

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

written by Stu Sipma, President

The NHPA Council held their annual winter meeting Jan. 12th and 13th at the Hilton Garden Hotel in Florence, SC. All officers were present except myself only on the 1st day due to travel delays caused from a snow storm in North Dakota. Gary Roberts (1st VP) led the meeting the first day covering all the W.T. arrangements.

This year's winter meeting included two full days of meeting topics. Some of the main topics on the agenda included finalizing our 2018 Goals, reviewing the 2017 Financial Report, establishing our 2018 Budget, reviewing Proposed Rule Changes, reviewing the 2018 W.T., and last but not least, the Council spent a large amount of time on Sponsorships and membership growth ideas.

Laura Lampkin (2nd VP) will be leading committees involving Membership Growth and Sponsorship. If you would like to be part of one of these committees, please contact Laura.

The Council outlined the 2018 goals and some have changed slightly. All of these goals are very important to the Executive Council and hope they are just as important to all of you.

- Increase Membership
- Control Spending
- National promotion of the sport
- Support for the Hall of Fame
- Secure Sponsorships (national and local)
- Open communications with charter officers (customized email list)
- Advancing technology use

Dave Sidles prepared a report to the Council that the adult membership count has declined slightly. Adult members dropped from 9996 in 2016 to 9594 in 2017.

Dave Sidles reported to the Council our current financials for 2017. The Council went through the financials with a fine-tooth comb. The Council did finalize the 2018 budget at the end of the 2nd day.

With the addition of the three new Vice Presidents on the Council, we spent some time going through the duties of each Vice President. The duties are outlined below. The President and Sec/Treas duties are outlined in the By-laws booklet.

## **Gary Roberts (1st VP)**

- ▶ Back-up for the President and their duties.
- ▶ Assist the President, when requested, and perform any duties their offices may imply.
- ▶ Direct specific NHPA functions assigned to them by the President. These functions shall include (but are not limited to): By-Laws, Rules, Regional Directors, Sanctioned Leagues, Publicity, Promotions, and Website Management.
- ▶ Director of the Rules and By-Laws. Includes forming committees to handle the review and initial approval of the Rules and By-Laws, then forwarded onto the NHPA Council for review/approval for the delegate meeting.
- ▶ In charge of keeping current the Medical Exemption form and any revisions approved by the Council.
- ▶ Require to travel and approve W.T. bidding sites.

- ▶ Attend the World Tournament for two weeks and serve as a Shift Director.
- ▶ Write Newsline article by-monthly and submit to the NHPA Newsline Director.
- ▶ Backup for the HOF Director.
- ▶ Member of the HOF Committee.

### **Laura Lampkin (2nd VP)**

- ▶ Back-up for the 5th VP and their duties.
- ▶ Assist the President, when requested, and perform any duties their offices may imply.
- ▶ Direct specific NHPA functions assigned to them by the President. These functions shall include (but are not limited to): By-Laws, Rules, Regional Directors, Sanctioned Leagues, Publicity, Promotions, and Website Management.
- ▶ World Tournament Coordinator in charge of attending Sports Marketing conferences and getting sites to bid for the World Tournament. Duties include site visits, communicating the arrangement at the W.T. site, and handling the bidding process at the delegate meeting.
- ▶ In charge of keeping current the W.T. contract and RFP documents.
- ▶ Lead in creating a Sponsorship committee and tracking all the letters issued to potential sponsors and reporting back to the NHPA Council.
- ▶ Lead in creating a Membership Growth committee and developing plans to take the Council for discussion and approval.
- ▶ In charge of the publication and distribution of the Shoe News for the World Tournament.
- ▶ Attend the World Tournament for two weeks and serve as a Shift Director.
- ▶ Lead in reviewing and answering questions on the NHPA Forum (Publicity and Promotions).
- ▶ Attend the NHPA Council winter meeting.

### **Jerry Smith (3rd VP)**

- ▶ Back-up for the Secretary-Treasurer and their duties.
- ▶ Assist the President, when requested, and perform any duties their offices may imply.
- ▶ Direct specific NHPA functions assigned to them by the President. These functions shall include (but are not limited to): By-Laws, Rules, Regional Directors, Sanctioned Leagues, Publicity, Promotions, and Website Management.
- ▶ Attend the World Tournament for two weeks and serve as a Shift Director.
- ▶ Lead in reviewing and answering questions on the NHPA Forum (Sanction Leagues).
- ▶ Attend the NHPA Council winter meeting.
- ▶ Require to travel and approve W.T. bidding sites.
- ▶ Sanction League Director.
- ▶ Membership Reports.
- ▶ Final Stat Reports.
- ▶ Keep a record of all the pitchers high game.
- ▶ Send patches to the club league directors.
- ▶ Keep records of the Top Ten List.
- ▶ Junior Scholarships tracking and awards for Council approval.
- ▶ Keep records for clubs continuous years for a sanction club or league.
- ▶ Pick a League Director of the year award.
- ▶ In charge of revising and keeping the Sanction League ("RED") Booklet current.
- ▶ Write Newsline article by-monthly and submit to the NHPA Newsline Director.

- ▶ TD for the HOF Sanction League Tournament.

#### **Rob Hagman (4th VP)**

- ▶ Back-up/provide assistance for the NHPA Natstats Director.
- ▶ Assist the President, when requested, and perform any duties their offices may imply.
- ▶ Direct specific NHPA functions assigned to them by the President. These functions shall include (but are not limited to): By-Laws, Rules, Regional Directors, Sanctioned Leagues, Publicity, Promotions, and Website Management.
- ▶ Attend the World Tournament for two weeks and serve as a W.T. Stat Room Director.
- ▶ Lead in reviewing and answering questions on the NHPA Forum (IT).
- ▶ Assist in the W.T. warm up tournament making sure all the I.T. equipment is working properly.
- ▶ Assist Charters in answering questions pertaining to the HS Master software.
- ▶ Lead in working with Kurt Whaley making sure revisions are made to the HS Master software.
- ▶ Lead in the rewrite of the HS Master Software to include cost, schedule for execution and report back to Council for approval.
- ▶ Set up training and train score keepers for the W.T.
- ▶ Write Newsline article by-monthly and submit to the NHPA Newsline Director.

#### **Coyce Allen (5th VP)**

- ▶ Back-up for the 2nd VP and their duties.
- ▶ Assist the President, when requested, and perform any duties their offices may imply.
- ▶ Direct specific NHPA functions assigned to them by the President. These functions shall include (but are not limited to): By-Laws, Rules, Regional Directors, Sanctioned Leagues, Publicity, Promotions, and Website Management.
- ▶ Attend the World Tournament for two weeks and serve as a W.T. Shift Director.
- ▶ Lead in reviewing and answering questions on the NHPA Forum (Regional Director).
- ▶ Attend the NHPA Council winter meeting.
- ▶ Require to travel and approve W.T. bidding sites.
- ▶ NHPA Regional Charter Director duties include;
- ▶ Maintain a complete list of the Charter Regional Directors.
- ▶ Update the RD guideline brochure.
- ▶ Court Sanctioning.
- ▶ Oversee the patch orders for the Charters.
- ▶ Pick a Regional Director of the year award.

Regarding the 2018 World Tournament, the entry form is on the web site for you to print out. The schedule will be finalized around May. The W.T. entry fee will remain the same as last year, adult entry fee is \$130 and juniors \$25.

Positions up for election this year are the President, & 5th VP, myself and Coyce Allen have submitted are intentions for running for these positions. I have also received intent to run for President from Dalton Rakestraw and Roger Vogel. Candidates have till April 1st to get their announcement to me and our Newsline Editor Rebecca Sidles.

Per the By-Laws (ARTICLE V Section 7) Candidates for NHPA Office must announce their candidacy in writing, to be received by the President and the Horseshoe Pitching Newsline

Editor no later than April 1st, 2018. All received announcements will be published following the April 1st deadline.

In conclusion, I challenge each and every one of you to inspire your clubs within your Charters to sign up members and not only adult members but juniors! If each Charter would take this initiative to do this each year, can you imagine how membership are would grow? Come on everyone, do your part this spring and sign up new members. Let's see what we can do to turn this trend back the other way.

I wish everyone a very successful and safe new year. I am looking forward to a great turnout this summer at the 2018 World Tournament in Florence, SC July 9th - 21st. Don't forget to get your reservations in early.

Thank You.

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## MEMBERSHIP, SPONSORSHIP, PROMOTION, PUBLICITY

*by Laurie Lampkin, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Publicity & Promotion Director*

First, let me begin my first article by saying "Thank You" to all of you for having faith in me to do this very important job, and as promised, I will work hard and aggressively to implement those world tournament experiences we all love and enjoy. I had the opportunity to attend the CONNECT, S.P.O.R.T.S. and TEAMS conferences with Tina Hawkins this past fall which aided in the promotion of our World Horseshoe Tournament.

During these conferences, we met, networked and created contacts with many CVB's (Convention Visitor's Bureau's) during these conferences. We have lots of plans in the works going forward, changes in processes and how we obtain Sponsorship/ Membership, how we Promote and Publicize our sport, and the committees and myself will do our very best to get that accomplished for the NHPA and all of its membership.

So, let's get started:

Membership Committee - I have appointed Dalton Rakestraw to chair the membership committee. The focus of this committee is to find out what is and what is not working with membership overall. How to get new members and how to retain current ones. Dalton's group will consist of Seth Ohms S. UT, Max Griffith TN, Joan Elmore TN, Deb Michaud MA, Pat Pertuit LA, Jason Neighbors TX, and Phyllis Quist WA. This group will work together and I look for great things to come of this committee with their many years of knowledge, wisdom and expertise.

Sponsorship/Publicity/Promotion/ Advertising Committee - I would like to concentrate on all of these areas in order to bring funding into the NHPA. In one way or another all of these topics will complement each other or go hand in hand. So far, these members have graciously accepted, Debra Odum -TX, Roger Vogel- KS, Barb Carson - AZ, Gary Roberts - OH, Marlene Ray- TN.

I hope everyone is excited, and aggressive in getting these new ideas, suggestions, and topics under way for the NHPA as I am. We have incorporated several people from all across the U.S., so we should have a wide variety of ideas and input. Please, as always call or e-mail any of these members with suggestions, ideas and/or contacts that you may have in these categories/areas. As always, we want to make your WT experience a memorable one for the entire family.

## UPCOMING EVENT: CELEBRATING 25 YEARS! HALL OF FAME INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club will be hosting The 7th Annual Hall of Fame Invitational Horseshoe Tournament to be held at the NHPA Hall of Fame & Museum in Wentzville, MO for the top sixteen 40 footers and top sixteen 30 footers (Elders & Women) who meet the requirements.

**Prize money \$8,000!**

For more info contact

Tournament Director Joe Faron @ 314-704-7082 or Bob Diekamp @ 636-240-6260.

The Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club is happy to invite you to its 7th Annual Hall of Fame Invitation Tournament as we celebrate 25 years of this prestigious tournament. We are hoping many of you will attend and see the talented horseshoe pitchers from across our nation. We will be having a delicious home cooked meal following tournament play on Saturday followed by 25 years of celebration.

Call Rose Diekamp for further information at [rdiekamp@charter.net](mailto:rdiekamp@charter.net) or 314-484-4295.

To keep this tradition going year after year, we are always looking for sponsorship. If you or someone you know might like to be a sponsor please contact us at the above number!

## A NEW YEAR: AN OLD CHALLENGE

*by Gary Roberts, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Rules, By-Laws, Grievance Director*

The NHPA faces many challenges as it enters 2018. Membership decline is the most significant challenge. The final numbers for 2017 will demonstrate a continuation in the decline of membership. Membership was a major topic of the NHPA Winter Meeting in Florence, South Carolina. There is no magical formula that will suddenly transform the membership decline. It will require hard work and innovative approaches. The NHPA Council will need to explore the many ideas coming forward from the membership. There may need to be pilot projects within charters to determine which strategies actually work. The NHPA needs to support such efforts.

This leads us to rules proposals for 2018. There will be nine proposals to be presented at the 2018 Convention in Florence (all can be found in the last pages of this Newsline edition). This was my first year of accepting and processing rules proposals. Although I had a knowledgeable and hard working committee, I did not like the process. I do not like having to wait three years to submit proposals. At a time that change is needed, this appears to be counterproductive. Also, I think the deadline should be moved back to September 30th each year. This would allow time for discussion, and proposed rules could be presented on the forum and facebook to get input from members before the final rule is submitted to the Executive Council in January.

Since the delegates approved the requested dues increase last year, members will be expecting progress in many areas. One important change members want to see is an improved professional website. This process has been set in motion. Rob Hagman will be explaining the progress in this area. Also, members are constantly urging the NHPA to seek sponsorship. Laurie Lampkin will be in charge of this effort. She has a high energy level and will give it her best effort. All approaches are being explored and she is forming a committee to assist her.

One of the most disappointing things to me is the amount of animosity on all levels. I see constant criticism of the NHPA. There is nothing wrong with criticism when it is offered in a respectful and constructive manner. I know how hard current officers are working and I am resentful when I hear undue criticism. For example, Dave Sidles is one of the best Secretary-Treasurers in the history of the NHPA. Jerry Smith works endless hours to make the sanctioned league program a success. We have three new officers who are just getting started. Hopefully, they will not be criticized before they get established. I have also seen controversy in at least three state charters in the past year.

Disunity and controversy will not help in our mission to increase membership and promote our sport. I urge our membership to work together in promotion and growth of our sport in a time of crisis.

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# HORSESHOE TRIVIA

In past years, all pitchers had to qualify to pitch in the World Tournament. The qualification consisted of throwing 200 shoes by yourself. A scorekeeper sat on each end of the court and recorded the scores. Very seldom did you see a measurement take place. Many feel that the scorekeepers in some instances were very liberal in calling the close ones as ringers. Upon completion of the qualification, only the top 100 pitchers were allowed to pitch in Class A, B, or C.

At the 1962 World Tournament in Greenville, Ohio, the legendary Floyd Toole of Pine Bluff, Arkansas was struggling during qualification and ended up tied for the 36th spot of the Men's Championship Division with Ralph Lackey of Ohio. At that time, there were always 36 men in the Championship Class. It was everyone's dream to get into this group.

Since Floyd and Ralph were tied, the Tournament Director (TD) decided that whoever had the most ringers would get the coveted 36th spot. Unfortunately, both participants had the same number of ringers. The TD then decided that whoever had the most doubles would get the spot. Again, both pitchers had the same number of doubles!

The TD then decided to require Floyd and Ralph to pitch an additional 50 shoes to determine who would get into the Championship Class. Floyd was still at the courts but Ralph was nowhere to be found. It was finally determined that Ralph had gone to his hotel and was asleep. An official woke Ralph up and informed him that he would have to return to the courts and pitch 50 additional shoes. This could not wait because tournament officials had to get schedules printed with the names of the Championship Class.

Ralph was unable to equal Floyd's score and was relegated to Class B. Floyd finished 16th in the Championship Class with an average of 78.5%

# JUNIOR PROMOTION

*by Aleena Lepak, Promotions Director*

Every member of the NHPA has the duty of promoting our sport to the best of their abilities. Some have more resources and time but staying positive and talking about horseshoes every chance you get DOES make a difference even though it may not seem like it at the time. Juniors like to experience new things if only we can get their little fingers around a horseshoe.

Many pitchers at the World tournament have seen a certain face behind a camera making sure we show our best sides, Micah Snead from Minnesota. "I started pitching in 1998, I think, and pitched for about 10 years. I have been to 14 world tournaments, pitching in 8 of them, and helping with photography for 5 years. I did win my division in one of my state tournaments as a junior and had a 3rd place finish once as a junior at world in my division. I lived in Sauk Rapids,

MN from 1991-2017 and now live in Sartell, MN." When not at a World Tournament, Micah does A LOT of work with children year-round. This last year while working at a summer camp, he introduced horseshoe pitching to his campers." The idea came from having such a great experience as a junior pitching, as well as wanting to share that with the kids from North Crest Kids Activity Center" he stated.

With help from the camp owner, Micah brought around 30 kids to the Minnesota State Horseshoe Tournament. Pitchers setting up for the State Tournament came to talk and demonstrate how to pitch. They included: Jerry Labrosse, Rick Wright, and April Lynch. The campers were able to try their skills out on stakes placed 25-30 feet apart in the grass. Afterward they got to see some of Minnesota's best pitchers and the camp owner every tried to pitch a few. The host horseshoe club even gave each camper a free soda in thanks for coming.

This may seem like something small, but this one event may have sparked an interest in these young campers. Micah stated, "Of course this would be huge to do more often, and in other states, it would build junior numbers. There are kid stops, and other after school programs that go all year, as well as daycare/summer camps like ours. Our camp has over 200 kids registered for it last year that could come on any given day for a field trip, or to learn about it in the back yard. We also have a potential of another 600+ families that are taking dance or gymnastics with us. Not to mention there are hundreds of kids that are home schooled that need physical-education activities as well as field trip opportunities."

Micah and I both hope that other NHPA members can learn from this, and come up with ideas to increase junior membership in their states.

## 2019 COURT RE-SANCTIONING

*by Coyce Allen, 5<sup>th</sup> VP, R.D. Director, Court Sanctioning*

Just a quick reminder that our courts are scheduled for re-sanctioning again in 2019 and prior to starting the 2018 pitching season would be an excellent opportunity to generate a repair plan, if required. Regional Directors and/or Assistant Regional Directors should be contacting each club later in the year to confirm compliance with the specifications noted in the RGS Book. Please keep in mind that all measurements may not be exact on all courts at many of our older facilities. If you have a specific question or concerns please contact you're Regional Director or me for assistance.

## NHPF: PROGRAMS & HAPPENINGS

The NHPF purpose states, in number 3 and 4 that we should 'develop and disseminate information to the public concerning the game of horseshoes as an amateur and recreational sport.' 'Provide instruction and training of individuals for the purpose of improving and developing skills of the amateur horseshoe players.'



Presently there are 604 NHPA members that are part of the Facebook page "Promoting Horseshoes" Perhaps not all are NHPA members, regardless there are that many discussing various promotional ideas, sharing pictures. We hope to keep this a positive venue and invite everyone to join us to share ideas of what we can do to gain and retain membership in our fine organization. Say what you will about Facebook, but we had over 500 members of this page in 3 days, so the word spread rapidly. I won't go into detail here as to what all is being discussed, because some of the ideas are radical and do not adhere to the NHPA RGS book. I do have to mention Wendy Maston in Sardinia, NY by name though, she and friends stood in the cold promoting her Junior horseshoe league. (see pictures)

There is no magic potion that will cause members to flow into the NHPA. It takes work and perseverance to accomplish this. Try coordinating with your local schools, youth groups, Park and Rec. Departments or any other groups you can think of to get people out pitching horseshoes.

At the convention I mentioned that the Foundation could assist monetarily with a National membership campaign that could prove, on paper, that it would be a viable and worthwhile venture. We must be able to show a return on investment over the long term when we determine what this campaign should look like. Please submit any and all ideas to our publicity VP Laura Lampkin, she and her committee will determine which large, National, worthwhile idea to focus on.

In the meantime please join us of Facebook and share your successes with the promotion of horseshoe pitching worldwide, and remember the NHPF is a charitable foundation seeking tax deductible contributions. Please go to our website and use the convenient "donate" button on the front page: <https://www.nhpf.info>. Come to your Hall of Fame the first weekend in May to witness some of the best pitchers in the world compete at the annual Hall of Fame Invitational.

### **Special Thanks to Our Donors**

#### **Donating \$100-\$199**

Leroy J. Law, IA

Sonoma County Horseshoe Club, CA

#### **Donating \$200-\$499**

Richmond/Ottawa Horseshoe Club, KS

(Grant Repayment)

Iowa Hawkeye Horseshoe Pitchers Association, IA

#### **Other Income**

Museum Donation Box       \$ 125.00

Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club \$ 2500.00 Rent

## 2017 TOP TEN LISTS

I would like to announce the "Top Ten" lists for the 2017 league pitching season. I would also like to re-state last year's comments about how the process is calculated and how it has changed. Here then are those comments.

*"These lists were originally written into the Red Book to honor the many upper level pitching performances that were accomplished in any given year. League Directors were expected to submit*

*candidates whom they thought might qualify for the "Top Ten" by the first of December each year. The National League Director would then rank these applications and make the awards in the various lists. This system of selection put the emphasis for accuracy in the hands of the local league directors and I would think that many of these league leaders didn't even bother with any submissions or didn't even know they were supposed to. There were less categories back then since most leagues pitched 50 shoe games. Somewhere along the line, the list was expanded to include 40 shoe games and with the aid of more sophisticated computer programs, it was decided to include all league pitchers and all league results eliminating the requirement to have names submitted. While this change was absolutely the right thing to do, it moved the process completely over to the National League Director's plate to compile and track the data from 300 plus leagues and sort that data into the 30 "Top Ten" lists. This sounds fairly easy in this age of computers and actually should be. This brings up an old computer adage which states, "garbage in, garbage out". This old comment is so appropriate when; league directors fail to report pitchers who have changed pitching categories, misspell names, mistype card numbers or report leagues that didn't even occur. The inappropriate reusing of NHPA card numbers before the two year waiting period is over doesn't help either (Note, there is no reason under our current system to even reuse number)."*

That was written last year because there were various problems with misinformation and/or miscalculations. I am glad to say that it appears that the data from the 2017 leagues was better reported and I carefully checked and rechecked data. The awards have been ordered and should be mailed out in early March. I have attached the "Top Ten" lists and wish to congratulate the pitchers who made the lists. I also want to thank the many League Directors for their hard work and dedication. Without these people, leagues fail to exist and leagues are a mainstay and entry point for NHPA membership.

