



# Bylaws

of the

**National  
Horseshoe  
Pitchers  
Association**

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Pitch Horseshoes for



- Health
- Competition
- Fun

2018 - 2020 EDITION

[www.horseshoepitching.com](http://www.horseshoepitching.com)

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Article	Page
<b>Name</b>	I	2
<b>Purpose</b>	II	2
<b>Membership</b> Fees, Residence, Suspension	III	2
<b>Executive Council</b>	IV	4
<b>Officers</b> Duties, Compensation and Allowances, Eligibility, Terms, Removal, Vacancies	V	4
<b>Standing Committees</b>	VI	7
<b>Charters</b> Delegates, Officer Responsibilities	VII	7
<b>Delegate Meetings</b>	VIII	8
<b>Convention</b> Delegate Requirements, Minutes, World Tournament Bids	IX	8
<b>Parliamentary Authority</b>	X	10
<b>Amendments</b>	XI	10
<b>Standing Rules</b>		11

# NHPA BYLAWS

## National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America

### **ARTICLE I: Name**

The name of this organization shall be the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America, hereinafter known as NHPA.

### **ARTICLE II: Purpose**

The purpose of the NHPA shall be to develop, foster, and promote organized horseshoe pitching at the local, state, regional, national, and international levels; as a recreational pastime and as a competitive sport; by providing direction, organization, published materials, and approved equipment; in an effort to enhance the sport.

### **ARTICLE III: Membership**

**SECTION 1.** Any reputable person may become a member upon payment of annual dues as designated in these Bylaws. Annual dues include NHPA liability insurance.

**SECTION 2.** Junior and Cadet pitchers may join at a reduced fee designated in these Bylaws. Boys and Girls are eligible to complete as Juniors, up to the ages specified in Rule 1, Section A, #1-3 of the RGS book.

#### **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 tournament/league 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 members 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. Provisional memberships are restricted to persons who have never previously been an NHPA member.

**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.

**SECTION 4.** Dues for Junior and Junior Cadet members are National dues of five dollars (\$5.00) plus the amount set for State dues for Juniors within their Charter. These dues entitle Junior members to participate in all Sanctioned Tournaments and/or Leagues and to League Program benefits.

**SECTION 5.** Membership cards will become available for purchase from the Charter Secretaries on October 1st (or upon joining), and will remain valid through December 31st of the following year.

**SECTION 6.** An NHPA Membership card is a combined State-National card and is to be issued only through the Charter Secretaries, upon payment of both Charter and National dues. Charter Secretaries are required to send membership reports and dues to the NHPA Secretary/Treasurer at least once every calendar quarter.

**SECTION 7.** A membership card must be issued by the Charter in which the member maintains legal residence as determined by the filing of federal and state tax returns, voting, and/or driver license laws. Charters collecting NHPA dues for a non-residence member should give only a receipt, and then forward the dues and address information to the NHPA Secretary-Treasurer who will advise the Charter of record. Residents of a State having no active Charter may become an NHPA member by sending their dues directly to the NHPA Secretary/Treasurer.

**SECTION 8.** Any member may be suspended for:

- a. Willfully violating any official Playing Rule, Requirement, or Bylaw of the NHPA.
- b. Fixing games, cheating, or any other conduct unbecoming a member.
- c. Placing a bet of monetary value on a contestant, or self, when participating in a competition.
- d. Using unsanctioned horseshoes in a tournament.
- e. Forfeiting in a tournament for an unapproved reason.
- f. Unsportsmanlike conduct while participating in or attending a sanctioned event.\*

\* See RGS Rule 12 and Guideline 6 for additional information.

**SECTION 9.** For any of the reasons above, a member may be suspended for up to one year.

**SECTION 10.** No member facing a Charter suspension or full NHPA suspension shall be suspended until offered a fair hearing before the NHPA Executive Council or a Board appointed by same.

**SECTION 11.** Members who have been suspended for one year may be reinstated, after the year has elapsed,

by a majority vote of the Charter Executive Council, if also approved by the NHPA Council.

