing the NHPA to scramble for a location for the World Tournament. She states that the current venue was not the originally scheduled venue, and that the only reason the current venue was available was that the organization that had originally booked the venue had cancelled, and that's the only reason why the NHPA was able to secure the Tournament venue. She mentioned that there were a lot of behind the scenes issues she had been dealing with over the last year having to do with funding issues for locations.
  - Next she revealed some possible locations for future years, including Tri-Cities, WA. She stated that they had an inquiry from Green Bay, WI, and that Lansing, MI is wanting to bid again for 2026. Richmond, VA is also interested, but that Laurie had gone to Charleston, WV and that they hadn't wanted to give the bid fee. She stated that she had gone to a Sports convention in Kansas City, KS to discuss there as well.
  - **Laurie** stated that the current committees are being revamped and reworked currently, and that GoLive Sports would be setting up at this World Tournament with cameras, etc. The committee is hoping this will lead to sponsorships and such, leading to a change for the better. She then stated that **Brian Fisher** is the sponsorship chairman, and handed off to him to give his report.
  - **Brian** stated that the sponsorship committee was working hard to get permanent sponsorship, and that the sponsorship committee had added a new member, Brian Olson from Northern Utah.
  - He stated that they are still working with and have high hopes for sponsorship from **Camping World?** But that they are currently working on re-vamping their whole system. He also stated they were working with Lowe's and Rural King.
  - He stated that sponsorship comes in many forms and that even without a permanent sponsorship the NHPA had many smaller sponsorships with local breweries, auction items for the banquet, etc. that add to the NHPA's funding.
- **Gary** asks Jerry Smith to report.



- **Jerry** states several league stats, and states that one question that comes up commonly is, “Why can’t the leagues be put straight into EShoe?” He states that you could, but that with the top ten still being a thing, he has to have all the data to be able to make up that top ten. He stated that putting stats straight into EShoe would be nice, but that they would need to put software into EShoe to automatically calculate the top ten, and that would be a lot of league.
- He states that this year so far he had started 11 new leagues, which is higher than the average number of 6 leagues each year.
- He stated he was also the historian, and that the hall of fame was a lot of work.
- He stated that he wanted to briefly mention a concept he put together called “DEI” to make sure that the NHPA welcomes all types of pitchers and that no one feels harassed. He stated he was working on diversity promotions to encourage people of all types to join the NHPA.
- **Gary** asked Barbara Carson to report.
  - **Barbara** stated that she filled the only open RD position with Mike Hardy.
  - She stated she had completed filling all 2023 patch orders, but that she had some extras if anybody wanted any more. She also stated that court sanctioning was moving along as planned, and thanked the RDs for their hard work and traveling for court sanctioning.
  - Barbara stated she would be sending the 2024 patch order form to the RDs in October, and that she would send in the order forms to be filled in November.
- **Gary** asked Josh Olson to report.
  - **Josh** stated that HSMaster was coming along and that Kurt was working on the EShoe integration. He stated that some of the technical side of things were having issues and that the current cameras would have to be replaced by April 8<sup>th</sup> of next year.
  - Josh stated that he was working with Ben from ScoreHolio and that it was currently live and ready to go, with the exception of a handicap system. He explained that it was available on phones to keep track of scores in real time, and that it was looking good for a possible future World Tournament system.
- **Gary** asked Jim Kinney to report.
  - **Jim** stated that with the current World Tournament, there have been a few hiccups but that overall everyone seemed to be happy with the setup and with how things were going, and he thanked everyone’s hard work.
  - He also mentioned longevity patches, and that by request he had implemented a 60 year, 70 year, and 80 year patch.
  - He stated he also has sanctioned 3 new shoes in the past year, mostly from Bobby White.
  - He also stated that he works with EShoe and all the secretaries and tournament directors, and that EShoes was really improving constantly.