I would also like to announce that my wife and I have decided to relocate back to California and expect to do so in the near future. I will eblast my new contact information as soon as I can and don't foresee much disruption in leagues processes although we know how that goes.

As another reminder to league directors please follows these simple guidelines.

1. Include accurate pitching categories and card numbers on the final stats.
2. Don't reuse card numbers.
3. Report changes in pitching categories to me and NATSTATS. In your reports to me, highlight the change and/or tell me in a comment.
4. Double check your figures and if written, print neatly.
5. Do not include handicaps in any of your data. Point categories mean points only.

Thanks again to all of the league directors and pitchers. It is my pleasure to present the 2017 Sanctioned League "Top Ten" award lists.

Final Stats MUST be received BY JANUARY 15 of the following year.  
There is no need to send in any "Top Ten" forms.

### **Individual High Ringer Average - Cadet**

52.89	Sarah	Chaffee	C	WI	Eau Clair HSC Summer 17
44.17	Zander	Potts	C	OH	Kahrigs HSL Winter 17

36.57	Warren James	Highley	C	MO	Lions Park HSC Fall 17
36.48	Christopher	Beltran	C	CO	Pueblo HSC Thurs Summer 17
34.87	Caiden	Hogue	C	OH	Try County HSL Tuesday 17
25.80	Jackson	Johnson	C	ND	RRVHSL Summer2 17
24.78	Tim	Biggs	C	UT	Color County Youth 17
23.87	Skyla	Rioux	C	CT	CCHC Winter 17
22.78	Riley	Malino	C	CT	CCHC Winter 17
21.00	James	Woodstead	C	ND	Sheyenne HSC Summer 17

**Individual High Ringer Average - Elder**

73.38	Ron	Deckard	E	FL	Clearwater HSC Thursday 17
72.52	Paul	McGee	E	MD	Frederick HPA Fall 17
72.44	Bob	Hudnall	E	KY	Edmonson HSC Summer 17
72.38	Daniel F	Dunn	E	IN	Tipton HSL Summer 17
69.03	Danny	Patterson	E	TX	CTHPA Fall 17
68.83	Bobby	Fields	E	TN	Crossville HSC Summer 17
68.51	Roy	Dugger	E	OH	Best of Last Spring 17
68.33	Gregg	Craven	E	MO	Liberty HSC Mon Summer 17
66.35	Paul	Weston	E	CT	New Haven HSC Summer 17
66.13	Ron	Button	E	WI	Wolf River HSC Summer 17

**Individual High Ringer Average - Jr. Boy**

52.78	Leon	Wolken	B	MO	Capitol City HSC Fall 17
45.70	Ryan	Russell	B	KS	Topeka HSA Spring 17
38.04	Luke	Ray	B	TX	CTHPA Spring 17
30.53	Ben	Grebinoski	B	MN	Ringers Of Rice Summer 17
26.40	Quinn	Ohms	B	UT	Color County Youth 17
25.77	Colton	Williams	B	MN	Isanti HSC Summer 17
25.29	Cooper	Phipps	B	MO	Liberty HSc Tues Spring 17
24.27	Kyle	Holland	B	MN	St Michael HSC Monday 17
23.75	Michael	Littell	B	MN	Rockford HSC Tues Summer
22.14	Nick	Blank Jr.	B	NE	GOHL Thursday 17

**Individual High Ringer Average - Jr. Girl**

35.07	Chelsea	Swaller	G	CT	Weik-Towne HSL Summer 17
28.80	Cailyn	Trangsrud	G	WI	Eau Clair HSC Summer 17
26.46	Ally	Jordan	G	CT	CCHC Winter 17
22.40	Sarah	Neagle	G	KY	Edmonson HSC Fall 17
21.52	Cassi	Williams	G	WI	Arkdale HSC Summer 17
19.86	Jessica	Wilson	G	MO	Liberty HSC Tues Winter 17
19.50	Taylor	Coile	G	GA	Four Stakes HSC Summer 17
17.50	Madisen	Gwinn	G	MO	Independence HSC Summer 17
15.25	Erin	Barclay	G	UT	Color County Youth 17
13.18	Maddy	Mahaffey	G	CO	Rocky Mtn HSC Summer 17

**Individual High Ringer Average - Men**

81.22	Charlie	Meredith	M	KY	Edmonson HSC Spring 17
76.33	Austin	Bailey	M	IL	Springfield HSC Spring 17
66.78	Steven	Johnson	M	MO	Capitol City HSC Fall 17
64.88	Joshua	Olson	M	MN	Bertha HSC Spring 17
64.17	Channing	Herrell	M	MD	Frederick HPA Fall 17

64.17	Mark	Smith	M	MN	Greenfield HSC Thursday 17
61.50	Herb	Rush	M	WV	Frederick HPA Fall 17
60.95	Gary	Roberts	M	OH	Ross County HSC Summer 17
60.25	Randy	Zeiders	M	PA	Mifflin HSC Summer 17
59.70	Mark	Seibold	M	IN	Clearwater HSC Fall 17

### Individual High Ringer Average - Women

65.86	Doris	Hieden	W	TX	South Central HSC Fall 17
63.38	Sheila	Shepard	W	CO	Edgewater HSC Summer 17
61.86	Penny	Steinke	W	WI	Muskego HSC Summer 17
61.24	Sara	Otto	W	MN	Greenfield HSC Thursday 17
59.29	Linda	Taketa	W	HI	Kona HSC Winter 17
56.71	Coni	Hix	W	GA	Four Stakes HSC Spring 17
55.65	Boni	Poplinski	W	MN	Ringers Of Rice Summer 17
55.25	Wendy	Hayes	W	AR	Jim's 4 Crts HSC Summer 17
55.09	Debra	Brown	W	VT	Sodbusters HSC Summer 17
54.66	Sherri	Franchini	W	CO	Rocky Mtn HSC Summer 17

### Individual High Ringer Game - Cadet

73.33	Skyla	Rioux	C	CT	CCHC Winter 17
66.00	Caiden	Hogue	C	OH	Try County HSL Tuesday 17
66.00	Sarah	Chaffee	C	WI	Eau Clair HSC Summer 17
60.00	Zander	Potts	C	OH	Kahrigs HSL Winter 17
54.00	Warren James	Highley	C	MO	Lions Park HSC Fall 17
53.33	Riley	Malino	C	CT	CCHC Winter 17
50.00	Christopher	Beltran	C	CO	Pueblo HSC Thurs Summer 17
50.00	Tim	Biggs	C	UT	Color County Youth 17
42.00	Jackson	Johnson	C	ND	RRVHSL Summer2 17
34.00	Jeremiah	Velasquez	C	CO	Pueblo HSC Weds Summer 17

### Individual High Ringer Game - Elder

92.00	Ron	Deckard	E	FL	Clearwater HSC Thursday 17
90.00	Roy	Dugger	E	OH	Best of Last Spring 17
90.00	Daniel F	Dunn	E	IN	Tipton HSL Summer 17
90.00	Paul	Weston	E	CT	New Haven HSC Summer 17
86.00	Roger	Reeves	E	MO	Capitol City HSC Fall 17
86.00	Charles	Browning	E	KY	Edmonson HSC Summer 17
86.00	Larry	Shaw Sr	E	OH	Try County HSL Thursday 17
85.00	George	Huntington	E	IL	Effingham HSC Summer 17
85.00	Harvey	Deweese	E	KS	Topeka HSA Spring 17
85.00	Bobby	Fields	E	TN	Crossville HSC Winter 17

### Individual High Ringer Game - Jr. Boy

65.00	Ryan	Russell	B	KS	Topeka HSA Fall 17
64.00	Leon	Wolken	B	MO	Capitol City HSC Fall 17
52.50	Luke	Ray	B	TX	CTHPA Spring 17
47.50	Ben	Grebinoski	B	MN	Ringers Of Rice Summer 17
46.00	Cooper	Phipps	B	MO	Liberty HSC Tues Winter 17
45.00	Quinn	Ohms	B	UT	Color County Youth 17
45.00	Raymond	Daugherty	B	OH	Ross County HSC Summer 17
40.63	Nick	Blank Jr.	B	NE	GOHL Thursday 17

40.00	Colter	Gasser	B	UT	Color County Youth 17
38.00	Cameron	Phipps	B	MO	Liberty HSc Tues Spring 17

### Individual High Ringer Game - Jr. Girl

53.33	Chelsea	Swaller	G	CT	Weik-Towne HSL Summer 17
50.00	Ally	Jordan	G	CT	CCHC Winter 17
44.00	Cailyn	Trangsrud	G	WI	Eau Clair HSC Summer 17
43.00	Cassi	Williams	G	WI	Arkdale HSC Summer 17
40.00	Sarah	Neagle	G	KY	Edmonson HSC Fall 17
36.67	Lizzie	Jordan	G	CT	CCHC Winter 17
34.00	Jessica	Wilson	G	MO	Liberty HSC Tues Winter 17
32.00	Taylor	Coile	G	GA	Four Stakes HSC Summer 17
30.00	Maddy	Mahaffey	G	CO	Rocky Mtn HSC Summer 17
30.00	Kiley	Reynolds	G	UT	Color County Youth 17

### Individual High Ringer Game - Men

94.00	Charlie	Meredith	M	KY	Edmonson HSC Fall 17
90.00	Austin	Bailey	M	IL	Springfield HSC Fall 17
84.00	Jeff	Finke	M	TX	South Central HSC Spring 17
84.00	Ben	Webb	M	KY	Edmonson HSC Summer 17
82.00	Lonny	Trangsrud	M	WI	Eau Clair HSC Summer 17
82.00	Steven	Johnson	M	MO	Capitol City Summer 17
80.00	Bill	Navratil	M	CT	CCHC Winter 17
80.00	Mark	Smith	M	MN	Greenfield HSC Fall Thurs 17
78.00	Jerry	Hokkala	M	MN	Darwin HSC Winter 17
78.00	Channing	Herrell	M	MD	Frederick HPA Fall 17

### Individual High Ringer Game - Women

86.00	Penny	Steinke	W	WI	Muskego HSC Summer 17
82.50	Sara	Otto	W	MN	Greenfield HSC Thursday 17
82.00	Doris	Hieden	W	TX	South Central HSC Spring 17
80.00	Linda	Taketa	W	HI	Kona HSC Winter 17
80.00	Pat	Pertuit	W	LA	Harahan HSC Summer 17
78.00	Audra	Craven	W	MO	Liberty HSC Tues Summer 17
76.67	Linda	Aurell	W	CT	CCHC Winter 17
76.00	Sheila	Shepard	W	CO	Edgewater HSC Summer 17
75.00	Denise	Daly	W	IL	Springfield HSC Fall 17
74.00	Gina	Baker	W	MO	Liberty HSc Tues Spring 17