**ARTICLE IV: Executive Council**

**SECTION 1. Members**

The Executive Council shall be made up of the officers of the NHPA.

**SECTION 2. Authority**

a. The Executive Council shall have full power to conduct the business of the NHPA between annual meetings, provided such business is not contrary to the bylaws of the NHPA.

b. The Executive Council shall define and interpret these Bylaws, and its rulings shall be official, unless over-turned by the delegates assembled in Convention by a two-thirds vote.

**SECTION 3. Meetings**

a. The Executive Council shall meet at the call of the President, or at the call of any three (3) members of that Council.

b. A quorum for any meeting of the Executive Council shall be four (4) members.

c. The Executive Council may conduct business by mail, email, or telephone when necessary.

d. Official decisions made by the Executive Council that may affect the general membership, shall be published in the NHPA's Newslite publication within 3 months of said decisions.

**ARTICLE V: Officers**

**SECTION 1.** The officers of the NHPA shall be:

- a. A President.
- b. A First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Vice-President.
- c. A Secretary-Treasurer

**SECTION 2.** Duties of officers

- a. The President shall:
  - 1. Be the chief executive officer of the NHPA.
  - 2. Preside at all meetings of the NHPA.
  - 3. Approve warrants for payment by being the second required signature on all checks received from the Secretary-Treasurer for payment of all accounts.
  - 4. Assign or change specific duties of other officers.
  - 5. Appoint any committees (Standing or Special), name the committee chairperson, make changes to the make-up of the committee, fill any committee vacancies, and discharge any committee, if deemed necessary for the good of the organization.
  - 6. Be an ex-officio member of all committees.

7. Develop, revise, and maintain NHPA contracts, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and travel guidelines. SOPs shall be made available for review by any delegate upon request.

8. Appoint, contract for, and/or discharge (with Executive Council approval) the NHPA Accountant, Attorney, Insurance Company, Newline Editor, or any other professional person or firm deemed necessary for the good of the organization.

9. Develop and implement the annual NHPA budget guidelines, pending approval of the NHPA Council.

b. The Vice Presidents shall:

1. In their order, assume the duties of the President in the absence or disability of the President

2. Assist the President, when requested, and perform any duties their offices may imply.

3. Direct specific NHPA functions assigned to them by the President. These functions shall include (but are not limited to); Bylaws, Rules, Regional Directors, Sanctioned Leagues, Publicity, Promotions, and Website Management.

c. The Secretary-Treasurer shall:

1. Be custodian of all funds, property, records, and other NHPA owned assets.

2. Keep records of all monies received and disbursed, provide a monthly written statement of same to the Executive Council and to the Horseshoe Pitching Newline editor for publication.

3. Pay all bills for routine supplies and all special purchases that have been approved by the Executive Council.

4. Annually submit required books and records of the previous fiscal year to the NHPA accountant, for the year end report.

NOTE: Please see a more detailed NHPA Secretary/Treasurer job description on the NHPA website, or it is available on request.

### **SECTION 3. Time and Expense**

Individuals mentioned in the positions below shall receive an annual stipend to defray the expenses of using their home, utilities, and equipment; for serving certain elected and appointed NHPA positions known to require a great deal of personal time. Extraordinary expenses, as outlined in the Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) are exempt.

a. The NHPA Secretary-Treasurer shall receive \$15,000 plus 50 cents per adult member as determined by year-end membership reports.

b. The NHPA President shall receive 30% of the Secretary-Treasurer total.

c. Each NHPA Vice-President shall receive 10% of the Secretary-Treasurer total.

d. The NATSTATS Director shall receive 20% of the Secretary-Treasurer total.

e. The Horseshoe Pitching Newsline editor shall receive 10% of the Secretary-Treasurer total.

f. The NHPA President may authorize Associate Directors to assist the Vice-Presidents with specific tasks related to the functions mentioned in paragraph c., above. These Associate Directors shall receive 2-5% of the Secretary-Treasurer total, the actual percentage to be approved by the Council and determined by the magnitude of the task.

