

# Nor-Cal News & Views

Northern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association website address is: <http://www.nchpa.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/568662210169482/>

The following is a method of creating interest in horseshoe pitching. It was developed by Dan Molineaux in Rhode Island. The New England group runs these type of events at multiple locations to generate interest and gain new members. Let's begin one of these type of events at your local club in 2019. If everyone on a specific date would publicize this and run a local event we could build the clubs back up. We MUST do something now! Need some more help, call me.

## HORSESHOEMANIA RIHPA STYLE

Thank you all for your interest in HORSESHOEMANIA. This tournament concept was developed by Dan Molineaux of the Rhode Island Horseshoe Pitching Association to bring non-sanctioned Horseshoe Players into a tournament environment and exposure to our Charter. Here is how it works. Hold a Horseshoemania Tournament and challenge your Charter members to bring a friend.

Goal: Challenge all of your "Charter Members" to bring a non-sanctioned player to a HORSESHOEMANIA Tournament. Offer a free or a reduced entry to your member.

1. Horseshoemania is a 7 round random blind draw partner tournament with a twist.
  - A new partner is drawn after every round. This allows new players to play with players of all different skill levels and allows new players to pitch a variety of different shoes.
  - Games are played to 25 with a twist. A maximum score of 30 can be attained. Game ends with the final score of the final shoes. (IE: 27-11, 25-22, 30-10) We play cancelation but you can play count all if you desire.
  - Winners of the Tournament are determined by total points scored not by wins and losses.
  - In RI we charge a \$20.00 Entry Fee, the RIHPA keeps \$100.00, all other Money collected goes to prize fun.
  - In RI, we pay the top 2 highest point totals as our 1<sup>st</sup> place team, next high 2 2<sup>nd</sup> place all the way down till all \$\$ are depleted.
  - Some interesting points about this format:
    - 1.) The top 2-point scores may never play together
    - 2.) Players with 1 or 2 loses may finish higher than players with no loses due to higher point finish.
    - 3.) Many times, due to the luck of the draw players in 1<sup>st</sup> place at round 7 finish out of the money.....

One other note that we have noticed is that not always the best players win. Due to the format with a different partner drawn, different shoes, player match up it makes for some interesting games. Rick Howe is a regular at our tournaments and yes, he has won

his fair share and he normally comes in the money but many times he has walked away with nothing.

I am sure if you use this concept you may come up with a new variation of play. If you do please share with everyone. The folks in Vt. Were the first to use count all they like it. I am thinking about making the 6<sup>th</sup> round a “Wild Card” in which in that round only I would take the highest point total player and pair them up with the lowest point total player, just might make things interesting.

YOU CAN DRAW PARTNERS USING CHIPS OR PLAYING CARDS. BUT IF YOU ARE INTERESTED I HAVE COME UP WITH A EXCEL SHEET THAT WORKS WITH A WEB BASED PROGRAM THAT RANDOMLY DRAWS PARTNERS AND ASSIGNS THEM TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COURTS FOR UP TO 50 PLAYERS USING 12 COURTS. IF YOU IM ME WITH YOUR E-MAIL I CAN FORWARD THIS TO YOU. IT COMES WITH INSTRUCTIONS. TRUST ME I AM NO COMPUTER GEEK SO THIS IS VERY USER FRIENDLY AND SAVES ALLOT OF TIME BECAUSE YOU CAN SET UP ALL 7 ROUNDS. YOU WILL HAVE NO WORRIES AS TO WHO CHOSE WHAT CHIP OR WHO DIDN'T PUT THEIRS BACK. ***dan.molineaux@yahoo.com***

## Officers Messages:

### Secretary/Treasurer

Hi all – Well this year is flying bye. I can't believe it's almost Annual meeting time again. Are you all ready? The meeting will be held November 10<sup>th</sup> - 9:00AM – 12:30PM at Florin Rebekah Lodge 8360 Florin Rd in Sacramento. We will be letting you know about lunch and awards as soon as it has all been finalized. The delegate numbers will be out to you early October.