### Individual High Ringer Game Over Average - Cadet

49.46	Skyla	Rioux	C	CT	CCHC Winter 17
31.13	Caiden	Hogue	C	OH	Try County HSL Tuesday 17
30.55	Riley	Malino	C	CT	CCHC Winter 17
25.22	Tim	Biggs	C	UT	Color County Youth 17
21.00	Caleb	Haack	C	IA	Magengo HSC Summer 17
20.00	Andrew	Biggs	C	UT	Color County Youth 17
19.67	Jeremiah	Velasquez	C	CO	Pueblo HSC Weds Summer 17
19.61	Warren James	Highley	C	MO	Liberty JR HSC Summer 17
19.00	Lillyan	Kildahl	C	WI	Marshfield HSC Summer 17
17.44	Chace	Humphrey	C	SD	Pierre HSC Summer 17

**Individual High Ringer Game Over Average - Elder**

39.44	Roger	Reeves	E	MO	Capitol City HSC Fall 17
39.16	Roland	Dube	E	CT	CCHC Winter 17
36.37	Randall	Kamm	E	MI	Lansing HSC Summer 17
34.17	Herb	Nash	E	CT	CCHC Winter 17
33.83	Roger	Meunier	E	CT	CCHC Winter 17
33.20	Dave	Emrick	E	OH	Troy HSC Summer 17
32.40	Jerry	Pahl	E	MN	West St Paul HSC Tues 17
32.00	Ed	Bonebright	E	WI	Beloit HSC Fall Mon 17
31.99	Fred	Morel	E	IL	Kendall County HSC Summer 17
31.78	Bill	Tompkins	E	CT	Weik-Towne HSL Summer 17

**Individual High Ringer Game Over Average - Jr. Boy**

27.05	Colter	Gasser	B	UT	Color County Youth 17
25.94	Ryan	Russell	B	KS	Topeka HSA Fall 17
25.12	Cooper	Phipps	B	MO	Liberty HSC Tues Winter 17
24.57	Kyle	Donham	B	CO	Edgewater HSC Summer 17
24.19	Raymond	Daugherty	B	OH	Ross County HSC Summer 17
22.67	Cameron	Phipps	B	MO	Liberty HSc Tues Spring 17
20.19	Tyler	Stone	B	MN	Alexandria Jr HSC Summer 17
19.09	Ben	Grebinoski	B	MN	Upsala HSC Winter 17
18.60	Quinn	Ohms	B	UT	Color County Youth 17
18.49	Nick	Blank Jr.	B	NE	GOHL Thursday 17

**Individual High Ringer Game Over Average - Jr. Girl**

24.34	Lizzie	Jordan	G	CT	CCHC Winter 17
23.54	Ally	Jordan	G	CT	CCHC Winter 17
21.48	Cassi	Williams	G	WI	Arkdale HSC Summer 17
20.71	Kiley	Reynolds	G	UT	Color County Youth 17
18.26	Chelsea	Swaller	G	CT	Weik-Towne HSL Summer 17
17.60	Sarah	Neagle	G	KY	Edmonson HSC Fall 17
16.82	Maddy	Mahaffey	G	CO	Rocky Mtn HSC Summer 17
16.79	Ashley	Demoranville	G	MA	Loon Pond HSC Doubles 17
15.20	Cailyn	Trangsrud	G	WI	Eau Clair HSC Summer 17
14.14	Jessica	Wilson	G	MO	Liberty HSC Tues Winter 17

**Individual High Ringer Game Over Average - Men**

38.50	Mark	Smigiel	M	CT	CCHC Winter 17
37.92	Dave	Mazuraitis	M	CT	CCHC Winter 17
37.77	Ray	Smith	M	CT	New Haven HSC Summer 17
37.57	Brian	Hinkle	M	CT	CCHC Winter 17
35.83	Tim	Fowler	M	CT	New London HSC Summer 17
35.60	Tom	Buick	M	CT	New Haven HSC Summer 17
34.87	Rodney	Zeiders	M	PA	Mifflin HSC Summer 17
34.60	Dave	Parker	M	NE	GOHL Wednesday 17
34.23	Gerry	Pratt	M	MA	Loon Pond HSC Doubles 17
33.83	Richard	Sodins	M	CT	CCHC Winter 17

**Individual High Ringer Game Over Average - Woman**

31.94	Roxanne	Navratil	W	CT	CCHC Winter 17
31.67	Patty	Farrey	W	CT	New London HSC Summer 17
31.13	Sue	MacDonald	W	CT	CCHC Winter 17
31.11	Linda	Dodson	W	LA	Bayou HSC Summer 17
30.50	Theresa	Patton	W	MO	Liberty HSC Tues Winter 17
30.00	Pat	Pertuit	W	LA	Harahan HSC Summer 17
29.97	Eva	Bowden	W	OH	Try County HSL Tuesday 17
29.93	Janet	Frank	W	MN	Brooklyn Park HSC Summer 17
29.91	Rose	Mancini	W	CT	CCHC Winter 17
29.37	Tiffany	Lastimososa	W	HI	Kona HSC Winter 17

### National High Point Average - Adult - 40 Shoe Games

91.50	Danny	Patterson	E	TX	CTHPA Fall 17
89.02	Roy	Dugger	E	OH	Best of Last Spring 17
88.40	Steven	Johnson	M	MO	Capitol City HSC Spring 17
87.95	Bobby	Fields	E	TN	Crossville HSC Fall 17
87.81	Ron	Womack	E	IN	New Castle HSC Summer 17
87.00	George	Huntington	E	IL	Effingham HSC Summer 17
86.22	Leonard	Conner	E	IN	Best of Last Spring 17
85.79	Larry	Myers	E	GA	Perry HSC Fall 17
85.55	Joshua	Olson	M	MN	Bertha HSC Spring 17
83.76	Gary	Roberts	M	OH	Ross County HSC Summer 17

### National High Point Average - Adult - 50 Shoe Games

118.98	Daniel F	Dunn	E	IN	Tipton HSL Summer 17
116.63	Sheila	Shepard	W	CO	Edgewater HSC Summer 17
114.22	Paul	McGee	E	MD	Frederick HPA Summer 17
113.83	Steven	Johnson	M	MO	Capitol City HSC Fall 17
113.67	Gregg	Craven	E	MO	Liberty HSC Tues Winter 17
112.72	Bobby	Fields	E	TN	Crossville HSC Spring 17
110.99	Larry	Shaw Sr	E	OH	Try County HSL Thursday 17
110.90	Roy	Dugger	E	OH	Darke HSC All League 17
110.06	Ron	Deckard	E	FL	Clearwater HSC Thursday 17
107.20	Johnny	Wesley	E	TX	South Central HSC Fall 17

### National High Point Average - Junior/Cadet - 40 Shoe Games

67.69	Ryan	Russell	B	KS	Topeka HSA Spring 17
54.86	Luke	Ray	B	TX	CTHPA Spring 17
54.40	Leon	Wolken	B	MO	Capitol City HSC Spring 17
50.48	Ben	Grebinoski	B	MN	Upsala HSC Winter 17
46.32	Quinn	Ohms	B	UT	Color County Youth 17
43.48	Tim	Biggs	C	UT	Color County Youth 17
42.95	Raymond	Daugherty	B	OH	Ross County HSC Summer 17
42.19	Brandon	Hartman	B	IA	CITHL Summer 17
39.09	Jedidiah	Sowatzke	C	WI	Stevens Point HSC Fall 17
37.17	Briahna	Barnett	C	KS	Topeka HSA Fall 17

### National High Point Average - Junior/Cadet - 50 Shoe Games

93.94	Leon	Wolken	B	MO	Capitol City HSC Fall 17
84.38	Zander	Potts	C	OH	Kahrigs HSL Winter 17

72.12	Caiden	Hogue	C	OH	Try County HSL Tuesday 17
70.82	Christopher	Beltran	C	CO	Pueblo HSC Thurs Summer 17
68.14	Warren James	Highley	C	MO	Lions Park HSC Fall 17
58.00	Jackson	Johnson	C	ND	RRVHSL Summer2 17
52.50	Jessica	Wilson	G	MO	Liberty HSC Tues Fall 17
52.43	Cooper	Phipps	B	MO	Liberty HSc Tues Spring 17
49.00	Brady	Johnson	B	ND	RRVHSL Summer2 17
48.58	Taylor	Coile	G	GA	Four Stakes HSC Summer 17

### National High Point Game - Adult - 40 Shoe Games

112.00	Roy	Dugger	E	OH	Best of Last Spring 17
107.00	Harvey	Deweese	E	KS	Topeka HSA Spring 17
106.00	Ron	Womack	E	IN	New Castle HSC Summer 17
106.00	George	Huntington	E	IL	Effingham HSC Summer 17
103.00	Danny	Patterson	E	TX	CTHPA Spring 17
102.00	Bruce	McLinn	E	WI	Beloit HSC Monday AM 17
102.00	Leonard	Razim	E	IL	Beloit HSC Monday AM 17
100.00	Bobby	Fields	E	TN	Crossville HSC Fall 17
100.00	Joshua	Olson	M	MN	Bertha HSC Summer 17
99.00	Leonard	Conner	E	IN	Best of Last Spring 17

### National High Point Game - Adult - 50 Shoe Games

139.00	Daniel F	Dunn	E	IN	Tipton HSL Summer 17
138.00	Ron	Deckard	E	FL	Clearwater HSC Thursday 17
136.00	Roger	Reeves	E	MO	Capitol City HSC Fall 17
136.00	Larry	Shaw Sr	E	OH	Try County HSL Thursday 17
134.00	Penny	Steinke	W	WI	Muskego HSC Summer 17
134.00	Jim	Bigelow	E	MA	Loon Pond HSC Summer 17
133.00	Rich	Pintor	E	CO	Edgewater HSC Summer 17
132.00	Gregg	Craven	E	MO	Liberty HSC Tues Summer 17
131.00	Bobby	Fields	E	TN	Crossville HSC Spring 17
131.00	Paul	McGee	E	MD	Frederick HPA Summer 17

### National High Point Game - Junior/Cadet - 40 Shoe Games

86.00	Ryan	Russell	B	KS	Topeka HSA Fall 17
75.00	Luke	Ray	B	TX	CTHPA Spring 17
68.00	Ben	Grebinoski	B	MN	Upsala HSC Winter 17
68.00	Tim	Biggs	C	UT	Color County Youth 17
66.00	Raymond	Daugherty	B	OH	Ross County HSC Summer 17
65.00	Leon	Wolken	B	MO	Capitol City HSC Spring 17
62.00	Quinn	Ohms	B	UT	Color County Youth 17
61.00	Brandon	Hartman	B	IA	CITHL Summer 17
53.00	Jedidiah	Sowatzke	C	WI	Stevens Point HSC Fall 17
52.00	Dell	Carter	B	UT	Color County Youth 17

