



The Ringer Report



MHPA NEWS: A New and Familiar President takes Charge

by Dean Schmitz, Editor



Mark

We are entering a new term for the MHPA; **Mark Burns** is our new President and will lead us into the future of the MHPA. One of the first challenges for Mark will be retaining and growing our membership. He

will be the TD at many of our tournaments such as the State Doubles and State Singles tournaments and many local tournaments.

Outgoing President **Josh Lull** made this comment at the fall meeting: *"Thank you to Michele Burns for volunteering to finish out the remainder of the term for the secretary/treasurer position until elections in 2025. Also, thank you to Keith and Tina Schafer for their help over the last year with keeping things afloat with the changes."*

Please encourage members that are not present at this meeting to attend the membership meetings that are held two times a year – these meetings are the membership's opportunity for their voices to be heard. If the by-law proposal changes are presented, they will be reviewed and voted on by the membership to make changes to benefit all members."

Tina Payne, continues as our 1st Vice-President and will begin serving her second year in that position. She is in charge of the Constitution/Bylaws committee. Tina also serves as TD for the St. Clair Shores Horseshoe Club.

Helga Hewlett was elected 2nd



Josh

Vice-President and will be the MHPA grievance director. Helga is also the TD for the Mecosta Horseshoe Club.



Michele

Michele Burns, is our secretary / treasurer with an added duty of our statistician as well as the membership chair. She is the go to person for many MHPA concerns and problems.

Below are the remaining committee chairs and appointed positions.

- Zachary Spanke __ Regional Director
- Danny Markley __ Hall of Fame Chair
- Tina Payne _____ Constitution/Bylaws
- _____ Social Media Chair
- Pat Bailey _____ HOF and Museum
- Helga Hewlett __ Grievance
- Bob Williams __ MHPA Website
- Bob Wells _____ St. Jude Coordinator
- Dean Schmitz __ Ringer Report Editor
- Open Position __ Promotional/Publicity Chair
- Open Position __ Youth Committee Chair
- Open Position __ Audit & Finance



Zach

Our Association is in need to fill the open positions. We all want to "keep horseshoe pitching alive." What better way than to volunteer for one of these positions. Another point to be made is that some of our volunteers are getting very old and will have to be replaced through no fault of their own.

The executive committee and volunteers can be described as "workhorses" - who consistently put in a significant amount of effort and handle workloads for the MHPA. So, a huge **thank you** to those who consistently put in the hard work behind the scenes; your dedication and effort are truly invaluable and make everything for the MHPA run smoothly.



Tina



Helga

President's Report

Josh Lull



Well Pitchers, we have reached a couple of ends. The end of pitching for the calendar year, the end of the calendar year and the end of my term.

I would just like to start by saying it has been my privilege to serve all the MHPA members and organization as President.

Did everything go perfectly? No. Did I finish and reach all my goals? No. However, I learned more, and gained a new appreciation for the position than I could have ever imagined. For that I'm grateful that I was voted into the position that gave me the opportunity.

As the end of a year is a time of reflection let's keep in our thoughts those that we have lost and continue to play and represent the game we all love at the highest levels possible.

I want to give a few special thanks to Dean Schmitz for the work he has done and continues to do for the ringer report. (Also, for putting up with me when submitting my articles)

Roger Higgins and Paul Bachelor for being a bit of a special counsel to me when I was tasked with issues, I was unsure on how exactly to handle. They provided guidance and history giving me a more informed perspective.

Finally, I'd like to thank the other officers. Being willing to workshop with me as we tried to resolve issues and move the MHPA forward made the process much easier.

Lastly, I encourage all of you to get involved. Get involved with your local league, club, or maybe even consider a state office in the MHPA. If anyone has any questions I'd love to share my experience.

We are going to need all the help and different opinions to move the MHPA to where we all want it to be.

Respect the Standards,

Josh Lull, President

Michigan Horseshoe Pitchers Association

The Ringer Report

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Emails to the Editor and news items are encouraged.



