



NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

August 2026

Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

Mens

Alan Francis - OH



Womens

Jennifer Gegg - MO



Elder Mens

Jacob Fimbres - AZ



Elder Womens

Catherine Ziemann - MN



2026 World Champions

Senior Mens

Ken Fraser - NY



Senior Womens

Sylvianne Moisan - PQ



Junior Boys

Santonio Collado - NM



Junior Girls

Adalaide Ohms - UT



Cadet Boys

Zachary Smith - IA



Cadet Girls

Jazmyn Kildahl - WI



**WAUSAU
WISCONSIN**
WORLD HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

Tournament Issue

2026 World Tournament A Success, Looking Ahead!



**NHPA PRESIDENT
BEN WEBB**

The 2026 World Championships are now in the rear-view mirror! While some champions clung to their titles like Ken Fraser and Jennifer Gegg, some new faces showed up in the championship scene! Speaking of those who retained, a big congratulations goes out to Alan Francis, who captured his 30th Men's World Title at the Greenheck Turner Community Center! A record that will never be broken. Over 900 horseshoe enthusiasts made their way to Wisconsin for the tournament, we seen lifelong members, players adding another year to their consecutive attendance, first time attendees, old officers and friends and those seeing horseshoe pitching's grandest stage for the first time!

A special thank you goes out to the host charter and everyone who helped make the 2026 World Tournament possible! An event of this size doesn't happen without countless hours of work behind the scenes, from the volunteers who helped with setup before the first shoe was pitched and teardown after the final game, to everyone who worked throughout the tournament to keep things running smoothly. Thank you to the host venue for providing a great home for this year's World Tournament and to the Visit Wausau organization for their support in welcoming the horseshoe pitching community to Wisconsin. Most importantly, thank you to all of the NHPA members who traveled from across the country and beyond to compete, support one another and make the World Tournament what it is. Without the pitchers, volunteers, families and supporters who continue to show up year after year, none of this would be possible!

The 2026 World Doubles Championships in Wentzville, Missouri, and signups are officially open! Grab a partner, make your plans and join us in Wentzville as we continue building the World Doubles Championships and creating another opportunity to bring horseshoe pitchers together from across the country!

I made the announcement during the youth awards that I have made the decision not to seek reelection in 2027. Many personal decisions led to this decision and I can not express how much I have enjoyed serving the NHPA as the President since 2024. But, we're not done yet! My term officially ends at 12 a.m. on 1/1/2028 but by this time next year we'll know who will be the next president on that day. Here's my commitment to you, for the next 16 months I'll continue to try to progress the NHPA in all the ways we have been over these last three years. Our goal is to complete a full remodel of the NHPA Hall of Fame by early 2027, along with several other projects. My goal when leaving office would be to be able to hand off a sustainable, growable model of the NHPA that we've been working diligently to steer in the right direction.

Coming out of office, my goal is to stay involved through taking care of the digest, working on the website, etc, but we'll just have to see what the future holds! Thank you to everyone who's supported me and the council up to this point and beyond, let's keep moving forward together!

Thank You!



NHPA 3RD VICE PRESIDENT
JERRY LABROSSE

I'd like to share some thoughts about the 2026 World Tournament, now officially in the books. From many different viewpoints, I can say without hesitation that this was one of the finest tournaments in years. This marked the first time the tournament has been set up on this particular type of subflooring on top of Astroturf. It posed no problems at all—in fact, we believe it was largely responsible for the courts not moving this year. A welcome improvement for everyone involved.

I want to thank the Wisconsin charter for several important contributions, including sponsoring the clay and tools for the set-up court bank—all coordinated by Kent Frailing. Kent also did a hundred other things for this event, Thank you! As for help with setting up and tearing down, we had a strong Wisconsin core group that worked very hard over several days. I can't thank them enough. I would name them all, but there are simply too many, and I'd be sure to miss someone. I thank you all for a job well done. Special thanks go to our team—Clarence, Roger, Jim, Dale, and Vicki—and a particular note of appreciation to Dan Newkirk, who also helped lead the setup and tear down, and then stepped up to ensure things ran smoothly during the event, from fixing broken stakes to making sure that cleaning procedures were handled properly.

Outstanding Host Leadership & Support

Aaron Mull, our host leader, Sarah and their whole staff was one of the best I've ever worked with. Additional special thanks go out to Sonia and Mel Cook, who helped all of us officers in every way they could. I know firsthand how much they helped me. Together, we coordinated a wonderful picnic to thank our volunteers.

Players, Families & Officials Make It All Possible

One final thank-you goes out to all of you—players and the families of players—for filling the scorekeeping chairs and putting on a judging vest, or even being a pacer. Without all of you, this tournament would not run nearly as smoothly as it does. Yes, there are moments when you see us scrambling around, but overall, for an event of this magnitude and level of detail, it runs remarkably smooth, largely due to Melanie and Rhonda in the stats room every single day, and to our tournament director, Brian Poole, who does just about everything. All in all, this was one of the top-tier tournaments I've seen—and I've seen a lot of them. Thank you to everyone who helped make it possible!



NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

World Tournament Edition 2026



Francis remains untouchable for #30!

Leading into the 2026 World Tournament, 29 events saw the same outcome, Alan Francis leaving with the gold! This year would prove to be no different for Francis as he would stroll through the Men's division for the 30th time, and 14th consecutive event. This year's field was a little more stacked than in recent years with Andrew Adams and Tyler Howard returning to the field.

Solidifying himself at the 2025 World Tournament, and 2026 Hall of Fame tournament as the #2 player ready to capture the title, Austin Bailey would find some struggles with his game during the tournament, falling to 5th place this year while Alabama's Dan Watson, remains in the top 5 at #4.

Coming out of the preliminaries both Bailey and Watson would be within 10% of Francis on their qualifying average, with Dan even picking up a shoe game win over Alan in the prelims, just like he and Austin did in 2024. But the Championship round has proved to be a different beast of its own with Francis, as he's only dropped 1 game in the last 14 years, that game came to Tyler Howard 8 years ago in 2018. Point games and shoe limit games are a big difference when playing Francis.