### National High Point Game - Junior/Cadet - 50 Shoe Games

111.00	Caiden	Hogue	C	OH	Try County HSL Tuesday 17
110.00	Leon	Wolken	B	MO	Capitol City HSC Fall 17
102.00	Zander	Potts	C	OH	Kahrigs HSL Winter 17
90.00	Warren James	Highley	C	MO	Lions Park HSC Fall 17
87.00	Christopher	Beltran	C	CO	Pueblo HSC Thurs Summer 17



82.00	Cooper	Phipps	B	MO	Liberty HSC Tues Winter 17
78.00	Jackson	Johnson	C	ND	RRVHSL Summer2 17
74.00	Cameron	Phipps	B	MO	Liberty HSc Tues Spring 17
71.00	Tyler	Stone	B	MN	Alexandria HSL Summer 17
68.00	Jessica	Wilson	G	MO	Liberty HSC Tues Fall 17

**National High Point Game Over Average - Adult - 40 Shoe Games**

48.50	Gil	Gerard	E	LA	Harahan HSC Fall 17
38.67	Ronnie	Wegwerth	M	TX	CTHPA Spring 17
36.09	Ed	Bonebright	E	WI	Beloit HSC Fall Mon 17
34.91	Jim	Huckabee	E	IL	Beloit HSC Summer Mon 17
34.76	Linda	Dodson	W	LA	Bayou HSC Summer 17
32.95	Jim	Henderson	E	GA	Perry HSC Spring 17
32.92	Steve	Scantien	M	IL	AVF HSC Summer Thurs 17
32.30	Edie	Corso	W	LA	Harahan HSC Fall 17
31.77	Randall	Kamm	E	MI	Lansing HSC Summer 17
31.37	Fred	Morel	E	IL	Kendall County HSC Summer 17

**National High Point Game Over Average - Adult - 50 Shoe Games**

53.94	Roger	Reeves	E	MO	Capitol City HSC Fall 17
45.44	Rodney	Zeiders	M	PA	Mifflin HSC Summer 17
44.78	Richard	Shannon	M	CO	CS HSC Summer 17
40.00	Mitzi	Hughes	W	MO	Ozarks HSC Summer 17
38.86	Rich	Pintor	E	CO	Edgewater HSC Summer 17
38.62	Pauline	Dewey	W	CO	Boulder HSC Tues 17
38.50	Irving	Murray	E	FL	Clearwater HSC Tuesday 17
38.32	Larry	Guimond	E	FL	Clearwater HSC Tuesday 17
37.22	Mark	Snead	M	MO	Quail Ridge HSC Fall 17
37.06	Harry	Owens	E	MO	Liberty HSC Mon Fall 17

**National High Point Game Over Avg - Junior/Cadet - 40 Shoe Games**

24.52	Tim	Biggs	C	UT	Color County Youth 17
24.25	Ryan	Russell	B	KS	Topeka HSA Fall 17
24.00	Colter	Gasser	B	UT	Color County Youth 17
23.24	Kiley	Reynolds	G	UT	Color County Youth 17
23.05	Raymond	Daugherty	B	OH	Ross County HSC Summer 17
22.82	Coulson	Ohms	C	UT	Color County Youth 17
22.53	Caleb	Haack	C	IA	Magengo HSC Summer 17
21.50	Danyelle	Russell	C	KS	Topeka HSA Fall 17
21.00	Andrew	Biggs	C	UT	Color County Youth 17
20.14	Luke	Ray	B	TX	CTHPA Spring 17

**National High Point Game Over Avg - Junior/Cadet - 50 Shoe Games**

38.88	Caiden	Hogue	C	OH	Try County HSL Tuesday 17
36.31	Cooper	Phipps	B	MO	Liberty HSC Tues Winter 17
35.17	Tyler	Stone	B	MN	Alexandria HSL Summer 17
31.61	Cameron	Phipps	B	MO	Liberty HSc Tues Spring 17
29.62	Jeremiah	Velasquez	C	CO	Pueblo HSC Weds Summer 17
26.69	Lillyan	Kildahl	C	WI	Marshfield HSC Summer 17
26.00	Kaden	Stenzel	B	NE	Pawnee HSC Summer 17
22.56	Eli	DeLaCruz	C	MO	HOA HSC Fall 17

21.86	Warren James	Highley	C	MO	Lions Park HSC Fall 17
21.70	Guillermo	Ramirez	C	MO	Lions Park HSC Fall 17

### League Totals (with 292 leagues reported)

# Pitchers per				
Ringers	Shoes	Category	Category	AVG.
9,572	83,390	Cadets	104	11.48%
611,862	1,877,740	Elders	1,383	32.59%
10,275	74,384	Junior Boys	77	13.81%
4,550	33,638	Junior Girls	35	13.53%
674,572	3,251,873	Men's 40ft	2,481	20.74%
229,107	968,678	Women	821	23.65%
<i>Total League Ringers</i>		<i>Total League Shoes</i>		<i>AVG.</i>
1,539,938		6,289,703		24.48%

\*\* All results are based on data submitted by League Directors.

## NATSTATS: FIGURING YOUR RINGER PERCENTAGE

by Wayne Callicoatte

Just wanted to say Hello to everyone and wish all good luck for the 2018 pitching season. We have already had over 120 tournaments so far this season.

I just completed my 1st year as Natstats Director and I have learned a lot about what pitchers know and don't know. If you have a question on something don't hesitate to ask me. If I don't know the answer then I will try to find it for you. "The only dumb question is the one not asked."

Figuring your ringer percentage:

Take the total shoes and total ringers from your 3 highest tournaments over the last 12 months or 10 tournaments, whichever comes first. Divide the total ringers by the total shoes then multiply by 100 (this puts the decimal point in the correct place), you can't just take the 3 highest tournaments and add the percentages and divide by 3.

The results from each week's tournaments are posted to Natstats all during the week as I received them from the Tournament Directors or whomever their Charter designates as the person to submit them to me. On Wed evenings I run the Natstats updates that creates all the web pages that you see posted on NHPA website under Statistics (this takes several hours). If your stats don't get in the weekly update then I didn't get the results in time.

There are a few things that I want to bring up about what is happening in the future.

There is going to be a re-write of HSMaster and the Natstats program (this is what I use to post all the tournament results) this will take almost a year I've been told. They are both going to use a more current database application which will allow us more lead way in what data we can and want to keep plus the way that it is updated and used.

With the new membership cards not having a preprinted number anymore, please don't re-assign cards. You just take your highest number and bump it by 1. We are not archiving numbers any longer to try to build a history to be used when the new Natstats program is ready. Right now the database will contain current year 2018 plus years (2015, 2016, and 2017). Download your state's list and sort it from highest to lowest to find your current highest number, bump it by one for the next new member. Since only the last 12 months data or last 10 tournament show on the web pages I can run a complete list of numbers for your state that is on the current Natstats database. This is for TDs and State Secretaries only.

This applies basically to NEW MEMBERS. When an old member rejoins, and if their number is still on the current database it will add the stats to their old number. If their number is not on the current database (years 2015 - 2018) it will treat them as a new member and add them. When we figure out how to get previous years (before 2015) stats loaded to the new Natstats database (when complete) then we will have a history of each pitcher for as far back as we have backups (when Rob started as Natstats Director). If you have any questions please let me know.

Tournament Directors:

All TDs should download the new results from NHPA website ( [www.horseshoepitching.com](http://www.horseshoepitching.com) ) for their state to HSMaster before each tournament so that their database will show the same as Natstats and then their results file will be correct when sent to me to post. These are updated each week. Even if the tournament run on paper, they can check for correctness in their results file before sending the file to me.

TDs need to report results as they are shown on your state's Natstats page on NHPA website or they are flagged and cost me extra time. The results need to be reported as soon as you can so that everyone's percentage is correct for the next weeks tournaments. Check for spelling of Names and how they are listed, check for periods after initials and after SR or JR, check for correct NHPA number and correct category.

TDs, it is your responsibility to see that your tournament results are reported correctly and in a timely manner.

Please put the sanction number and tournament name in the subject line of the email as it helps me when I have to research something.

Thank you for all that you do!

## HORSESHOE MANIA: A RECRUITING METHOD

*Created by Dan Molineux/Mike Brown Revision (submitted by Roger Vogel)*

Excellent method of play being used successfully to recruit and retain  
NHPA Members in New England !

- Doubles (partners)
- Divide entries into two groups by ringer percent- Pair high ringer percent group with low percent group pitchers. Use "Blind draw", numbers pre-drawn by tournament director, Excel Spreadsheet is also being used with random draw.
- Play 7 games with different partner each game
- 25 point games (21 point games usually played by recreational/backyard pitchers)
- Total points per pitcher determines winners/places (points over 25 by game winner included)
- Non-sanctioned tournaments allow mixing of NHPA Members with novices/recruits
- Most "Horseshoe Mania" events include food and other activities.
- Entry fee is usually \$10 per person

WHT2016 Featured "Horseshoe Mania" thanks to Mike Brown, a good time was had by all.

# HORSESHOE PITCHING FACTS & FOLKLORE

*by Bob Dunn, NHPA Historian*

From out the "Tournament to Be Remembered" project, this review of the Greenville Ringer Classic series tells about one of the all-time great horseshoe tournaments. There were tournaments that may have run with more longevity, but none were greater in talent. For example, in the 1970 event in the Men's Class A, 10 pitchers exceeded 75% ringer and the entire class exceeded 70%. In fact, there were 25 players in all classes that exceeded 70% and that was just in the Men's classes. Here is a view of the initial years.

## **GREENVILLE (OHIO) RINGER CLASSIC**

Here is one of the "Big Six" tournaments heading up the all-time list of long running, prominent and prestigious tournaments and the Ringer Classic is still an active annual event. It all began in 1961 as a new event to be held during the Fourth of July Holiday. At the time, Greenville was also hosting the Greenville Open, a June scheduled tournament, so there were risks in starting another large open tournament in the region, especially just a single day to hold the tournament in. Some of that risk was diminished as the pitching facility was a 16 court venue and Greenville had a very active and dedicated horseshoe club. The initial announcement appeared in the April 1961 issue of the Horseshoe Pitchers News Digest:

## **GREENVILLE, OHIO RINGER CLASSIC**

*By W.J. Woods*

"The Drake County Ohio Club is arranging for an OPEN tournament at City Park, Greenville, Ohio on the Fourth of July. There will be 16 courts ready and all NHPA members, regardless of residence, are cordially invited.