**SECTION 4.** NHPA Regional Directors shall annually receive fifty dollars (\$50.00) plus 20 cents per adult NHPA member in their region based on the year-end membership report of the Secretary-Treasurer.

**SECTION 5.** All NHPA positions listed above in section 3 (a-f), who attend the World Tournament will receive a travel allowance in accordance with the current Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) guide of the NHPA. Those with dual responsibilities receive only one travel allowance.

**SECTION 6. Eligibility of officers**

a. All officers shall be NHPA adult members in good standing (dues paid and not under suspension).

**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. Incumbents, however, must announce their candidacy in the same manner by February 1st.

**SECTION 8. Terms of office**

a. All officers shall serve a three-year term.

b. The President and Fifth Vice President shall be elected starting in the year 2015.

c. The First and Third Vice Presidents shall be elected starting in the year 2016.

d. The Second and Fourth Vice Presidents and Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected starting in the year 2017.

e. Newly elected officers shall officially take office on January 1st of the year following their election.

**SECTION 9. Removal from office**

a. Any officer may be removed from office upon failure to perform the duties of the office or for any reason that brings discredit to the NHPA.

b. Removal from office shall be by a majority vote of the Executive Council members.

**SECTION 10. Vacancies in office**

Any vacancies in office, except that of President, shall be filled within thirty (30) days, by the President, and with a majority approval of the Executive Council.



**SECTION 11. Records and property held by officers**

During the last thirty days of their term, all outgoing officers and committee chairpersons shall deliver to their successors in office, all records and property of the NHPA that is in their possession.

**ARTICLE VI: Standing Committees**

**SECTION 1.** The Standing Committees of the NHPA shall be: ByLaws, Grievance, Hall of Fame, History, Minutes Approval, Promotion, RGS Book, Publicity, Statistics, and Website.

**ARTICLE VII: Charters**

**SECTION 1.** Charters shall be organized under the NHPA and shall be known as (name of state, territory or country) Division of the NHPA. It is the responsibility of Charters to follow NHPA Bylaws and if necessary, to enact separate but non-conflicting Charter Bylaws that are in compliance with their applicable State Governmental codes. Each Charter shall have a functional Executive Council, duly elected by the Charter membership, for minimum two year terms, and with the President being recognized as the ranking officer. Any person holding a Charter Executive Council position, or any associated Council position, must be an NHPA member in good standing (dues paid and not under suspension).

**SECTION 2.** Any of the above entities may apply for their first Charter from the NHPA by sending an application to the NHPA Secretary-Treasurer. This application must include a list of ten (10) paid NHPA members.

**SECTION 3.** New Charters can be granted upon majority approval of the NHPA Executive Council. Charter certificates shall be issued by the NHPA Secretary-Treasurer and must carry his/her signature and that of the NHPA President.

**SECTION 4.** Any application for additional Charters within a State must include a description or map of the proposed area, justified reasons for creating this new Charter, and a list of at least fifty (50) new or current NHPA members.

**SECTION 5.** Any State with multiple Charters must maintain at least fifty (50) members in each Charter or that Charter will be subject to revocation.

**SECTION 6.** A Charter will be entitled to convention delegates based upon the previous year's total membership as follows:

Members	Delegates	Members	Delegates
10-100	1	601-700	7
101-200	2	701-800	8
201-300	3	801-900	9
301-400	4	901-1000	10
401-500	5	1001-1100	11
501-600	6	1101-1200	12

Further expansion of the above will continue in increments of 1 per 100 members.

## **ARTICLE VIII: Delegate Meetings**

### **SECTION 1. Annual Meeting**

The annual NHPA meeting (Convention) is where the business of the organization is undertaken. The location and time frame of the annual World Tournament shall be given preference for the meeting. The meeting location shall be recommended by the Executive Council and approved by the delegates at the Convention, one year in advance.

### **SECTION 2. Special Meetings**

a. A special meeting may be called by the President, when approved by the Executive Council.

b. All Charters must be notified of this Special Meeting in writing, at least thirty (30) days before the meeting, and be informed of the reason(s) for the meeting.

c. No business except that specified in the notice may be included on this meeting agenda.