Bailey would enter the Men's championship @ #2 after the prelims and would continue to pitch well during day 1 of championships. On Day 2, when he met Bobby Bartell, Bailey would come down from the high 70's and pitch a 64 and change to drop his first game to the California player. Bouncing back with wins over Joe Smith and Tony Hankins, Bailey would drop a 90-shoe game to his fellow council member Dalton Rakestraw, in a game seeing them both shoot around 75%. This game put Bailey as a solid contender for 2nd as the probability of 2 players beating Francis on the same day is essentially 0 based on his history. Dan Watson would be in the same boat after dropping games to Tyler Howard and spoiler Bobby Bartell in like fashion.

Tyler Howard and Andrew Adams maintained a chance though with Tyler dropping an early game to Joe Smith but holding 1 loss until he met Francis on the featured court. The game would be rather uneventful; Francis pushed the lead to 38 - 11 before missing 4 of his last 16 shoes to allow Tyler to surpass the 20-point mark for a 41-21 victory.

Andrew Adams would drop a game to Howard in the 9th round, his next biggest test would come in the first game of the 3rd day when he play Webb. Andrew started the game with a 34-9 lead over Webb at 44 shoes, coming out hot in the early going of the game. After back to back singles from both players the score at 48 shoes would be 35-10, Adams. Webb would hit 6 in a row before missing 1 at 56 shoes for a ringer 4, Webb missed both shoes at 58 shoes, but Adams answered with the same gaining 2 points, pushing the game to 37-17. Webb would hit 12 in a row as Andrews game started to slip, Webb would then miss 1 at 72 shoes, but Adams missed both shoes before answering Webb's double with one of his own at 74 shoes for a 4-dead. Adams would have 2 on the stake at 76 shoes, score of 37-36, as Webb pitched his first shoe, it would land on the stake before bouncing straight back securing the win for Adams!



NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

World Tournament Edition 2026



Francis remains untouchable for #30!

Adams would defeat Gale Greene of Vermont before being reminded that Francis is just on a different level. Adams would shoot a 77.14% game at the champion and gain 10 points for his trouble as Alan hit him with a 92.86% performance!

The Men's Championship field saw a lot of surprises this year, none more so than the return of Tony Hankins of Kentucky to the field. Tony had captured the 1986 Junior Boys World Title in Nebraska at his 2nd world tournament and would pitch in 21 tournaments during his career, he would make the Men's championship on 5 of those occasions finishing as high as 8th in 2003. His last world tournament would come 11 years ago in Topeka, where he would be helped off the court before dropping out of the tournament. Tony continued to play locally until 2019 where he would drop out after 4 games in the state tournament due to issues with his back, this would be Tony's last tournament until this past winter. With Tony's nephew wanting to play in the world tournament, Tony decided it was time to try to make a comeback after 7 long years on the bench. Tony would pitch enough events to qualify for the world and was improving each time, however his early tournaments would force him into a lower class. Tony would lose 1.5 games but would pitch just well enough to qualify into the 2026 Men's Championship Class after a long hiatus from the sport!

All of this brings us to the champion, there's not much to say, not enough to say, and nothing to say that hasn't been said before. Since 2012, Alan's w/l record is 209 wins and 1 loss in the world championships. Since 2019, his record is 105/0, his cumulative average at the world tournament since 2012 is 87.14% and 12 of the best 15 opponents the NHPA had in 2026 failed to score as many as 10 points on Francis. Don Davis, Tony Hankins, Joseph Smith all never got on the board, while Johny Bubo, Foster Kenton Jr, Jeff Finke, Jim Larson, Bobby Bartell, Ben Webb, Gale Greene, Dalton Rakestraw, and Austin Bailey all got stuck at or under 9 points against Francis in 2026. Adams would get 10 points, Tyler got 21 and Dan Watson would get 25 by pitching 80% at Francis for 90 shoes. We have to wonder at this point in history, is there any man capable of not only defeating Francis in a point game but winning the other 14 games to claim the Men's world championship?

Congratulations to Alan Francis on the 2026 World Championship and continuing to raise the bar and record that will never be broken of 30 Mens World Championships this year!



NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

World Tournament Edition 2026



Gegg Retains in a Stacked Field!

The conversation surrounding the Women's World Championship in the past two years has centered around Jennifer Gegg, Marlene Ray and a host of other strong contenders. Gegg entered the 2026 World Tournament as the defending champion and the #1 woman in the game according to eShoe, going into the World Tournament, the biggest obstacle in Gegg's way was bound to be Marlene Ray. For several years Jennifer had seemingly had an issue defeating Ray and Maxine Griffith on the biggest stages, as recent as early 2026 where Ray would win the Hall of Fame invitational. The biggest obstacle coming in would prove to be one of many during the tournament!

Aleena Lepak continued to improve over the last several years, including a breakout performance at the 2025 World Tournament where she averaged 74.33% in the preliminaries, and defeating not 1 but both Tennessee Twins in championship play. Coming into 2026, Lepak would be pitching in her home state, she had the spectators behind her with home field advantage and was the committee's prediction to capture her first Women's World Championship just twenty minutes from her home! Jennifer Gegg entered the championship with an 85.17% average, followed by Marlene Ray at 79.50%, Pam Meyer at 77.17% and Aleena Lepak at 75.83%. But entry averages mean very little once championship play begins.

Aleena wasted very little time showing that the hometown pick wasn't going away. Through her first 12 games she remained perfect in the win/loss column, including an 89% performance against Shalee Cason in a 100-shoe game and an 81% performance against Penny Steinke in another 100-shoe battle. Lepak wasn't just winning games, she was doing it while pitching far above the average she carried into the championship.

Eventually the championship would come down to exactly what everyone wanted to see, Gegg, Lepak and Ray meeting one another near the end of the tournament. Jennifer and Aleena would meet with perfect records, and the advantage would go to the defending champion. Gegg would pitch 85.90% over 78 shoes while Lepak fell back to 76.92%, giving Jennifer the 40-17 victory and handing Aleena what would become her only loss of the entire tournament. Lepak responded exactly how a championship contender needed to, giving Marlene Ray her first loss with a 42-32 win and an 80.68% performance.

That left Lepak sitting at 13-1, Marlene sitting at 13-1 and put the pressure squarely back on Jennifer who remained undefeated.

Once the court was set for the final game it would be Jennifer Gegg and Marlene Ray in round 15. Jennifer had a choice here, to get through her biggest roadblock in the path to another world championship or throw the tournament into a 3-way playoff by dropping the game to Marlene, which would allow Lepak to stay alive as a contender for the championship.



NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

World Tournament Edition 2026



Gegg Retains in a Stacked Field!