A HUGE - THANK YOU to MIKE ANDERSON and his sidekick LEON MOORE for taking over and learning the job of NCHPA Statistician. Teaching/learning this job from a distance takes a lot of determination. Mike has brought a lot to the table including a new tracking system for year- end awards and is doing a great job on the stats side.

The NHPA has a “New Member” program in place now – They will be providing a grocery tote bag that says “I'd rather be pitching” and a T-Shirt with the NHPA logo

on it. NEW MEMBERS will be eligible to receive these after they have pitched two tournaments, which the NHPA will be tracking. SO, that means when YOU sign up a new member we will need you to send me a shirt size and color preference along with their other information. **Pink, Orange, Red, Yellow** are the colors I remember seeing. I will dig further to find if there are other colors and let you know. George and I will work together on getting these items to you for your pitcher or giving them directly to the pitcher by us. Any pitcher you signed up this year and pitched 2 tournaments will receive the package, but we will need to get their shirt size and color preference so may need your assistance on that. For the future please ask them for a shirt size and color when you sign up brand new members – not returning members please.

Thanks now let's get a bunch of new members please... ***Gail Sluys***

## 1st VP

We are up to 52 new members this year. On the new list I see Adakai Begaye as a new Cadet pitcher; this is Hastiin's brother which means more pitching talent out of the Madera Club!

The State Tournament was held in Bakersfield over Labor Day weekend, and the Southern California Charter did a nice job hosting 159 pitchers for this year's event. It was a well-run tournament with even the Bakersfield heat cooperating, only the mid afternoon groups ran into sweltering conditions. Marcus Santillana managed to win the Men's Championship Group for his 6<sup>th</sup> Title in a row. How does Rick Bermingham manage to throw the highest game of the tournament (73.81%), throw the highest average in the Championship Group (57.07%), beat Marcus head to head, and come in second place? He did that by losing to three fellow Norcal pitchers. Rick lost to Frank Arroyo in the opening game, then on the second night lost to three time State Champ Nathan Williams, and lost to Top Seed Marty Montez. Note to Frank, Nathan, and Marty, great games men! ...but Marcus is the one to beat! Sandra Johnson won her 4<sup>th</sup> Women's Championship, while our Michelle White of the Willows Club finished a very respectable 2<sup>nd</sup> place. San Francisco's Luke Zepponi won his 2<sup>nd</sup> Boys Championship, going undefeated. Our Hastiin Begay made it two Cadet Titles in a row; his 53.29 % is the highest winning ringer percentage for a California Cadet Champion. Other outstanding NCHPA performances were a second place finish in the Senior Men's Championship by defending champ Donald Henry. Evelyn Espinola won Cadets B with an undefeated record. Seaside's Rick Thompson had a nice 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in Men's B, with Dale Tex finishing 4<sup>th</sup>. Dave Lane, pitching in

pain, had a heroic 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in Men's C which included a fine 57.5% game. Paul Machado finished 5<sup>th</sup> in Men's D, and Chris Benson took 2<sup>nd</sup> in Men's F. Isaac Rodriquez grabbed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Men's G, while Top Seed in the group, our own President Joe Summers went clean at 0-11 (it only goes to show that being Co-Tournament Director, replacing the broken stakes in 100 degree heat, having a blown out throwing shoulder, and a bad case of right-itis will get you every time!) Laurence Henry was 3<sup>rd</sup> in Men's H, while Alex Voskes had a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Men's I. Byrlyn McCormick took Women's B, while Gina Cyr finished 2<sup>nd</sup>. It took a playoff for NCHPA Hall of Famer Bill Terry to win Elder's B, and another Hall of Famer, Tri-Valley's Richard Robbins took 2<sup>nd</sup> in Elders C. All in all, Norcal pitchers pitched well in Bakersfield, and look forward to pitching on our home turf for next year's State Tournament. *George Davis*

## 3rd. VP

At the end of September we are 90% through the 2018 Norcal pitching season with 107 of 119 sanctioned tournaments behind us. Of the 107 tournaments 4 were cancelled due to rain/wet, 1 was cancelled due to host club member surgery, and one was unused/cancelled due to rescheduling an earlier tournament. Two tournaments were postponed due to wet conditions and both have now been made up. Of the 101 tournaments actually pitched through the end of August there were 1299 entries with 1196 being Norcal pitchers and 103 being non-Norcal pitchers. Many of the non-Norcal pitchers were from Nevada with some from Idaho, Oregon, and Wisconsin. A few Socal pitchers have also entered our tournaments. To the end of August Norcal

has 53 rookies. Everyone keep on promoting horseshoes!