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Tournament Results Indoor

Mecosta @Jackson - Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024

Class A	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Lisa Smith	59.46	5-1	138	264	52.27
2. J.D. Drake	69.34	4-2	140	272	51.47
3. George Parsons	43.42	2-4	97	230	40.43
4. Bobby Mumford Sr.	42.96	1-5	87	242	35.95

Class B	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Kayden Fowler	35.00	4-0	57	142	40.14
2. Reginald Watkins	31.00	3-1	53	176	30.11
3. Johnnie Smith	32.88	1-3	53	210	27.14
4. Kevin Gladstone	23.58	1-3	48	202	23.76
5. George Jones	25.33	1-3	47	198	23.74

Class C	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Bryce Vancleave	11.13	6-0	49	222	22.07
2. Jackson Vancleave	21.64	4-2	28	224	12.50
3. Cindy Jones	5.50	2-4	19	222	8.56
4. Audrey Hetrick	2.92	0-6	7	228	3.07

Jackson @Jackson - Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024

Class A	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Brandy Morehead	64.45	4-0	93	162	57.41
2. J.D. Drake	69.34	2-2	103	176	58.52
3. Helga Hewlett	58.38	2-2	90	170	52.94
4. Ed Hildreth (OH)	65.82	1-3	101	162	62.35
5. Lisa Smith	59.46	1-3	110	190	57.89

Class B	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Bob Peek	46.29	4-0	78	156	50.00
2. Sam Moore	46.59	3-1	67	134	50.00
3. George Parsons	43.42	2-2	60	142	42.25
4. Bobby Mumford Sr.	42.96	1-3	36	140	25.71
5. Danny Markley	49.04	0-4	61	176	34.66

Class C	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. George Jones	25.59	4-0	54	152	35.53
2. Jason Larson	29.57	3-1	52	172	30.23
3. Johnnie Smith	32.88	2-2	46	152	30.26
4. Bobby Mumford	26.71	1-3	38	170	22.35
5. Cindy Jones	6.91	0-4	12	134	8.96

"Keep Horseshoe Pitching Alive"

A sport for all ages. With tournaments that award champions for cadets, junior girls, junior boys, women, men, senior women and men, and elder women and men.

A true family sport that provides a healthy atmosphere for sport, exercise, camaraderie, and fun!

We need to expand this sport to get everyone involved.



NHPA

National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

"Come Pitch with Us!"

NHPA 2025 Memberships are available

Are you ready for 2025? Renewing your NHPA membership is available now on eShoe!

For those that qualify for the new women's division... it is available!

For those that registering to get ready for next year... it is available!

For those that are gifting youth memberships to their kids/grandkids... it is available!

For those that are going to invite their friends/neighbors/co-workers to join... it is available!

For those getting ready for a great year pitching... it is available!

NHPA Memberships purchased after October 1st are good until December 31, 2025!

Invite your friends, neighbors, and anyone else you think of to join us for our new pitching season.

—NHPA Executive Council

Give a gift of love to your families - Give them a FREE membership in the NHPA!

There is no better time than right now to think about those you love and the sport that brings you joy!

Memberships for the 2025 NHPA horseshoe season are available now!

Click here to JOIN or RENEW your 2025 membership!

In case you didn't hear, all Cadet and Junior horseshoe pitchers have their membership fees waived for the 2025 NHPA season. There is no better time to involve your kids, grandkids, neighbors kids, and their friends in horseshoes than right now because it is FREEEEEEEEEEEE...but they still need to register!

Give the gift of horseshoes to those you love this year. We look forward to seeing you on the courts and reading about your accomplishments on eShoe.

Pitch those ringers...and if you can't...keep 'em close to the stake!

—NHPA Executive Council

HIGH TOURNAMENTS OF 30 FOOT MEN & WOMEN!

By Keith Schafer, *Outgoing Historian*

Women have been competing for state championships since 1960, and Elder Champions are an even more recent development in horseshoe championship play. It is now their turn to get the spotlight here in the Ringer Report. As before, only the top tournament is listed, and only Michigan pitchers are on this list. First up are the Women, and the only woman who has pitched 80% in Michigan in a live tournament. **Judy Curtiss** won 11 consecutive state titles (1998-2008) and a total of 17 state titles. She also finished 3rd in the World Tournament Championships for Women. Her tournament of 82.60% on July 26, 2008 in Lansing tops this list. Judy was a top pitcher for a long time, as her first state title was in 1988.