The entry fee will be \$5.00, plus an extra \$3.00 to those in Class A. To save time as many may not be off work on July 3rd, the usual qualifying rounds will be dispensed with and instead the players will be

divided into classes based on their year 1960 ringer percent records in the News Digest. (Players whose records are not so available are, of course welcome but must qualify by pitching 100 shoes at the courts on July 1st, 2nd or 3rd.) Those whose records are available from the News Digest, may if desired, mail their entry fee of \$5.00 in advance to E.J. Coppock, 117 Meadow Lane, Greenville, Ohio.

The deadline for all entries, either in person at the courts or through a representative or by mail, is 10:00 p.m., Monday, July 3rd. The Tournament Committee will then classify all entrants for the round robin play which begins at 8:00 a.m. on July 4th. All players are expected to be present at that time. The number of courts should be ample to assure a reasonably early finish.

This will be an NHPA sanctioned meet (cards available at the courts) and a trophy will be awarded the winner of each class, plus cash prizes based on performance distributed in all classes. The central location of Greenville, the excellent courts, the warm local interest and the proven hospitality of the Club should add up to a very enjoyable Fourth of July."

The tournament summary was reported in the September issue of the New Digest:

### 1961 Greenville Ringer Classic Final Standing

#### Men's Class A

Player	Hometown	W	L	R	SP	Pct.
1. Paul Focht	Dayton, Ohio	7	0	417	530	78.6%
2. Harold Reno	Sabina, OH	6	1	372	454	81.9%
3. Gene Brumfield	Markleville, IN	5	2	361	480	75.2%
4. Wilbur Kabel	New Madison, OH	3	4	365	504	72.4%
5. James Kemple	Rushville, IN	3	4	387	564	68.6%
6. Marvin Craig	Parker City, IN	2	5	342	492	69.5%
7. Loren Crooks,	East Fultonham, OH	2	5	316	482	65.5%
8. Graydon McFatrige	Rushville, IN	0	7	330	486	67.9%

The first ever Ringer Classic was successful with 70 entries and certainly was competitive with two former world champions, Focht and Reno placing 1st and 2nd. Focht and Reno, are both members of the Nation Hall of Fame. Wilbur Kabel is also a National Hall of Fame, being a veteran of several World Tournaments and was Ohio state champion in 1973. Marvin Craig is the brother of Harold Craig, who served as NHPA president 1961-1967.

Class B is shown below as it is rather unusual to see a 77.2% performance, but that is what happened. James "Pops" Johnson, a National Hall of Fame Pitcher (1985), went undefeated in five games and average 77.2% to win Class B. Johnson won many tournaments in his career, one of his best and rather unknown by horseshoe pitching fans, is his winning the 1945 AAU National Amateur Championship. Johnson was the Intermediate Men's World Champion in 1974. Johnson also was Kentucky state champion in 1947-1950.

#### Class B

1. James Johnson	Covington, KY	5	0	309	400	77.2%
2. Harold Wolfe	Cedarville, OH	3	2	242	358	67.5%
3. Glenn Riffle	Dayton, OH	3	2	232	346	67.0%
4. Bill Solar	Waynesville, OH	2	3	254	394	64.4%
5. Stanley Manker	Martinsville, OH	2	3	228	358	63.6%
6. Ray Miller	Springfield, OH	0	5	205	348	58.9%

Class B had a lot of firepower, beside Johnson, there are two more National Hall of Fame members in Class B, Ray Miller, the 1972 and 1973 Senior Men's World Champion was inducted in 1983. Stan Manker won five Senior Men's World Championship, 1971, 1974, 1975, 1978, and 1979. Manker was inducted to the National Hall of Fame in 1977. Glenn Riffle was an AAU national star back in the 1950s, winning AAU National Championships in 1955, 1958, 1959 and 1960. Riffle also won the Ohio state championship in 1965.

The 2nd annual Greenville Ringer Classic was won by Floyd Fowler pitching 80.3%. Fowler, of Greencastle, Indiana, may not have been as well-known as many of his other competition, who participated in more World Tournaments and open tournaments. Fowler was a championship class pitcher however and qualified for the Men's Championship Class nine times from 1956 through 1968, he just lived in an era when there were a lot of great pitchers, especially in Ohio and Indiana. In 1961, Fowler averaged 75.6% and place 12th on a 20-15 record. In 1962, Fowler placed 17th on a 20-15 record pitching 75.6%. In 1964, Fowler averaged 74.8%, won 15 of 35 games and placed 22nd. In 1966, Fowler pitched 77.7%, winning 5 games and losing 12 to place 15th.

For the second year in a row Class B was won by a 70% performance and in fact the Class C winner averaged 73.5%. The Class D champ pitched 69.5%. The 1962 tournament grew to 98 entries and was still concluded in a single day.

#### 1962 Greenville Ringer Classic Final Class A Standings

1. Floyd Fowler, Greencastle, IN	80.3%	6. Walter Horner, Farmersburg, IN	70.8%
2. James Johnson, Cincinnati, OH	76.2%	7. Ralph Lackey, Middletown, OH	68.5%
3. Harold Reno, Sabina, OH	81.3%	8. Graydon McFatrige, Rushville, IN	71.0%
4. Wilbur Kabel, New Madison, OH	75.5%	9. Marvin Craig, Parker, IN	69.4%
5. Paul Focht, Dayton, OH	75.3%	10. Harry Sibert, Union, OH	62.9%
Class B - John Coble, Lafayette, IN 70.3%		Class C - Gene Mendanhall, Noblesville, IN 73.7%	

Ralph Lackey was Ohio state champion in 1950, 1951 and 1952. Graydon McFatrige was Indiana state champion in 1949, 1950 and 1951.

The announcement for the 1963 event stated that the tournament was progressing and that meant adding a Women's Division:

#### GREENVILLE RINGER CLASSIC OPEN TOURNAMENT JULY 4TH THROUGH JULY 7TH

"This will be an "OPEN", sanctioned by the NHPA and an \$800.00 prize fund is guaranteed. The entry fee is set at \$5.00. Each entrant must qualify by pitching 100 shoes at the courts. The qualifying time schedule is: Thursday, July 4th, 10:00a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Friday, July 5th, 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, July 6th, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. The pitchers will then be classified as soon as possible and the round robin tournament play will begin Saturday afternoon, continuing in the evening and resume Sunday morning, July 7, until completed.

As an additional attraction on July 4th, a Ladies Division sanctioned tournament will be at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon. Entrants must be registered by 1:00 p.m. Entry fee for the Ladies is \$3.00."

The 1963 final standings were reported in the News Digest, without any summary. So some fifty years later, one will be drafted here in this project. The performances in this event are astonishing. The Men's Class A had ten pitchers, all of which exceeding 70%, eight exceeded 75%.

Remembering that this was a regional open tournament, that had pitchers from four neighboring states and the results were overwhelming as compared to today's World Tournament competition. This probably is one of the finest examples of the results that on-sight qualifying had on our sport. Players concentrated on their practice so that they could be on the top of their game come tournament time, so they could qualify as high as possible. So no matter what the reason, there were considerable more high skilled pitchers in the 1950s and 1960 as in any other era and certainly compared to today.

For the third straight year, Class B was won by a player pitching over 70%. In fact the 1963 Class B had three pitchers over 70%. Class C was won by Robert May of Glenwood, Indiana pitching 71.2%.

Wanda Ditmer, 1967 Indiana state champion, was the first Women's Champion of the Greenville Ringer Classic. Ditmer averaged 62.5% in her winning performance, to show that there was talent in the Midwest in the women's division. Even though there had been a Women's Division in the World Tournament since 1947, nearly every one of those events were held in Murray, Utah. The World Tournament finally came back to the Mid-West in 1960, giving a much better opportunity to demonstrate that there were high skilled women pitchers in the Midwest region of the country that just could not make the trip to Utah.

The 1963 Greenville Ringer Classic extended to two days of class pitching which brought in another increase of pitchers to 119 and a few more top pitchers from others states. It might be impossible to say if this was the largest open tournament in the country at the time, but certainly was among the top six.

**1963 Greenville Ringer Classic Final Standing**

Class A				Class B			
	W	L	Pct.		W	L	Pct.
1. Harold Reno, OH	8	1	82.6%	1. Karl Van Sant, IN	9	0	79.0%
2. Ray Martin, IL	8	1	80.6%	2. Dick Carpenter, IN	8	1	72.2%
3. Roger Vogel, IL	6	3	76.9%	3. Glen Riffle, OH	6	3	73.0%
4. Paul Lattray, MO	5	4	77.0%	4. Don Owens, IN	4	5	67.9%
5. Paul Focht, OH	5	4	77.0%	5. Lee Bennett, OH	4	5	65.6%
6. Floyd Fowler, IN	4	5	77.5%	6. Gene Mendenhall, IN	4	5	65.6%
7. Wilbur Kabel, OH	4	5	76.4%	7. Harold Wolfe,	4	5	62.9%
8. James Johnson, OH	3	6	76.3%	8. Alex Clark, MI	3	6	68.4%
9. Graydon McFatrige, IN	1	8	74.4%	9. Alton Austin, IL	2	7	61.0%
10. Marvin Craig, IN	1	8	70.7%	10. Virgil Taylor, IN	1	2	68.2%

  

Class C				Ladies A			
	W	L	Pct.		W	L	Pct.
1. Robert May, IN	7	0	71.2%	1. Wanda Ditmer, IN	7	0	62.5%
2. Clarence Bellman, IN	6	1	67.0%	2. Ruth Bennett, OH	6	1	51.6%
3. Gordon Miller, OH	3	4	65.7%	3. Margaret Cassady, OH	5	2	42.0%
4. Kenny Dawes, OH	3	4	58.9%	4. Rita Long, OH	3	4	39.7%
5. Arner Lindquist, WV	3	4	58.5%	5. Verda Hickman, OH	3	4	31.2%
6. Nelson Vogel, IL	2	5	61.4%	6. Avannelle Brown, OH	3	4	27.4%
7. Charles Sipple, OH	2	5	57.9%	7. Dora Vance, OH	1	6	19.7%
8. Paul Helton, OH	2	5	57.5%				