The Norcal pitchers pitching in the most tournaments as of the end of August are:

Rich Robbins 27

Rick Della Santina 23

Gina Cyr 19

Bill Terry 19

Everybody keep on pitching!

As always you club statisticians can make our task pretty easy if you submit your results in a timely manner. We would like to have them within two days after your tournament is complete so that the pitchers will have their averages submitted to Natstats in time for the following weeks update. Please email results to me at: [meanderson99@yahoo.com](mailto:meanderson99@yahoo.com). And please be sure that the boxscore files that you send are generated in HSMaster as Tournaments, Reports, Format, Results [not Results (Brief)]. Keep in mind that I would like to see member numbers in every file that you send. That means I want the long version, not brief version, of every file. Thanks for all your help. *Mike Anderson*

## 4th. VP

**The 2019 pitching schedule is being prepared and there are still 6 clubs out of 20 who have not turned in their dates!!! If you are one of those errant clubs, PLEASE get your dates in! I cannot create a schedule until ALL dates are in.**

As the 2018 pitching season wanes we look forward to the championships at Vallejo and Shasta/Willows. We are preparing for our 2018 annual meeting in Sacramento where the tentative 2019 schedule will be presented (see 1st paragraph!) And if you have in mind

any new or revised bylaws, I should have them in my hand by now but I will give you until October 1st to send them in to me at my email or snail mail or phone (see the front of the schedule or the back of the newsletter for all those addresses). I hope to see many of you at the Team Doubles Championships or the NCHPA Championships or somewhere on the courts in Northern California! Blessings to you all.  
- *Lorena Tournour*

## 5th. VP

Hello everyone, it has been one week after the State Championships I hope everyone is well and I hope that everyone that participated in the State Championships has recovered and had a safe trip home. It took me one week to recover. The southern crew did a suburb job and I appreciate all the hard work that they did to put on the State Championships. The horseshoe pits were great in my opinion and everything ran smoothly. I congratulate all the winners and I thank all that participated. All that practice and anticipation is gone now and back to the regular weekly tournaments. There are still a lot of good tournaments to play in and the NCHPA Championships coming up in October. I want to let everyone know that the "Jeff Vieira/Peter Chavarria tournament on October 14<sup>th</sup> in Stockton has been canceled.

I discussed with the board members in Bakersfield the possibility of starting a horseshoe club in the Clovis/Fresno area. I have been talking with some people in the area and I am committed to start a club in Clovis/Fresno area. There are 10 real nice horseshoe pits in Bicentennial Park in Clovis. At one time these pits were certified by Casey. If you know anyone in the Clovis/Fresno area that would like to join please let me know.

I am still in charge of paper products so if you need any scorecards, round robin cards please contact me. Thank you all **Jeff Vieira**

# CLUBS:

## Ukiah

Our members had a wonderful time at the "Dash for Cash" in Fortuna in August and are looking forward to some championship pitching in the doubles and NorCal. We have chosen our dates for the 2019 tournament season and we hope to see you all on our courts next year. We have a nice deal with the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds and as long as it lasts you should try to visit us during the cooler months of April and May and even June! We hope to see you all on the courts somewhere in Northern California and maybe even Texas for the World Tournament!!!! Thank you and God bless you all. **-Lorena Tournour**

## Half Moon Bay

We would like to welcome 5 new members, **Vienna Klingele, Nicco Klingele, Jimmy Lintt, Bret Duncan & Anthony Stoloski.**

**Our June to September highlights:** Bill Terry won the Elders Men Class B Division at the 2018 California State Championships. Bill defeated Johnny Ruiz in a playoff. Bills high game for the tournament was 50%. Alex Voskes placed second place in Men's Class I, with a high game of 22.5%. Richard Robbins (Associate Member) placed second in Elders Men Class C. Richard's high game was 37.5%. Our Club would also like to acknowledge 7-year-old Evelyn Espinola for winning the Cadet B division in her first State Tournament. Evelyn average 25% for

the tournament with a High game of 34.62%. She won all six of her games. Teo Espinola pitched a 50% game against his father Javier at the Joe Sciarra Open in August.