Terry Beagle is next on the list. She threw 78.40% at Hillsdale on May 11, 2014. She was a 10-time state champion, with 8 consecutive (2011-2018). At St. George, UT, she also had a 3rd place in the Women's Championship at the World Tournament. Terry was a rising contender in the 2000s and was the top woman in the state during the 2010 decade.

Anne French is 3rd among the women with her 77.30% tournament at Union City on July 30, 1997. She was a 3-time state champion (1994, 1996, and 1997), and was a top pitcher throughout the 1990s.

Ann Wedel was a top pitcher during the 1980 decade, and won 3 state titles (1980, 1983, 1984). Her top tournament was 77% at Sturgis on August 28, 1982.

Denise Daly is the 5th on this list, with a recent top effort of 76.81% at Jackson Indoor on February 24, 2024. Denise was a champion in Illinois before moving to Michigan. She won Women's state championships in 2019 and 2023.

The Elders also have some excellent top 5 tournaments. **Jim Wiltse** has the only tournament over 80% among the Elders in Michigan, with his effort at Lake Orion on August 9, 1998 where he threw 81.10%. Jim won 6 state championships as an Elder and 3 Men's championships. He won 6 consecutive state championships, 1996 and 1997 at the 40 foot distance and 1998 through 2001 as an Elder!

Our current state champion is second on this list. **JD Drake** had his top tournament at Lansing on August 27, 2017 with 77.89%. He has won 12 consecutive state titles, only Tom Williams with 13 consecutive Men's titles tops him.

Claude Shannahan also liked the Lansing courts, as his top tournament on September 21, 1996 was done in Lansing, going 77.50%. He was the Elder champion in 1996, and was a top pitcher for a good period of time.

Ron Haines threw his tournament at Clio in a sanctioned M-46 tournament on May 22, 1993, throwing 76.40%. This Gladwin native won the Elder championship in 1992.

Finally, the 5th person to be listed among the Elders in **Lawrence Hinton**. He threw 75.40% in Jackson Indoor on October 6, 2012, a 306-shoe effort! Lawrence was the Elder champion in 2010, 2011, and 2012, and finished 5th at the World tournament in the Elder championship at Knoxville in 2012. He has been a constant presence at the courts over the years, although he travels a little less to tournaments these days.

Well, that finishes this series of the top efforts of Michigan pitchers over the years. Hopefully, some names from the past have helped you be aware of our history, and present names are showing history still happening every day.

Speaking of history still happening, take note of these facts from our last state tournament. **Keith Schafer** threw the lowest ringer percentage for a state runner up in the Men's competition since before the charter was established as the Wolverine State Horseshoe Pitching Association in 1935 with his 50% effort in the finals. **JD Drake** broke a tie with **Judy Curtiss** for the second longest streak on consecutive titles. **Paul Bachelor** was pitching for the 11th time in a modern championship group (9 at the Men's distance, and 2 as an Elder). **Doug Bailey** has also pitched 11 championships (6 as a 40 footer and 5 as an Elder). And as a final fact, **Quincy Johnson** had the most experience in championships among this year's Men with his 5th appearance, and **Lisa Smith** has the most experience in championships among this year's Women with her 4th appearance.

Thanks for reading and enjoy your winter!

2025 MHPA SANCTIONED TOURNAMENT PITCHING SCHEDULE

Outdoor Tournaments - Check-in by 9:30 a.m

Indoor Tournaments must pre-register with the Tournament Director - Check-in by 9:30 a.m. - Starting time 10:00 a.m.