Ray Martin was Illinois state champion in 1964, 1965, 1973, 1974 and 1976. In the 1965 World Tournament, Martin and Red Henton played a 50 point game that went 194 shoes. That record still stands. Martin was inducted to the National Hall of Fame in 1980. Roger Vogel is known today as one of the top nationally ranked Elder Men pitchers and he won the 30' division in the 2015 Hall of Fame Invitational Tournament. Sixty years earlier Roger was a teenage star at the World Tournaments in Murray, Utah. He first qualified for the Men's Championship Class in 1958, at age 20, and then qualified 12 more times over the next 25 years. Roger enjoys talking about being part of three generations qualifying for the Men's Championship Class and is quick to add that it actually is four generations as George Hilst, Illinois star pitcher of the 1920s and 1930s was a great uncle. Roger placed 6th in the 1973 World Tournament pitching 75.3%. Paul Lattray won Missouri state championships in 1939, 1957, 1962-1965. Lattray was a commercial artist and in the 1940s drew the cover artwork for the Horseshoe World magazines. Lattray is also one of the 14 who pitched 80% in the 1964 World Tournament. Karl Van Sant won many major open tournaments across the country and was the 1992 Senior Men's World Champion. Lee Bennett was a championship class pitcher, qualifying for World Tournament in 1962-1965, but Lee is best known for designing and manufacturing the LEE pitching shoe. Alton Austin was better known as Abe Austin and was the Intermediate Men's World Champion in 1972. Clarence Bellman won several open tournament championships and was Indiana state champion in 1975 and 1976. He first qualified for the World Tournament Men's Championship Class in 1961 and qualified 7 times in all. Bellman placed 5th in the 1975 World Tournament pitching 78.5% and placed 5th in 1981 on a 76.9% average. Arner Lindquist first qualified for a World Tournament Championship Class in 1946 and qualified 11 times altogether, his last was in 1965. Arner was West Virginia state champion five times and the 1942 AAU

National Amateur Champion. Nelson Vogel, father of Roger, qualified 6 times for the Men's World Tournament Championship Class between 1950-1964. Nelson entered the 1935 World Tournament (held in Moline, IL) at age 22, but missed the cut off. Nelson Vogel is the eldest to be part of three generations (with son Roger and grandson Brett) qualifying for the World Tournament Men's Championship Class. Charles Sipple teamed up with Glen Riffle to win three AAU National Doubles Championships, 1957, 1958 and 1959.

### History Jottings

In the last Newsline, Casey Sluys reminder members that a couple of the books I have written now provide finances to be given to the NHPA. The two Books are the AAU National Horseshoe Championships (\$18.00) and The Lee Rose Story (\$21.00). Even if you may have purchased the book already, you can a buy a couple more copies knowing the money will go directly to the NHPF and you can offer the books as a door prize at your next club meeting or as a gift to a new members that just signed up. Over \$300 has been turned over to the NHPF so far and this can be a great fund raiser. Just contact me at bobcharlesdunn@aol.com. There also are a couple more books available for those that enjoy the history of horseshoe pitching: World Champions of Horseshoe Pitching and Tournaments to Be Remembered. Contact me to order those books. Thank you, Bob Dunn.

## 2018 PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

### PRC 1

#### **The RGS Book**

*revised January 1, 2016*

#### **Rule 12**

#### **II Requirements**

#### **Requirement 2**

#### **Section F - League Credit Page 23**

#### **Reads as follows**

All seasonal, sanctioned Club/League play must be four hundred (400) or more pitched shoes to qualify as an official event for NatStats purposes.

#### **Proposed change**

*All seasonal, sanctioned Club/League play must be two hundred (200) or more pitched shoes to qualify as an official event for NatStats purposes.*

#### **Reason**

Some leagues pitch 120 shoes a night and have substitutes. There are times when a person may play or sub in 3 league nights. and only pitch 360 shoes. By the rules that are currently in place, this person may not get credit for that league.

In comparison, tournament competition, Rule E, page 23 a contestant may pitch 100 shoes and get credit for NatStats.



**Notes**

- During a league night in our club, a contestant will pitch 120 shoes ( 3 - 40 shoe games )
- Some tournaments, a contestant may only pitch 100 - 200 shoes and receive NatStats credit.
- There are times when several subs are available and not all are able to receive NatStat recognition. The change in this rule will help.
- There are times when a player may be on a league team, but due to work or illness may not get to pitch 400 shoes.
- This would also encourage more participation. Membership is down an as NHPA members, we should try to increase participation

**PRC 2****Requirement 2, Section E, Numbers 1, 2 and 3.****Reads as follows**

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

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

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

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

**Proposed change**

*1. For singles, doubles, team, and elimination events, a contestant must have pitched a minimum of one hundred (100) shoes against another contestant to receive Natstats credit.*

*Exception: If all games of the round-robin schedule have been pitched in less than one hundred (100) shoes, these statistics may be submitted for Natstats credit. This exception applies to point games only.*

**Reason**

Numbers 2 and 3 are redundant and need to be removed. Number 1 now includes all necessary wording.

**PRC 3****Rule 2E****Reads as follows****Section E - Court Rotation**

At the end of each game, contestants shall go promptly to their next assigned court. If the court is vacant, they may practice here at this time. After the games on adjacent courts are completed, both pits shall be prepared for play (see Section B above). When the scorekeeper is ready, the contestants have the option of pitching no more than four (4) additional warm-up shoes each, and then the next game must begin immediately.

## Proposed Change

### **Section E - Court Rotation**

*At the end of each game contestants can practice on current court until their next assigned court is available. After the games on adjacent courts are completed, both pits shall be prepared for play (see Section B above). When the scorekeeper is ready, the contestants have the option of pitching no more than four (4) additional warm-up shoes each, and then the next game must begin immediately.*

## Reason

To prevent contestants from debating with Judges with the potential to avoid unsportsmanlike behavior and allow everyone the same privilege to practice eliminating the unwritten rule in the Championship level. At the World this year were several instances where contestants disagreed with the Judges and acted in unsportsmanlike conditions. I believe this may help solve a few issues.

## PRC 4

### **RULE 11 - TOURNAMENT/LEAGUE PLAY**

#### **Reads as follows**

*See proposed addition in red/italic type*

#### **Section B - Determining Class Winners, Breaking of Ties**

The Tournament Officials shall decide how Class winners are to be determined and how ties are to be broken and shall announce these procedures before tournament play begins.

- 1. Class Winners** - At the end of round-robin play, win/loss records or ringer percentage shall determine Class winners. In addition, total points may be used if the scoring was done using the count-all method.
- 2. Class Ties** - If ties occur, they shall be broken by playoff games, overall ringer percentage, who-beat-whom in the regular round-robin, or highest above/closest to their entering ringer average. *Total points may be used if the scoring was done using the count-all method.*

In World, National, Regional and State Championships, all ties for first place in the Championship Class of a designated Division must be broken by a playoff game(s).

#### **Current Wording**

*See proposed addition in red/italic type*

#### **Section F - Handicapping**

Handicapping may be used in open tournaments and in league play. The Tournament/League Officials shall determine the amount of the handicap. Class winners will be determined by win/loss record or, *for count-all formats*, by total points scored. An alternate-pitch format shall be used. For the breaking of Class ties, the options in Section B (above) may also apply, except that ringer percentage shall not be used. Game handicapping shall not be used in any World, National, or Regional Tournament or in the Championship Class of a designated Division of any State Championship Tournament.

## Reasons

*Some background information:* Several RGS revisions ago, the use of total points as an option for the breaking of Class Ties was eliminated (see Section B-2 above) as it was determined that using this option as a tie-breaker in cancellation play penalized the higher percentage [pitchers.in](#) that Class. This was verified by the analysis of past tournament results, was agreed-to by members of the IT Committee, and was also approved by the Chairman of the Rules Committee and the NHPA Council. This also resulted in the same changes that were made to the HS Master Program, now widely used in Charter Tournaments. At least two articles were published in *Newsline Magazine*, which included reasons for the Rule change and examples of how the use of total points for the breaking of Class ties was unfair to the higher percentage pitchers.

The current wording of this Rule has lead to some mis-interpretations of the Rule by some Tournament Directors, especially as it applies to the breaking of ties in handicapped Classes. The proposed addition of the sentence in B-2 (a repeat of the information in B-1), and also the addition of the phrase 'for count-all formats' in Section F, does not change the original intent of the Rule and helps to distinguish between the use of total points as it may apply to cancellation formats and count-all formats in tournament play.

## **PRC 5**

### **Definition of Sanctioned Tournament**

#### **Reads as follows**

None

#### **Proposed change**

*To be added under Requirement 2 as Section D-Tournament Size*

*Section D: Tournament Size: The minimum number of contestants in a sanctioned tournament shall be four (4) contestants.*

*Current Section D becomes E, Section E becomes F, etc.*

*Reasons: The number of two person tournaments being submitted to NatStats has been increasing. Some of these tournaments are not publicized as required by Section II, Requirement 1-A, of the RGS book. Having such tournaments that do not follow the current RGS guidelines adversely affects the integrity of NatStats. Some feel that many of these tournaments are staged at the last minute for the express purpose of getting qualifying events for entry into the World Tournament. Allowing such tournaments could adversely affect participation in regularly scheduled tournaments. Others feel that an average obtained after pitching two fifty (50) shoe games against a familiar opponent does not equate to the rigors of pitching in a competitive tournament.*

## **PRC 6**

### **Pitching Devisions**

#### **Reads as follows**

#### **Section A - Juniors**

(See REQUIREMENTS 6 for exceptions and additional information)

**1. Junior Cadets** (any pitcher twelve (12) years old or younger for the entire calendar year)

Junior cadets may pitch from any place on the extended or full-distance platforms and shall observe the twenty-foot (20') foul line. Note: Junior cadets may choose to move into Junior Boys or Junior Girls prior to the age guidelines, but cannot return to the Junior Cadets once this declaration has been made.

**2. 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.

**3. 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 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.

**Proposed Change**

**Section A - Cadets**

*(See REQUIREMENT 6, for exceptions and additional information)*

**1. Cadet Boys** *(any male pitcher twelve (12) years old or younger for the entire calendar year)*

*Cadet Boys may pitch from any place on the extended or full-distance platforms and shall observe the twenty-foot (20') foul line. Note: Cadet Boys may choose to move into the Junior Boys prior to the age guidelines, but cannot return to the Cadet Boys once this declaration has been made.*

**2. Cadet Girls** *(any female pitcher twelve (12) years old or younger for the entire calendar year)*

*Cadet Girls may pitch from any place on the extended or full-distance platforms and shall observe the twenty-foot (20') foul line. Note: Cadet Girls may choose to move into the Junior Girls prior to the age guidelines, but cannot return to the Cadet Girls once this declaration has been made.*

**Section B - 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)*

*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)*

*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.*

**Reason**

Dividing the Cadets into Boys and Girls better adheres to the NHPA practice of separating divisions based on gender. With the last increase in age of Cadets, there has been significant growth in

participants in this division; that growth is prone to continue into the future. Separating Cadets into Boys and Girls divisions will allow for increased recognition place on a greater number of the youngest of the NHPA participants. Most kids have picked their favorite sports and teams in elementary schools; with more value place on this age demographic we can support the development of more committed life-long NHPA members. Additionally, more individual focus placed on girls may lead to a greater number of females participating in the NHPA as youth and later as adults. Finally, a few NHPA charters are already treating Cadets in this manner at their state tournaments. This rule brings those charters into compliance and encourages the rest of the charters to place this added emphasis on their Cadet-age youth.