Pat McGowan pitched a 70% game in the Keith & Foa Remillong Tournament in July. Teo Espinola pitched a 50% game against his father Javier at the Joe Sciarra Open in August.

Our last two tournaments for the season will be on December 1st. & 2nd. We hope to see you there.

The new Best Western on the corner of HYW 1 & Wavecrest, HMB, is finally completed. See you on the courts!

**Rick Della Santina**

## San Jose

Congratulations to all the pitchers who managed to attend the 2018 World Tournament in Florence, South Carolina and to those who made it to the 2018 California State Championships in Bakersfield, CA. I am sure that fun was had by all.

The San Jose June 16 Jim Saunders Tournament and the June 17 Nakamoto Family Tournament were both small tournaments, but with the pitching and the potluck lunch everyone had a good time. Please join us in San Jose for our Sat. Sep. 29 Marisela Mauricio Tournament and our Sun. Sep. 30 Dick McCall Tournament.

Thanks to those who attended our 2018 tournaments. We hope to see you and many others at our 2019 tournaments. Best wishes for the upcoming holiday season. **Mike Anderson**

## **Sacramento**

Hello fellow pitchers! Congratulations to all the winners at the state tournament. A great tournament and good weather. Luke Zepponi winning another state title in the junior division top group. Hastiin Begaye taking the cadet title as well. I hope to see everyone that can make it at the NorCal championship at the Vallejo club the first weekend in October. The Doubles tournament is coming soon as well at the Willows Club. Let's all try and support the clubs towards the end of this pitching season including my favorite place to pitch is Gold Country in Nevada City. New clay and new stakes as of last year. Crisp mountain air but still warm weather as the nice creek running through Pioneer Park by the way. I really enjoyed seeing a lot of new faces at the state tournament. Let's all promote the NCHPA and try and get new pitchers. They are out there! See you on the courts! May all your horseshoes be ringers...*Rick Bermingham*

## **Sonoma County**

There is still a great opportunity to pitch in Santa Rosa. On the 29th of this month is the Mystery Money Open. You've got to experience a tournament of this kind in order to appreciate it. Of your \$10.00 entry fee you get \$6.00 back in denominations that can be divided in half numerous times. The way we do this is (depending on the turnout) 6, 7 or 8 person groups, you win a game you collect 1/2 of your opponents money. Put that money into the envelope, you now have \$9.00 the loser has \$3.00. If you lose the next game you give your opponent \$4.50, if they won their 1st game they now have \$13.50 in their envelope and you have \$4.50.....etc etc until all games have been played. At game's end you either have a

bunch of money OR you have 7 cents either way it makes for a fun time. *Casey Sluys*

## **Stockton:**

Things have been quiet this summer in Stockton. We have been able to raise the \$200 in order to honor Joe and Millie with an 8 x 8 brick at the National Hall of Fame. I'm in the process of sending in the application to the NHPF

I've been in contact with a man who is interested in pitching in the NCHPA. He is a serious enough pitcher that he owns a pair of Ted Allen horseshoes, and tells me he throws a 1 ¼. His dad pitched in bar leagues in this area several years ago, and he learned the game from his father. He has a 10 year old son who is interested in horseshoes, and he is constructing clay courts in his backyard. Hopefully, Stockton will have a couple of new members! *George Davis*

## **The following 5 rule changes passed at the 2018 convention in Florence, SC**

**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.

### **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).*

### **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 as NHPA members, we should try to increase participation

*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**

##### **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**

#### **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 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 carter 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 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.

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