The final game wasn't a blowout. Ray stayed with Jennifer for 76 shoes, pitching 78.95%, but Gegg answered with 81.58% and a 41-33 victory. Jennifer Gegg completed a perfect 15-0 run in what may have been the toughest Women's Championship field we've seen!

The middle of the field wasn't slacking either as one of the most unique games in Women's Championship history came when Pam Meyer met Emma Meyer. For the first time in the history of the championship class, a mother and daughter would pitch one another on the World Championship stage! Pam defeated Emma 40-20 in 48 shoes, pitching 70.83% to Emma's 58.33%. Emma would finish her first championship experience at 4-11, but she would pick up wins over Lyne Pineault, Mona Lane, Karen Graham and Pam Aiken. Pam finished much higher in the standings, going 9-6 for 5th place. 10-time women's world champion, Joan Elmore nearly became the player to ruin Jennifer's perfect record, taking Gegg all the way to 108 shoes. Elmore pitched 83.33%, hit 90 ringers and pushed Jennifer farther than anyone had to that point, only to fall 40-39 as Gegg hit 91 ringers at 84.26%. Shalee Cason, Penny Steinke, Denise Daly, and Brandy Morehead all put on high-level performances during the tournament and forced the top 3 to keep their averages up to get through the middle of the field! That may be the biggest story coming out of the 2026 tournament, at this point in history you have a field of 7-10 women who can put together a performance able to claim the championship on any given day.

Jennifer Gegg didn't just successfully defend her World Championship in 2026, she did it without dropping a game against a field that is field with the best in the sport, she also did it by getting over her biggest hurdle to date, Marlene Ray.

Aleena Lepak may not have captured the championship in her home state, but 14-1 at 81.07% made one thing very clear: she has officially joined the championship conversation with Gegg and Ray. Marlene Ray proved once again that she isn't going anywhere, and when Maxine Griffith returns from injury, the Women's Championship could have four legitimate favorites before we even begin talking about Meyer, Cason, Daly, Morehead and the rest of this rapidly improving field.

Congratulations to Jennifer Gegg on an undefeated 15-0 performance and successfully defending her title as the 2026 Women's World Champion!



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NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

World Tournament Edition 2026



Ziemann rises from middle of B Class to World Champion!

2025 would mark a historic change for the NHPA with the introduction of the first ever Elder Women's Championship Class, giving the top women competing from the 30-foot distance their own World Championship. Indiana's Sharon Chiddister would make history that year by becoming the first champion of the new division, and she returned in 2026 looking to defend that title and make it two-for-two!

The second year of the Elder Women's Championship would prove to be a close one, with Catherine Ziemann, Marlys Timm, Janet Larson and defending champion Sharon Chiddister, all finding themselves in the battle for the title. Chiddister entered the 2026 World Tournament as one of the highest rated Elder Women in the country, but the Minnesota trio would make sure there was no easy path to a second championship.

After finishing in 3rd place in the B class, Catherine Ziemann would ultimately put together the best run of the championship, finishing with a 4-1 record and raising her 53.00% qualifying average to 54.23% during championship play. Ziemann threw 141 ringers in 260 shoes on her way to the title, including a 40-26 victory over Kathy Fleege where she pitched 45.83%.

The championship race would stay close behind her as Marlys Timm, Janet Larson and Sharon Chiddister all finished at 3-2. Timm would claim 2nd place through the tiebreaker despite dropping nearly 5% from her qualifying average, finishing championship play at 48.61%. Larson would take 3rd with a 46.60% average while Chiddister's attempt to defend the historic first Elder Women's title would end with her in 4th at 46.04%.

Wisconsin would round out the field with Tegwin Case finishing 2-3 and Kathy Fleege at 0-5. Case remained close to her qualifying average throughout the championship, finishing at 43.56%, while Fleege struggled to find the same game she brought through the preliminary rounds.

With only two years of history behind the Elder Women's Championship, the record book for this division is just beginning to be written. Sharon Chiddister will forever hold the distinction of being the first woman to capture the title in 2025, but 2026 would belong to Minnesota's Catherine Ziemann as she became just the second Elder Women's World Champion in NHPA history!



NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

World Tournament Edition 2026



Fraser outlasts Williams Jr to claim his three in-a-row!

The Senior Men's Championship entered 2026 with no shortage of World Championship experience in the field. New York's Ken Fraser came to Wisconsin as the two-time and defending Senior Men's World Champion, while former champion Raymond Bedard was looking to find his way back to the top. Missouri's Stan Griggs entered the tournament during a special year of his own after being inducted into the NHPA Hall of Fame, and then there was nine-time World Champion Walter Ray Williams Jr., still looking to add another title to his already impressive career.

Fraser would quickly show that taking the championship away from him wasn't going to be easy. After entering championship play at 59.67%, Ken would find another gear, finishing the class at 70.89%, more than 11% over his entry average! He would defeat Ken Jones 40-22 before putting together an 80.95% performance against former champion Raymond Bedard in a 42-12 win. Fraser would continue through the field undefeated, including wins over Griggs and Andre Leclerc, setting up the game that would ultimately decide the championship.

Walter Ray Williams Jr. was putting together an impressive tournament of his own. The nine-time World Champion won his first six games and averaged 72.08% for the championship, the highest average in the entire field. Walter Ray would pitch over 77% in wins against Ken Jones and Andre Leclerc, and an 83.33% performance against Dennis Wilson. After defeating Hall of Famer Stan Griggs 44-28, Williams and Fraser would meet in the final round with both players undefeated and the World Championship on the line!

The championship game would live up to the matchup. Walter Ray hit 40 ringers in 58 shoes for 68.97%, but Fraser would answer with 42 ringers and a 72.41% performance. The ending was one we heard about several courts over, Walter Ray would lead 32-30 at 52 shoes before missing both and giving Ken 6 points. Ken would miss one at 56 shoes giving 3 back to WRW with the score going to 35-36 Ken's favor. Walter Ray would then miss both again at 58 shoes allowing Ken the opening to double out as Fraser defeated Williams 42-35, finishing the tournament a perfect 7-0 and securing his third consecutive Senior Men's World Championship!

Behind the top two, Stan Griggs and Raymond Bedard would each finish 4-3. Griggs capped off his Hall of Fame year with a 3rd-place finish, pitching 59.70% and shooting over 70% in his victory over Ken Heinritz. Bedard would finish 4th, but the former World Champion picked up a big 40-33 victory over Griggs and finished the tournament by winning four of his final five games.