### **SECTION 3. Quorum**

A quorum for any meeting shall be at least 51% (counting delegates present plus proxies) of the total number of delegates authorized, based on the previous year's ending membership.

### **SECTION 4. Voting**

a. The President will decide on the method of voting (by voice, show of hands, written ballot, etc.).

b. Proxy voting is permitted and the Charter Delegation Chairperson shall cast any proxy votes from that delegation.

c. The President shall appoint a committee of no more than three (3) members, (two (2) of whom may be Executive Council members), to act as tellers, and who shall count the votes immediately after the polls are closed. The voting results shall be brought before the assembly (or posted) as soon as possible. When counting votes for Executive Council candidates, no teller can be related to, or be from the same state of, any candidate.

## **ARTICLE IX: Convention**

**SECTION 1.** The NHPA shall meet in convention annually to conduct the business of the Association and to elect officers.

**SECTION 2.** The delegate body shall be made up of members as noted in ARTICLE VII, Section 6.

**SECTION 3.** Delegates are chosen in a manner that the Charter Officers decide. The Charter President must provide to the NHPA President, at least 12 hours prior to the start of the convention, an email or a written and signed list of delegates, which also names the delegation Chairman.

**SECTION 4.** Each Charter that has presented an accepted delegation list is allowed to vote its maximum delegate votes based on the previous year's ending membership report, even if the Charter is represented by only a single delegate. Charters with no appointed delegates to the Convention will have no vote. States or Countries without a Charter, but with NHPA membership, may be represented, in total, by one delegate appointed by the NHPA President. This representative may speak at the Convention, but cannot vote on any matters except for the World Tournament site.

**SECTION 5.** All delegate must be NHPA members in good standing and must be residents of the Charter which they represent.

**SECTION 6.** The Charter Delegation Chairperson must have access to the Horseshoe Pitching Newsline publication.

**SECTION 7.** The NHPA elected Officers shall be allowed to speak on all Convention issues.

**SECTION 8.** The NHPA President shall appoint a committee of three members to approve, within ninety (90) days, the Minutes of the Convention. A copy of the approved Minutes shall be sent to each NHPA Officer and to each Charter President, by the NHPA Secretary-Treasurer, within thirty (30) days of their approval.

**SECTION 9.** All NHPA Bylaws and RGS amendments or revisions that are passed at the Convention shall become effective on January 1 of the following year, unless otherwise specified.

**SECTION 10.** A city or organization desiring to hold a World Tournament shall place its bid in the hands of the NHPA Secretary-Treasurer by the 31st of December, two years in advance. The NHPA President shall designate one or more members of the Executive Council to open bids after he/she has determined that these members shall have no conflict of interest in the matter. No bids will be considered unless all of the following conditions are met and approved by the Executive Council:

a. The facilities available for conducting the tournament are stated

b. A minimum bid of \$21,000 in cash is offered.

c. A minimum payment of one third (33%) of the total cash bid shall accompany the bid. This deposit is refundable, after the selection, to any unsuccessful bidders.

**SECTION 11.** The Executive Council shall award, by a 2/3 vote, the privilege of hosting a World Tournament, at least two years in advance.

**SECTION 12.** Bidders who are awarded the World Tournament must sign a contract that, among other things, requires the total bid to be paid at least one year prior to the beginning date of the tournament.

**ARTICLE X: Parliamentary Authority**

The Rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order-Newly Revised* shall govern the proceedings of the NHPA in all cases which are applicable, and in cases where they are consistent with these Bylaws.

**ARTICLE XI: Amendments**

**SECTION 1.** These Bylaws may be amended at any convention by a 2/3 majority vote.

**SECTION 2.** These Bylaws may be revised at any Convention provided a revision has been ordered at the previous Convention, and by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the seated delegates at that Convention.

**SECTION 3.** Bylaws and Rule changes due to NHPA 1st Vice President by September 30th for consideration by rules committee. If a revision is authorized, there shall be no other amendments proposed to the existing Bylaws.