- **Gary** stated that he wanted to get a report from Dalton on The Horse Shoe Tour.
  - **Dalton** explained that this event focuses on bringing in new pitchers and recruiting. They go to clubs, parks etc. To try and solicit new members. He stated that so far this year they had 158 new members play on tour, and had 3 events.
  - He explained that this program wasn't just for pros, it was for average players as well.
- **Gary** asked that Dave Sidles report on the NHPF activities.
  - **Dave** explained that the NHPF is a charitable organization and explained a little about the board and such of the NHPF. He stated that this year was an election term, so the council would be looking for 3 people to fill positions with a 4 year term soon.
  - **Dave** stated that the NHPF continues to solicit donations, and that the NHPF has been fortunate enough to receive one significant donation that year.
  - He stated that the other significant event this year was that the NHPF had become a member of the American Alliance which would potentially allow the NHPF to achieve accreditation which would allow the NHPF to receive more in the way of grant money, etc.
- **Gary** stated that there were 3 elected officers whose terms were up. These include the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Laurie Lampkin, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President, Barbara Carson, and the Secretary/Treasurer, Jim Kinney.
- **Gary** stated that as the President of the NHPA he wanted to nominate Laurie Lampkin to continue serving in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President position based on her work and accomplishments.
  - **Gary** brought up an issue from the previous year where he had to bring in an expert about whether people could be nominated from the floor for council positions. He stated that the decision was that in an organization like the NHPA, they did not have a nomination process, and so people could be nominated from the floor. He stated that he had a copy of the legal information if anybody wanted to see it.
  - **Gary** asked if there were any further nominations from the floor for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President position, of which there were none.
- For the 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President, Gary nominated Barbara Carson for that position.
  - **Gary** asked if there were any nominations from the floor.
  - **Dalton Rakestraw** nominated Austin Bailey from the state of Illinois and read some of his accomplishments.
  - **Gary** asked if Austin wanted to say anything on running for office.
  - **Austin** stated that it was nothing personal but that he felt he was ready for this position and wanted to run for office to help the NHPA be better and to have his voice be heard with new ideas and thoughts.
  - **Gary** asked if Barbara Carson had any words to say.

- **Barbara** stated that she had put a lot of work and time into that position and that while she was sure Austin would be great, she was ready and willing to continue serving in that capacity and wished to stay in her position as 4<sup>th</sup> vice president.
  - Voting ballots were passed out for this position.
- For the Secretary/Treasurer position, Gary nominated Jim Kinney Jr. For that position.
  - **Gary** asked if there were any nominations from the floor.
  - There were no nominations from the floor.
- **Gary** asked for discussion from the floor.
  - **Kelly** from Virginia made a motion to suspend the rules for a new rules proposal.
  - The motion is seconded and voted on. **The motion is passed.**
  - Kelly proposed to add a phrase to the rules for physically challenged women. She stated that on page 9 of the rules there was a rule about physically challenged men being able to be given permission from their charter to observe the 27' foul lines and compete in the Elders division. She stated that on page 28 there is a waiver and on page 45 there was a "Medical Exemption" for physically challenged male pitchers. She stated that she was proposing that something be added for physically challenged female pitchers, with the wording "Physically challenged female pitchers may be given permission by their governing charter or NHPA officials to requalify pitching 100 shoes with approval of two NHPA members. The prior completion approval of medical exemption form is required and will need to be approved by the NHPA."
    - It was requested if the NHPA could go ahead and make this happen, and then at the next convention the official rule change could be voted on.
    - **Jerry** mentioned that this should be available for both men and women, and it was suggested that the wording was changed to "person."
    - **Brian** stated that the council can approve this on a temporary basis and then at the next convention this could be voted on as an official rule change.
    - This motion is made, seconded, and voted on. **The motion passes.**
- **Gary** announced the results of the election for the 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President position. The vote was Austin: 48, Barbara 29
- **Gary** ends the delegate meeting.