Fraser's victory continues what has become an impressive run in the Senior Men's division. He went undefeated at the 2024 World Tournament as well, finishing 9-0 at 70.18%, and returned two years later to once again finish the championship without a loss. With former champions, Hall of Famers and one of the greatest horseshoe pitchers of all time standing in his way, Fraser would once again find his best game when it mattered most.



NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

World Tournament Edition 2026



Fimbres Survives Elders Championship in a playoff!

The Elder Men's Championship would feature one of the deepest fields at the 2026 World Tournament with 16 players entering championship play averaging over 62%, and seven players entering over the 66% mark. Arizona's Jacob Fimbres would lead the field at 78.17%, followed closely by Missouri's Virgle McCown at 75.17%, setting the stage for a championship battle that would eventually come down to those two men!

One thing became very clear early on in the tournament, defending champion Tom Moffatt had a target on his back, dropping two games on day 1 and finishing with a 9-6 record opening the door for a new champion!

Fimbres wouldn't get the start expected from the top seed, dropping his opening game to Utah's Roy Buhler 40-23 while pitching just 60.42%. Instead of allowing the loss to derail his tournament, Jacob would respond in about the strongest way possible. Fimbres would win his next 13 games, shooting over 80% in eight of them and reaching the 90% mark twice! His run included a 90.63% performance against Harvey Burkman, 90.48% against Dale Marteney and an 88.10% game against Jacques Houle.

Virgle McCown would have a similar road to the top after dropping his opening game to Dale Moles. McCown would then win 12 straight games of his own before Tom Moffat finally stopped the streak with a 42-39 victory. With both Fimbres and McCown sitting at two losses, the two would meet near the end of championship play with an opportunity to take control of the tournament. McCown would get the advantage, defeating Fimbres 42-33 and pitching 74.19%, giving Jacob his second loss and ultimately forcing the two men into a playoff for the World Championship.

When the playoff began, Fimbres would leave very little doubt about who was taking the championship back to Arizona. Jacob would throw 58 ringers in 70 shoes for an 82.86% performance, defeating McCown 40-20 to capture the 2026 Elder Men's World Championship! Fimbres finished championship play at 79.78%, throwing 710 ringers over 890 shoes, while McCown finished 2nd at 76.59%.

Behind the championship battle, Florida's Rick Howe and Quebec's Jacques Houle would both finish 10-5, with Howe taking 3rd place while averaging 73.54%. Howe gave Fimbres one of his toughest games of the tournament, pitching 77.78% for 90 shoes before falling by just three points, 40-37. Houle would finish 4th at 70.42%, while Indiana's Dale Moles made one of the biggest jumps in the field, entering championship play at 64.33% before averaging 69.44% and finishing 9-6 for 5th place.

The championship may have started with both Fimbres and McCown dropping their opening games, but from that point forward they separated themselves from one of the deepest Elder Men's fields in recent years. After 15 rounds still couldn't separate the two, Fimbres saved one of his best games for when it mattered most!

Kildahl Conquers Cadet Girls Championship!

The Cadet Girls Championship would feature four young pitchers in 2026 with Wisconsin's Jazmyn Kildahl entering the class as the favorite with an 18.00% average. Fellow Wisconsin pitcher Zoey McHugh would enter at 12.67%, followed by Michigan's Audrey Hetrick and Minnesota's Lydia Strandquist.

Kildahl would make the most of pitching the World Tournament in her home state, getting off to a quick start against Strandquist. Jazmyn would pitch 23.53% in the opening round, throwing 8 ringers in 34 shoes on her way to a 32-7 victory. She would follow that with a 24-12 win over Hetrick, leaving one game between Kildahl and an undefeated run through the class.

Zoey McHugh would emerge as Kildahl's biggest competition after picking up victories over Hetrick and Strandquist. McHugh would pitch 26.32% in her opening victory over Hetrick before defeating Strandquist 30-8, setting up an all-Wisconsin matchup between the top two players to decide the championship.

Kildahl would save her best performance for when it mattered most! Jazmyn threw 9 ringers in just 26 shoes for a 34.62% game, more than double the 18% average she carried into the championship. Kildahl would defeat McHugh 32-8 to finish a perfect 3-0 and capture the Cadet Girls World Championship!

Kildahl would finish the championship at 24.00%, improving 6% over her entry average while winning all three of her games. With Wisconsin hosting the World Tournament, the young pitcher would make sure one World Championship stayed in the home state!

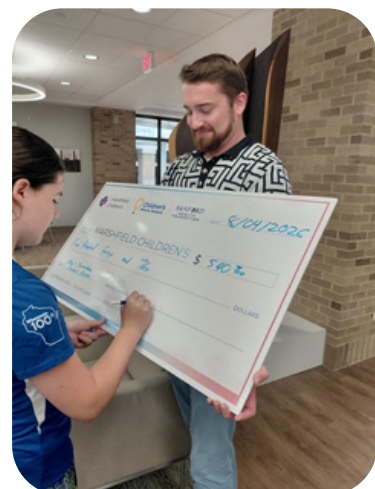
NHPA Partners w/ Childrens Miracle Network!



During the 2026 World Tournament the NHPA would partner with the Childrens Miracle Network by selling custom painted shoes hand painted by some of their residents!

Jazmyn Kildahl would make an additional donation to after becoming Cadet Girls World Champion!

Shown here signing w/ Sonia Cook





NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

World Tournament Edition 2026



Ohms Dominates Junior Girls Division in 2026!

For Utah's Adilaide Ohms, the 2026 World Tournament would be the definition of one last chance. Adilaide came within reach of capturing the Junior Girls World Championship in 2025, but would leave without the title. With 2026 being her final opportunity before aging out of the Junior Girls division, Ohms came to Wisconsin with one goal left to accomplish before moving on!

Adilaide would enter championship play as the top player in the field at 45.25%, followed closely by Kansas' Danyelle Russell at 41.75%. From the opening round, Ohms would show that she wasn't going to let her final opportunity slip away. She opened with a 62.50% performance against Josie Boehm and would continue through the field undefeated, defeating Addisyn Goddard, Brooklyn Scott and Addison Ashton before turning her attention toward the other top contenders.