Last complete revision adopted July 16, 2006

Bylaws last amended July 28th, 2019



## **NHPA Standing Rules**

Standing Rules are solely for the guidance of the Executive Council. They may be adopted, changed, or suspended by a majority vote at any official Council meeting, without notice. Between meetings, the Executive Council may adopt, change, or suspend a Standing Rule via email/phone discussion and voting. These actions shall continue to be official unless overturned by delegates assembled at the next convention by a two-thirds vote. Council approved changes to Standing Rules take effect immediately and are as follows:

1. The Executive Council shall have their annual membership, and Awards Banquet fees paid by the NHPA.
2. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be bonded. The Executive Council shall determine the bond amount and the cost shall be paid by the NHPA. Proof of bonding shall be provided annually.
3. The Executive Council shall determine the initial fee to be charged for sanctioning or licensing of a product and set any renewal or royalty fees.
4. The Executive Council, by majority vote, may authorize the purchase, production, and distribution of patches, awards, literature, videos, or other promotional items that they deem suitable for the advancement and goodwill of the sport and the NHPA.
5. Game related items at the World Tournament must be sold through authorized NHPA distributors or by other personnel appointed by the Executive Council. Anyone else wishing to sell merchandise at the World Tournament site must have prior permission of the Executive Council.
6. Authorized NHPA distributors of game related items have the sole selling rights at any NHPA sanctioned tournament. The sale of game-related items, by an authorized distributor at an NHPA sanctioned tournament, cannot be refused by the Tournament Director or Committee, as long as there is no more than one active, authorized distributor attending the tournament, and as long as there is no violation of local laws.
7. The NHPA will not recognize or sanction, as an approved horseshoe, any brand name that is produced by a manufacturer who will not sign a written agreement with the NHPA.
8. When submitting a new model of pitching horseshoe, for sanction approval, or for changes to an existing or older model, the NHPA Secretary must also receive a complete written description and/or prototype of the newly proposed design.
9. The Horseshoe Pitching Newslines must publish:
  - 1) The financial reports of the NHPA Secretary-Treasurer
  - 2) The Auditor's annual year-end report
  - 3) The World Tournament prize list
  - 4) Information about candidates running for office

5) Any proposed changes to the Bylaws and/or RGS Book. This information shall be published as early as possible, before the Convention. Items 4 and 5 above must also be included in the delegate packets, along with a meeting agenda, which are to be mailed to all Charter Presidents as soon as the required information has been gathered and printed.

10. Regional Directors are appointed, removed, replaced, and will serve in accordance with the published RD Guidelines developed by the NHPA Vice President who oversees the RD program.

11. All member-proposed changes to the NHPA Bylaws and RGS Book shall be submitted in writing to the respective Committee Chairperson and shall be postmarked no later than September 30th.

12. The NHPA Officers, Regional Directors, Committee members and others directed by the Executive Council, shall endeavor to save and maintain (via computer when possible) all relevant membership, subscription, inventory, scheduling, historical, statistical, and other important information. Where appropriate, printouts of same will be made available to the Executive Council and to Charter officers.

13. The official NHPA RGS Book is printed as a separate document. The RGS Committee can review and bring approved, proposed changes before the Convention Delegates for a vote, at any convention. A two-thirds majority vote is required to pass all proposed playing rule, requirement, and specification changes.

14. The NHPA shall donate to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation (NHPF) the amount of one dollar(\$1.00) per adult member per year.

15. The NHPA shall provide longevity patches to those who reach 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 years of membership. These accumulated years do not have to be consecutive or all from the same Charter. It is up to each Charter to track these years and to report them to the NHPA Secretary-Treasurer. Those who reach 50 years of membership shall be granted a lifetime membership to the NHPA and will not be required to pay NHPA annual dues. Charter membership dues may still be required, depending on the decision of that Charter/State Association. Benefits for lifetime members will include, but are not limited to, a lifetime membership card.

Last complete revision adopted July 26, 1992

Standing Rules last amended/ratified on July 15th, 2018

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