Note 1: Following all other current rules, Cadets could be "mixed" with each other or with other divisions if their numbers are not high enough at a given tournament for a division class. State and World Tournament should make every efforts to fill these divisions and award Cadet Boy and Cadet Girl Championships

Note 2: The Sections B-E of this rule will need to be re-numbered C-F.

## **PRC 7**

### **Requirement 2 - All NHPA Tournaments/Leagues**

#### **Reads as follows**

##### **Section B - Eligibility**

Tournament entry and league participation is restricted to contestants holding a current NHPA membership card (see Bylaws for additional information on membership). This includes pacers and substitutes. Other eligibility requirements may apply for State tournaments and for the World Tournament.

#### **Proposed Change**

##### **Section B - Eligibility**

*Contestants holding a current NHPA Full Member membership card (see Bylaws for additional information on membership) are given priority over other member levels for Tournament entry and league participation. This includes pacers and substitutes. Other eligibility requirements may apply for State tournaments and for the World Tournament.*

**Note:** *with this change, a required clarification of membership levels must be made to Bylaw Article III Section 3. The following is a recommendation:*

#### **SECTION 3.**

*Full Member - Dues for Full adult members are the National dues of twenty five dollars (\$25.00) plus the amount set for State dues within their Charter. Three dollars (\$3.00) of every adult membership will be set aside for the World Tournament prize fund, for the next year. Only Full Members may enter State and World Tournaments.*

*Provisional Member - Dues for Provisional adult members are the National Provisional dues of ten dollars (\$10.00). Provisional Members are allowed entry to regular tournaments/leagues (upon paying their full entry fee) for the period beginning at their first entry to the end of the current calendar year. At which time they must become Full members in order to continue participating in NHPA tournaments/leagues. During their provisional time, a member can upgrade to Full member at any time by paying the remainder of their National Dues (\$15) and their state charter dues. Provisional Member tournament/league statistics are reported to the NHPA and the member is provided an NHPA membership card number with a "P" at the beginning of their charter-assigned membership number (e.g., P095001) for tracking purposes.*

*Provisional members cannot vote and do not count toward the awarding of charter delegates, but are reported on charter membership reports to the NHPA.*

*Trial Member - All dues for Trial members are waived and the member is allowed entry to one regular tournament/league (upon paying their full entry fee). Trial Member tournament/league statistics are not reported to the NHPA. Trial members cannot vote and do not count toward the awarding of charter delegates, but are reported on charter membership reports to the NHPA.*

## **Reason**

The rule change will allow other levels of NHPA members to participate in NHPA tournaments, but prioritizes entry and participation of Full NHPA members.

This change requires that the membership bylaws to be altered to identify the other levels of membership. The suggestion given includes two additional NHPA membership levels for adults, "Provisional," and "Trial." Both are designed to entice new membership recruitment and growth by removing the upfront barrier of NHPA dues price tag, especially now that it has increased by a record amount. The Provisional membership level only will last for the year the participant starts and thereafter they must upgrade to full membership if they wish to continue with the NHPA. The Trial membership lasts for one event and thereafter they must upgrade to Trial or Full membership if they wish to continue with the NHPA. A Trial and Provisional membership may only be used one time by a new member.

The creation of other NHPA membership levels is a key step in opening the door to attracting new membership to the NHPA from among, foremost, non-sanctioned organized horseshoe pitching groups, but also to small community/neighborhood groups who represent the 110 Million other horseshoe pitchers in the USA. The NHPA should be making it easier for horseshoe enthusiasts of all walks of life to affiliate with the NHPA, not harder. This rule removes a significant barrier to joining the NHPA and participating NHPA horseshoes. As the NHPA starts bringing in new members those new members will become exposed to the NHPA world. They will learn about top caliber horseshoes. Top quality facilities. Challenging state and world championships. Pro style equipment. NHPA marketing/promotion/communication. etc, etc... In time, as many such members are incorporated, they will help fortify the NHPA with growth and vitality.

## **PRC 8**

### **Specifications for Court Layout**

#### **Current Wording**

*(the full wording of unchanged clauses is omitted for brevity)*

#### **SECTION A - Sanctioning of Courts**

Court conditions inconsistent with the NHPA specifications listed below are discouraged, primarily because of the need to standardize the conditions and results of play for all pitchers. All NHPA sanctioned events must be contested on fully or conditionally sanctioned courts. These courts must be re-sanctioned by the Charter RD (or designates) every four (4) years, beginning in 2007.

- 1. Full Court Sanction** - Permanent...
- 2. Conditional Court Sanction** - The NHPA recognizes...
- 3. Portable Raised Pits** - Portable raised pits...

- 4. **Court Complexes** - Since only one...
- 5. **Court Sanction Waivers** - Waivers for some...
  - a. **Temporary CS Waiver** -
  - b. **Permanent CS Waiver** -
  - c. **A Special Waiver** - ....
  - d. **Other Court Sanction Requirements**

#### **Proposed Change**

*(the full wording of unchanged clauses is again omitted for brevity)*

#### **SECTION A - Sanctioning of Courts**

*Court conditions inconsistent with the NHPA specifications listed below are discouraged, primarily because of the need to standardize the conditions and results of play for all pitchers. It is strongly recommended that all NHPA sanctioned events must be contested on fully or conditionally sanctioned courts. These sanctioned courts must be re-sanctioned by the Charter RD (or designates) every four (4) years, beginning in 2007.*

- 1. **Full Court Sanction** - Permanent...
- 2. **Conditional Court Sanction** - The NHPA recognizes...
- 3. **Portable Raised Pits** - Portable raised pits...
- 4. **Court Complexes** - Since only one...
- 5. **Court Sanction Waivers** - Waivers for some...
  - a. **Temporary CS Waiver** -
  - b. **Permanent CS Waiver** -
  - c. **A Special Waiver** - ....
  - d. **Other Court Sanction Requirements**

**6. Non-Sanctioned Courts** - *Courts that do not meet one or more identified criteria in the Sections B-D of Specification II. Tournaments/Leagues played on non-sanctioned courts may be given a secondary NHPA sanction number identifying that the tournament was played on non-sanctioned courts in the NHPA statistical database (e.g.: 09-18-N01). Non-sanctioned courts cannot be used for NHPA state or world championship play.*

#### **Reason**

Although desirable that all tournaments be played on high quality courts that would meet the full NHPA sanction for courts, this rule has created a significant divide between the NHPA and the American horseshoe pitching public (over 110 Million). In essence the NHPA has said to that public "if you don't play horseshoes on our courts, you are not playing horseshoes, as we (NHPA) are the nationally recognized organizing body of the sport and we do not recognize your courts." No wonder NHPA has a hard time attracting non-NHPA horseshoe pitching enthusiasts and community groups. Furthermore, the NHPA has lost some of its membership over the years as the sanction court rules have become more and more strict, due to old complexes falling out of compliance. This membership loss may be further exacerbated in 2019 with the imposition of short distance platform requirements.

Because non-sanctioned courts have the potential to be significantly out of any given specification, a secondary NHPA Sanction number should be applied to tournaments/leagues pitched on any such courts to allow the NHPA and participants to identify these events separately from those on sanctioned courts. A simple option is including the letter "N" in the first digit of the tournament/league number for a charter for a given year (e.g., 09-18-N01 = Utah-2018-Tournament #1 played on non-sanctioned courts).

Allowing non-sanctioned courts to be used for NHPA play is a key step in opening the door to attracting new membership to the NHPA from among, foremost, non-sanctioned organized horseshoe pitching groups, but also to small community/neighborhood groups. The NHPA should be making it easier for horseshoe enthusiasts of all walks of life to affiliate with the NHPA, not harder. This rule removes a significant barrier to joining the NHPA and participating NHPA horseshoes. As the NHPA starts bringing in new members those new members will become exposed to the NHPA world. They will learn about top caliber horseshoes. Top quality facilities. Challenging state and world championships. Pro style equipment. NHPA marketing/promotion/communication. etc, etc... In time, as many such groups are incorporated, they will strive to develop fully sanctioned facilities and will help fortify the NHPA with growth and vitality.

## **PRC 9**

### **Requirement 6 - Cadet and Junior Pitchers - Additional Information**

(See also Playing Rule 1, Section A)

#### **Section C - Awards**

All Junior play (mixed class or otherwise) will be conducted on an amateur basis. Awards presented to this Division by the Tournament/League Officials should have no immediate monetary value. The awarding of trophies, medals, or ribbons is recommended. Any award with monetary value, including trust funds from the Charter, State, World Tournament or the Junior Scholar Pitcher Awards Program, shall not be issued before the successful completion of high school.

#### **Section D - Responsibility**

It shall be the responsibility of all Junior pitchers (or their parents/guardians) to make sure that their amateur standing is not jeopardized by any violation of the above information.

#### **Proposed Change**

#### **Section C - Awards**

*Awards presented to a Junior or Cadet by the Tournament/League Officials may have immediate or deferred monetary value.*

#### **Section D - Amateur Status Responsibility**

**Collegiate:** Prizes or cash awards for horseshoe pitching achievements do not impact amateur status in any NCAA sports (Horseshoe Pitching is not a NCAA sport).

**Scholastic (High School):** It is the responsibility of the youth participant and their parents/guardians to check state scholastic sport association regulations/restrictions when determining whether to accept an award with any monetary value.

*The host charter and/or the NHPA assumes no responsibility for any adverse effects which Horseshoe pitching awards may have on the amateur status of any youth participant.*



## Reason

The issuing of Junior awards has been a topic of discussion for decades in the NHPA. During that time there has been little if any change to the ruling that youth should not receive money, or anything with immediate monetary value, in order to preserve their "amateur status." The long hoped for day when horseshoe pitching would become a mainstream collegiate (amateur) sport has become a present impossibility with the ongoing chronic low numbers of youth participating in organized horseshoe pitching. The same holds true for state high school (amateur) athletic associations. There simply is not enough interest among youth for either level to sanction horseshoe pitching.

It has been said that this rule has "served the NHPA well," so there is no need to change it. However, to the contrary, in a day of less restrictive amateurism rules, and ever growing diversions that compete for the time of our youth, this rule has become quite harmful to supporting our current youth and also to increasing membership among our youth divisions. If we don't do something to make horseshoes more appealing to kids, like awards with immediate monetary value, the junior numbers will likely keep falling.

In spite of the NHPA rules disallowing such, some charters that have either historically or more recently offered "prizes" to youth participants have produced vibrant and sizable youth memberships. When asked what most pleased them about pitching horseshoes, prizes were usually the primary reply or a close second. Amateurs have been traditionally classified as participants who play a sport for the pure love of the game. However, if our game does not love the youth back, we will continue to lose them and it will prove more and more difficult to attract new youth.