Ohms would defeat Wisconsin's Sequoia Wiese 44-14 while pitching 54.76%, before putting together another dominant performance against fellow Utah pitcher Lindy Anderson. Adilaide would hit 16 ringers in only 26 shoes for 61.54%, allowing Anderson just a single point in a 42-1 victory. Meanwhile, Danyelle Russell was doing exactly what she needed to do to keep the pressure on. Russell would win each of her first six games, including a 52.78% performance against Anderson and a 45.83% victory over Wiese.

That would set the court for exactly the championship game you would hope for, #1 against #2, both undefeated, in the final round with the Junior Girls World Championship on the line!

Russell would put together her best percentage of the tournament when it mattered most, pitching an even 50% with 23 ringers in 46 shoes. Unfortunately for Danyelle, Adilaide was ready with an answer. Ohms would throw 27 ringers for 58.70%, defeating Russell 42-24 to finish a perfect 7-0 and finally capture the Junior Girls World Championship in her final opportunity!

Behind the top two, Wisconsin's Sequoia Wiese would put together a strong tournament in her home state, finishing 5-2 for 3rd place and improving from a 28.00% entry average to 30.92%. Lindy Anderson would give Utah two players inside the top four with a 4-3 record, while Addison Ashton, Addisyn Goddard, Brooklyn Scott and Josie Boehm rounded out the championship field.

Ohms wouldn't just get the championship she narrowly missed a year earlier, she would do it by pitching the best horseshoes of her World Tournament. Adilaide entered championship play at 45.25% and finished at 55.08%, nearly 10% over her entry average while never dropping a game.

Congratulations to Adilaide Ohms on an undefeated 7-0 performance and capturing the 2026 Junior Girls World Championship in her final year in the Junior Girls division!



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Like Father, Like Son!

The Cadet Boys Championship would feature six young pitchers in 2026, but Iowa's Zachary Smith would make this championship a little more special than most. Zachary came to Wisconsin looking to add another World Championship to the Smith family, following in the footsteps of his dad, who captured the Junior Boys World Championship all the way back in 1995!

Georgia's Kendell Beck entered championship play as the highest-rated player at 53.25%, while Zachary entered at 42.75% behind Beck and Wisconsin's Andrew James. Smith would quickly show that the entry averages weren't going to tell the story of this championship. After opening with a 31-7 victory over Carter Hogue, Zachary would jump to 59.38% in his victory over Jackson Vancleave before defeating Logan Lepak to move to 3-0.

Andrew James was putting together an impressive tournament of his own in his home state. James would defeat Vancleave and Lepak before picking up a big win over Beck, pitching 60% in a 30-26 victory. That left Smith and James undefeated when they met, and the game would prove to be one of the most important of the championship. Zachary would hit 27 ringers in 46 shoes for 58.70%, defeating James 31-26 and taking control of the class.

There was still one big obstacle left between Smith and an undefeated World Championship, Kendell Beck. Beck had shown exactly what he was capable of earlier in the tournament, pitching 72.73% against Jackson Vancleave. With the championship on the line though, Smith would save his best game for last! Beck pitched a strong 60%, but Zachary answered with 29 ringers in 40 shoes for 72.50%, taking the 30-16 victory and finishing a perfect 5-0!

Andrew James would finish 4-1 for 2nd place while raising his average more than 11%, from 40.75% to 51.92%. Beck finished 3rd at 3-2 and averaged 54.17%, followed by Jackson Vancleave, Carter Hogue and Logan Lepak.

Zachary would make the biggest jump of anyone in the championship field, entering at 42.75% and finishing at 55.56%, nearly 13% above his entry average. Even more impressive was the way he finished, facing the two players directly behind him in the standings in his final two games and answering with performances of 58.70% and 72.50%.

Thirty-one years after his dad became the 1995 Junior Boys World Champion, Zachary Smith would add his own name to the family's World Championship history!





NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

World Tournament Edition 2026



Begaye's Absence Creates Opportunity!

The Junior Boys Championship would enter the 2026 World Tournament with an unexpected twist before championship play even began. Hastiin Begaye, one of the strongest young pitchers in the game and a player expected to waltz through the division in 2026 based on his history at the world tournament, would be forced to drop out of the tournament. With Begaye out of the picture, the door was suddenly wide open and there wasn't a clear favorite left standing between the remaining players and a World Championship!

Illinois' Landon Morgan would enter championship play with the highest average at 56.75%, followed closely by New Mexico's Santonio Callado at 56.25%. Utah's Tolson Hall entered at 49.50%, while Wisconsin brothers Bradley and Blake Benzing would have the advantage of pitching for a World Championship in their home state. On paper there wasn't much separating the top of this field, and

Santonio Callado would quickly make his case that the championship was going back to New Mexico. Callado opened with a 40-19 victory over Jeremiah DeMello before defeating Blake Benzing 40-15 with a 60.53% performance. His closest call would come against Cameron Hogue, where both players pitched 47.92%, but Santonio escaped with a 40-37 victory to remain undefeated.

From there, Callado found another gear. He would shut out Lucas Cantone 43-0 while pitching 83.33%, defeat Tolson Hall 40-24 and then meet Bradley Benzing with Bradley still having a chance to make a run at the championship. Callado answered with 60.42% to take the 41-26 victory. That left Landon Morgan as the final obstacle between Santonio and a perfect World Championship, but Callado would once again rise to the occasion, pitching 67.50% in a 40-17 victory to finish a perfect 7-0!

Behind Callado, Bradley Benzing would give the home-state crowd plenty to cheer for. Bradley finished 5-2 for 2nd place while raising his 46.50% entry average to 50.57%. Morgan, Blake Benzing and Jeremiah DeMello would all finish at 4-3, with Morgan taking 3rd place. DeMello deserves some attention of his own after entering championship play at just 37% and finishing at 44.25%, more than 7% over his entry average.

Begaye's withdrawal may have opened the door for anyone in the Junior Boys field to take advantage, but once the shoes started flying, Callado made sure nobody else got the opportunity. Santonio would improve from 56.25% to 59.59%, win all seven of his games and save some of his strongest performances for the second half of the tournament.

Congratulations to New Mexico's Santonio Callado on an undefeated 7-0 performance and the 2026 Junior Boys World Championship! Santonio becomes the first Junior Boys World Champion in history from his home state of New Mexico!



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Women's Preliminary Results!