		DATE	HOST CLUB
January	PRE - REGISTER		
		1/4/2025 - Sat	
	TO GUARANTEE	1/5/2025 - Sun	Jackson
		1/11/2025 - Sat	
	YOUR SPOT FOR	1/12/2025 - Sun	
		1/18/2025 - Sat	Mecosta
	WINTER TOURNAMENTS	1/19/2025 - Sun	
	1/25/2025 - Sat	Jackson	
	1/26/2025 - Sun		
February	PRE - REGISTER		
		2/1/2025 - Sat	Kalamazoo
		2/2/2025 - Sun	
	TO GUARANTEE	2/8/2025 - Sat	Jackson
		2/9/2025 - Sun	
	YOUR SPOT FOR	2/15/2025 - Sat	
		2/16/2025 - Sun	Jackson
WINTER TOURNAMENTS	2/22/2025 - Sat	Brighton	
	2/23/2025 - Sun		
March	PRE - REGISTER		
		3/1/2025 - Sat	Kalamazoo
		3/2/2025 - Sun	
	TO GUARANTEE	3/8/2025 - Sat	Mecosta
		3/9/2025 - Sun	
	YOUR SPOT FOR	3/15/2025 - Sat	Tom Burns Memorial (Mark Burns TD)
		3/16/2025 - Sun	
WINTER TOURNAMENTS	3/22/2025 - Sat	(Non-Sanctioned tournament being held)	
	3/23/2025 - Sun		
	3/29/2025 - Sat		
	3/30/2025 - Sun	Jackson	
April	PRE - REGISTER		
		4/5/2025 - Sat	
		4/6/2025 - Sun	
	TO GUARANTEE	4/12/2025 - Sat	State Tournament Fund (Zach Spanke TD)
		4/13/2025 - Sun	
	YOUR SPOT FOR	4/19/2025 - Sat	
		4/20/2025 - Sun	
EASTER	4/20/2025 - Sun		
WINTER TOURNAMENTS	4/26/2025 - Sat	Thrun Vincent (Jackson)	
SPRING MEETING	4/27/2025 - Sun		
	Outdoor Season Begins		
May		5/3/2025 - Sat	
		5/4/2025 - Sun	
		5/10/2025 - Sat	Mecosta (not confirmed)
	Mother's Day	5/11/2025 - Sun	
	Team World	5/16/2025 - Fri	
	Team World	5/17/2025 - Sun	
	Team World	5/18/2025 - Sat	Kalamazoo
		5/24/2025 - Sat	
		5/25/2025 - Sun	
	Memorial Day	5/26/2025 - Mon	Lansing
June			
		6/7/2025 - Sat	St. Clair Shores Memorial Tournament
		6/8/2025 - Sun	
		6/15/2024 - Fri	Kalamazoo
		6/14/2025 - Sat	Lake Orion
	Father's Day	6/15/2025 - Sun	
		6/21/2025 - Sat	Jackson

		6/22/2025 - Sun		
		6/28/2025 - Sat	Mecosta	
		6/29/2025 - Sun	Jackson	
July				
	4th of July	7/4/2025 - Fri		
		7/5/2025 - Sat		
		7/6/2025 - Sun		
		7/12/2025 - Sat	St. Jude/Mike Ardelean Memorial - Lake Orion	
		7/13/2025 - Sun	Jackson	
		7/18/2025 - Fri	Kalamazoo	
	7/19/2025 - Sat	St. Jude - Lansing		
	7/20/2025 - Sun			
	World Tournament	7/26/2025 - Sat		
	World Tournament	7/27/2025 - Sun		
August				
	World Tournament	8/2/2025 - Sat	State Doubles - St. Clair Shores	
		8/3/2025 - Sun		
		8/9/2025 - Sat	Lake Orion	
		8/10/2025 - Sun		
		8/16/2025 - Sat	Jackson (Mark Burns TD)	
		8/17/2025 - Sun	St. Clair Shores - Non-Walking Doubles	
		Fri - State Tournament	8/22/2025 - Fri	Jackson
		State Tournament	8/23/2025 - Sat	Jackson
		State Tournament	8/24/2025 - Sun	Jackson
		8/30/2025 - Sat		
		8/31/2025 - Sun		
September				
	Labor Day	9/1/2025 - Mon		
		9/6/2025 - Sat	Lansing	
		9/7/2025 - Sun	Jackson	
		9/13/2025 - Sat		
		9/14/2025 - Sun		
		9/20/2025 - Sat	Woody Cup -Lake Orion	
	9/21/2025 - Sun			
	9/27/2025 - Sat	Jackson		
	Fall Schedule Meeting	9/28/2025 - Sun		
	FALL INDOOR BEGINS			
October	PRE - REGISTER			
		10/4/2025 - Sat		
		10/5/2025 - Sun		
	TO GUARANTEE	10/11/2025 - Sat		
		10/12/2025 - Sun		
	YOUR SPOT FOR	10/18/2025 - Sat	Brighton	
		10/19/2025 - Sun		
FALL TOURNAMENTS	10/25/2025 - Sat	Mecosta		
	10/26/2025 - Sun	Jackson		
November	PRE - REGISTER			
		11/1/2025 - Sat		
		11/2/2025 - Sun		
	TO GUARANTEE	11/8/2025 - Sat	Mecosta	
		11/9/2025 - Sun		
	YOUR SPOT FOR	11/15/2025 - Sat	Jackson	
		11/16/2025 - Sun		
FALL TOURNAMENTS	11/22/2025 - Sat	Jackson		
	11/23/2025 - Sun			