Women Class A

Champion - Jennifer Gegg, Missouri, 15-0, 85.17%
Runner-Up - Marlene Ray, Tennessee, 12-3, 79.50%
Third Place - Penny Steinke, Wisconsin, 11-4, 73.17%

Women Class B

Champion - Emma Meyer, Missouri, 13-2, 65.50%
Runner-Up - Pam Aiken, Wisconsin, 12-3, 63.50%
Third Place - Jane Cordingley, Alberta, 11-4, 61.67%

Women Class C

Champion - Ellen Perry, New York, 13½-1½, 59.50%
Runner-Up - Tammy Newkirk, Wisconsin, 12-3, 58.17%
Third Place - Kammie Anderson, North Dakota, 12-3, 57.33%

Women Class D

Champion - Genevieve Jones, Utah, 14-1, 51.33%
Runner-Up - Vicki Barham, Colorado, 13½-1½, 51.33%
Third Place - Carla Brave, South Dakota, 11-4, 48.00%

Women Class E

Champion - Brenda Weiler, Wisconsin, 12½-2½, 44.33%
Runner-Up - Lisa Dicharry, California, 11½-3½, 41.00%
Third Place - Penny Hayward, Missouri, 10-5, 39.33%

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Women's Preliminary Results!

Women Class G

Champion - Tracy Zegarzewski, Tennessee, 13-2, 39.17%

Runner-Up - Aprile Friesmuth, Michigan, 12-3, 33.50%

Third Place - Maria McIntyre, Georgia, 11-4, 34.00%

Women Class H

Champion - Tina Payne, Michigan, 12-3, 34.67%

Runner-Up - Lori Schumann, Wisconsin, 10-5, 35.17%

Third Place - Patti Lopez-Cepero, Arizona, 10-5, 31.83%

Women Class I

Champion - Colleen Szabo, Minnesota, 14-1, 37.33%

Runner-Up - Spencer Snyder, Colorado, 12½-2½, 28.33%

Third Place - Karen Kanner, Ohio, 12-3, 29.17%

Women Class J

Champion - Shirley Smith, Colorado, 10-1, 22.50%

Runner-Up - Robyn Holien, Minnesota, 8-3, 26.82%

Third Place - Kiara Grover, Idaho, 8-3, 25.45%

Women Class K

Champion - Jana Tinnell, South Dakota, 10-1, 14.09%

Runner-Up - Joy Brabec, Minnesota, 9-2, 11.82%

Third Place - Becky Norris, Indiana, 8-3, 14.77%

Men's Preliminary Results!

Men Class A

Champion - Alan Francis, Ohio, 14-1, 86.00%

Runner-Up - Austin Bailey, Illinois, 12-3, 77.83%

Third Place - Dan Watson, Alabama, 12-3, 76.33%

NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

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Men's Preliminary Results!

Men Class B

Champion - Bobby Bartell, California, 12-3, 59.00%

Runner-Up - Jim Larson, Minnesota, 11-4, 58.50%

Third Place - Andre Leclerc, Quebec, 11-4, 55.67%

Men Class C

Champion - Bunky Impson, Oklahoma, 12-3, 50.33%

Runner-Up - Dennis Wilson, Pennsylvania, 11-4, 50.00%

Third Place - Peter Mauer, New York, 11-4, 42.83%

Men Class D

Champion - Darryl Snyder, Ohio, 11-4, 51.00%

Runner-Up - Rusty Walker, Oklahoma, 10½-4½, 42.50%

Third Place - Mike Marshall, Ontario, 10-5, 50.83%

Men Class E

Champion - Ken Heinritz, Wisconsin, 14-1, 46.33%

Runner-Up - Glenn Burton, Oklahoma, 11-4, 44.17%

Third Place - Roy Brockman, Arkansas, 11-4, 42.67%

Men Class F

Champion - Joe Mueller, Minnesota, 14-2, 48.59%

Runner-Up - Lance Taylor, California, 13-3, 40.63%

Third Place - Michael Mings, Oklahoma, 10½-4½, 40.33%

Men Class G

Champion - Steven Miller, Iowa, 11-2, 42.12%

Runner-Up - Charles Gordon, Missouri, 9½-3½, 36.92%

Third Place - Ben Tabaha, Wyoming, 9½-3½, 35.58%

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Men's Preliminary Results!

Men Class H

- Champion** - Tony Hankins, Kentucky, 13½-1½, 57.33%
Runner-Up - Galen Aldrich Sr, Nebraska, 12½-2½, 34.67%
Third Place - Phillip Contreras, New Mexico, 11½-3½, 36.50%

Men Class I

- Champion** - Caiden Hogue, Ohio, 14-1, 39.83%
Runner-Up - Rick Weaver, Illinois, 12-3, 33.83%
Third Place - Fred Howard, Wisconsin, 11-4, 36.00%

Men Class J

- Champion** - Patrick Duncan, Colorado, 13-2, 27.17%
Runner-Up - Ralph New, Missouri, 11-4, 36.33%
Third Place - Jason Garrettson, Colorado, 11-4, 34.67%

Men Class K

- Champion** - Ken Kukla, Wisconsin, 11½-3½, 25.00%
Runner-Up - Ronnie Miller, Georgia, 11-4, 28.50%
Third Place - Scott Chalmers, Minnesota, 11-4, 27.67%

Men Class L

- Champion** - Mark Trepanier, Wisconsin, 13-2, 27.67%
Runner-Up - Aydon Asselin, Connecticut, 12-3, 31.33%
Third Place - Justin Bell, Iowa, 9½-5½, 25.83%

Men Class M

- Champion** - Matt Skrzypek, Michigan, 11-4, 27.83%
Runner-Up - Thaddeus Monthie, Wisconsin, 10½-4½, 17.33%
Third Place - Steve Amundson, Wisconsin, 10-5, 27.50%

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Men's Preliminary Results!

Men Class N

- Champion** - Trevor Teich, Minnesota, 11-2, 25.58%
Runner-Up - Delano Haimrick, Virginia, 9-4, 26.54%
Third Place - Noah Gabel, North Dakota, 8-5, 25.58%

Men Class O

- Champion** - Dan Belden, Minnesota, 11-2, 24.23%
Runner-Up - Chad Volz, Wisconsin, 10-3, 24.62%
Third Place - Bob Logan, Wyoming, 10-3, 22.31%

Men Class P

- Champion** - Emilio Castro, Wisconsin, 13-2, 23.33%
Runner-Up - Guy Fleming Jr, Wisconsin, 12½-2½, 18.33%
Third Place - Aaron Charron, Colorado, 12-3, 14.33%

Men Class Q

- Champion** - Scott Jones, Wisconsin, 12-3, 18.67%
Runner-Up - Jerome Farmer, Alabama, 11-4, 19.17%
Third Place - Brian Poole, Idaho, 11-4, 16.00%

Men Class R

- Champion** - Arlen Lee, South Dakota, 12-1, 19.62%
Runner-Up - James (Jim) Klein, Minnesota, 11-2, 14.04%
Third Place - Steve Paukert, Iowa, 8-5, 14.23%

Men Class S

- Champion** - Sam Ferraro, Pennsylvania, 9-2, 11.82%
Runner-Up - Fred Heidmann II, Wisconsin, 8-3, 12.55%
Third Place - Roger Andersen, Minnesota, 8-3, 7.09%

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Cadet Preliminary Results!

Cadet Class A & B

- Champion** - Kendell Beck, Georgia, 9-1, 53.22%
- Runner-Up** - Andrew James, Wisconsin, 6-4, 40.35%
- Third Place** - Jackson Vancleave, Michigan, 6-4, 30.15%

Cadet Class C

- Champion** - Carter Hogue, Ohio, 6-0, 28.33%
- Runner-Up** - Elio Ramirez, Missouri, 4-2, 19.33%
- Third Place** - Jazmyn Kildahl, Wisconsin, 2-4, 18.00%

Cadet Class D

- Champion** - Logan Lepak, Wisconsin, 6-0, 27.67%
- Runner-Up** - Thurston Boehm, Wisconsin, 4-2, 10.00%
- Third Place** - Bennett Rice, Missouri, 2-4, 10.00%

Cadet Class E

- Champion** - Audrey Hetrick, Michigan, 5-0-1, 8.67%
- Runner-Up** - Landon Simonsen, Wisconsin, 4-2, 7.00%
- Third Place** - Cameron Simonsen, Wisconsin, 2-4, 5.33%

Cadet Class F

- Champion** - Lydia Strandquist, Minnesota, 6-1, 2.73%
- Runner-Up** - Oliver Lepak, Wisconsin, 5-2, 3.33%
- Third Place** - Jameson Heinritz, Wisconsin, 2-4, 2.33%

Junior Preliminary Results!

Junior Class A

- Champion** - Santonio Callado, New Mexico, 8-2, 56.25%
- Runner-Up** - Landon Morgan, Illinois, 6-4, 56.75%
- Third Place** - Bradley Benzing, Wisconsin, 6-4, 46.50%

Junior Class B

- Champion** - Tolson Hall, Utah, 9-1, 49.50%
- Runner-Up** - Jeremiah DeMello, Washington, 6-4, 37.00%
- Third Place** - Danyelle Russell, Kansas, 5-5, 41.75%

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Junior Preliminary Results!

Junior Class C

Champion - Elijah Strandquist, Minnesota, 8½-1½, 32.75%
Runner-Up - Sequoia Wiese, Wisconsin, 6½-3½, 28.00%
Third Place - Addison Ashton, Kentucky, 6½-3½, 25.00%

Junior Class D

Champion - Dominik Littell, Minnesota, 9-1, 28.25%
Runner-Up - Addisyn Goddard, Missouri, 7½-2½, 22.50%
Third Place - Jett Jones, Wisconsin, 5½-4½, 15.75%

Junior Class E

Champion - Brooklyn Scott, Utah, 9-1, 13.75%
Runner-Up - Josie Boehm, Wisconsin, 6-4, 9.00%
Third Place - Lillian Thornquist, Illinois, 6-4, 8.00%

Elder Women Preliminary Results!

Elder Women Class A

Champion - Sharon Chiddister, Indiana, 7½-2½, 51.25%
Runner-Up - Janet Larson, Minnesota, 6½-3½, 50.50%
Third Place - Marlys Timm, Minnesota, 6-4, 53.50%

Elder Women Class B

Champion - Audra Craven, Missouri, 8-2, 41.50%
Runner-Up - Kathy Fleege, Wisconsin, 7-3, 45.50%
Third Place - Catherine Ziemann, Minnesota, 6½-3½, 53.00%

Elder Women Class C

Champion - Carolyn Brigner, Minnesota, 9-1, 33.25%
Runner-Up - Sandy Anderson, Wisconsin, 7-3, 27.25%
Third Place - Mary Ann Kouba, Wisconsin, 5½-4½, 14.75%

Elder Men Preliminary Results!

Elder Men Class A

Champion - Virgle McCown, Missouri, 12-3, 75.17%
Runner-Up - Jacob Fimbres, Arizona, 10½-4½, 78.17%
Third Place - James Muller, Tennessee, 10½-4½, 66.67%

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Elder Men Preliminary Results!

Elder Men Class B

Champion - Zane Goggin, Georgia, 11-4, 68.00%
Runner-Up - Del Hulet, Utah, 10-5, 64.67%
Third Place - Greg Burke, Michigan, 10-5, 62.83%

Elder Men Class C

Champion - Andrew Lenzen, Wisconsin, 14-1, 62.67%
Runner-Up - Pete Lungwitz, Kansas, 11-4, 56.50%
Third Place - Jim Bilderback, Wisconsin, 10½-4½, 58.17%

Elder Men Class D

Champion - Rick Weller, Wisconsin, 14-1, 58.17%
Runner-Up - Lester Krull, Indiana, 11-4, 47.83%
Third Place - Steve Strickland, Kentucky, 10-5, 53.17%

Elder Men Class E

Champion - Tim Brigner, Minnesota, 11½-3½, 50.67%
Runner-Up - Chuck Baker, Ohio, 11-4, 53.17%
Third Place - Ken Kuss, Michigan, 11-4, 53.17%

Elder Men Class F

Champion - David Wietrzak, Florida, 10-3, 50.96%
Runner-Up - Earl Romine, Kansas, 9½-3½, 47.88%
Third Place - John Lincoln, Arizona, 9½-3½, 45.19%

Elder Men Class G

Champion - Melvin Lyons, Kansas, 11-2, 45.58%
Runner-Up - Mark Constance, Missouri, 10-3, 49.04%
Third Place - Tom Kirk, Ohio, 9-4, 48.46%

Elder Men Class H

Champion - Jeffery Madison, Wisconsin, 12-3, 50.67%
Runner-Up - Kurt Whaley, South Dakota, 11-4, 47.00%
Third Place - Gary Fulton, Kansas, 11-4, 42.50%

Elder Men Class I

Champion - Clarence W. Lassiter Jr, North Carolina, 14-1, 48.00%
Runner-Up - Melvin Jeardoe, Kansas, 13½-1½, 49.17%
Third Place - Chuck Sandberg, Wyoming, 12-3, 51.67%

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Elder Men Preliminary Results!

Elder Men Class J

Champion - Brady Craven, Missouri, 14-1, 46.83%
Runner-Up - Gerard Kane, Ohio, 12½-2½, 43.50%
Third Place - Mark Burns, Michigan, 12-3, 40.50%

Elder Men Class K

Champion - Dennis Wegner, Wisconsin, 11½-3½, 39.17%
Runner-Up - Paul Bachelor, Michigan, 11-4, 38.00%
Third Place - Fred Sanford, Ohio, 11-4, 37.83%

Elder Men Class L

Champion - Ed Waugaman, Ohio, 11-4, 37.50%
Runner-Up - Dan Sheehan, Wisconsin, 10-5, 35.67%
Third Place - Dwight Cubit, Oklahoma, 10-5, 28.33%

Elder Men Class M

Champion - Danny Markley, Michigan, 10-1, 35.91%
Runner-Up - Loren Douglass, Illinois, 9-2, 31.82%
Third Place - Glen Brandemuehl, Wisconsin, 8-3, 37.05%

Elder Men Class N

Champion - Larry J Morris Jr, Virginia, 12-2, 34.64%
Runner-Up - Bill Wainscott, Missouri, 11-3, 36.61%
Third Place - William Gray, Indiana, 9-4, 34.81%

Elder Men Class O

Champion - Bob Kallstrom, Wisconsin, 12-4, 38.75%
Runner-Up - John DeMello, California, 12-5, 30.00%
Third Place - Ron Thom, Minnesota, 11-5, 36.88%

Elder Men Class P

Champion - Bob Bales, Kansas, 12½-2½, 30.17%
Runner-Up - Gary Bardelmeier, Illinois, 11½-3½, 31.50%
Third Place - Tom Benortham, Kansas, 11-4, 28.50%

Elder Men Class Q

Champion - James Kiffmeyer, Minnesota, 13½-1½, 29.00%
Runner-Up - Kermit Greer, Maryland, 13-2, 34.00%
Third Place - Marvin Dirks, Iowa, 11½-3½, 25.00%

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Elder Men Preliminary Results!

Elder Men Class R

- Champion** - Gary Riebesehl, Georgia, 11-1, 26.88%
- Runner-Up** - Steve Tompkins, North Dakota, 10-2, 28.13%
- Third Place** - Glen Spies, Wisconsin, 9-2, 28.41%

Elder Men Class S

- Champion** - Steve Barron, Minnesota, 14-1, 27.50%
- Runner-Up** - Pat Spruce, New York, 13-2, 31.33%
- Third Place** - Gary Freese, Minnesota, 11-4, 33.17%

Elder Men Class T

- Champion** - Jerry R. Dugan, Kansas, 13-0, 25.77%
- Runner-Up** - Dave Anderson, Minnesota, 10½-2½, 22.31%
- Third Place** - George Johnson, Ohio, 9½-3½, 21.92%

Elder Men Class U

- Champion** - Randy Parcell, Ohio, 8½-2½, 18.41%
- Runner-Up** - David Hampton, Ohio, 8-3, 21.14%
- Third Place** - Donald Sem, Minnesota, 8-3, 18.41%

Elder Men Class V

- Champion** - Mel Cook, Wisconsin, 11-0, 14.77%
- Runner-Up** - Kenneth Hamilton, Missouri, 9-2, 16.36%
- Third Place** - Tony Omann, Minnesota, 9-2, 15.68%

Elder Men Class W

- Champion** - Derek Wenger, Wisconsin, 9-0, 14.67%
- Runner-Up** - Ross Todorovich, Washington, 7-2, 7.33%
- Third Place** - Randy Danzl, Minnesota, 6½-2½, 14.00%

2026 HALL OF FAME

Banquet



**STAN GRIGGS
INDUCTED
INTO
NHPA
HALL OF FAME!**

**NOT PICTURED
INDUCTEES:**

**FRANCES CARNAHAN
(HISTORIC PLAYER
2026)**

**DAVID HOLMES
(PLAYER 2026)**



**LEAGUE DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR
SONIA COOK - WI**



**2026 MEMBERSHIP AWARD
CONNECTICUT**



**PRESIDENTIAL AWARD
CLARENCE LASSITER - NC**



**VANSANT AWARD
JOSH OLSON - MN**

**GARY ROBERTS AWARD
RICK HOWE - FL**



**ARCH STOKES AWARD
RONNIE & KAREN MEREDITH - KY**



**JERRY SMITH AWARD
DALTON RAKESTRAW - CA**



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2026 Convention Proposal Results

PRC 1

Rule 12, Section C - Dress Code

Would have allowed tank tops or sleeveless shirts at the World Tournament.

FAILED

PRC 2

Rule 2, Section C - Painting Stakes

Allows white chalk to be used to color stakes.

PASSED

PRC 3

Section F - Elder

Would have added an 80-year-old Elder designation/section.

FAILED

PBC 1

Article V: Officers - Section 6, Eligibility of Officers

Limits the office of President to no more than three full terms, regardless of when those terms are served (maximum 9 years).

PASSED

PBC 2

Article III: Membership - Section 3

Raises Adult membership dues from \$25 to \$30 and increases the World Tournament Prize Fund portion from \$3 to \$5. An amendment to raise dues to \$30, with \$5 going to the WT Prize Fund, was passed.

PASSED

PBC 3

Article III: Membership - Section 4

Removes the \$5 dues for Junior and Cadet members.

PASSED

PSC 1

IV. Specifications - I. Equipment Specifications

Changes horseshoe measurement specifications so shoes are measured more than 1 inch due to the heel-calk configuration.

PASSED

PSC 2

III. Specifications for Court Layout - Section B

Allows sanctioned courts to have varying distances as long as the foul line remains at the specified distance (37', 27', or 20').

PASSED

NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

June 2026



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