**Constitution and By-laws of the
Michigan Division of the NHPA established 1935
REVISED October, 2024**

Preamble

The sport of horseshoe pitching affords a healthy, scientific, pleasant and competitive sport suitable to all persons with a desire to unify horseshoe adherents, standardize horseshoe pitching rules, authorize and conduct tournaments of local, state and national scope, promote the establishment of league and clubs. We the horseshoe pitchers of Michigan, in convention assembled do here establish the following Constitution and By-laws for the Association.

Article I: Name

The name of this Association shall be MICHIGAN HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION (MHPA).

Article II: Administration

Section 1.

All legislative power herein granted shall be vested in the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of the president, 1ST and 2ND vice presidents, secretary/treasurer, MHPA statistician, Regional Director and the chairperson of the standing committees.

Section 2.

The Board of Directors is required to meet a minimum of two times each year. The Board of Directors is responsible for the business of the MHPA. A two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors must be present to form a quorum. A majority vote by the members of the Board of Directors present is required to transact any business.

Section 3.

The officers of this Association shall consist of a president, 1st and 2nd vice-presidents and secretary/treasurer. The officers shall be known as the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall be in charge of the Association's operating affairs. They shall be empowered to transact such business in the interest of the game and the Association as they deem advisable providing this is not contrary to the Constitution and By-laws or the Board of Directors.

Section 4.

The president and 2nd vice-president are to be elected in even-numbered years. The 1st vice-president and secretary/treasurer are to be elected in odd-numbered years. Their term of office shall be two years. Election of officers may be by secret ballot. Elections are held during the state Championships Tournament. Elected officers are to begin January 1. A member nominated for office shall be present at the meeting to accept the nomination. A letter of acceptance for a nomination may be submitted if the member cannot be present at the meeting.

Section 5.

In case of death, resignation or removal of an officer between state meetings, the president may make an appointment to fill the unexpired term. Any appointments are to be subject to a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors within thirty days. Should the office of president become vacant due to death, resignation or removal, the 1st vice president shall become president and the 2nd vice president shall become the 1st vice president. The 2nd vice president position shall be filled at the next scheduled meeting.

Section 6.

State officers may be removed from their positions upon failure to perform the duties of the office or for any action that brings discredit to the MHPA. A two-thirds vote by the remaining Board of Directors is required to remove an officer. Voting may be done by Registered Mail or Electronic Mail. (E-Mail)

Section 7.

The Constitution and By-laws, Rules and Regulations may be revised by submitting changes at any membership meeting or sent to the chairperson of the Constitution and By-laws Committee by July 15. Such proposed

revisions shall be published in the MHPA's August newsletter. All proposed revisions shall be voted upon at the State Tournament meeting. Any additions, deletions and/or changes shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of members present at the meeting and shall become effective January 1 of the following year. The president may at his/her option, have the State Tournament meeting later if tournament scheduling or other unforeseen reason does not allow proper time for the meeting to be held during the tournament.

Section 8.

The 1st vice-president shall be the chairperson of the Constitution and By-laws Committee. The 2nd vice-president shall be the chairperson of the Grievance and Credentials Committee. The secretary/treasurer shall be the chairperson of the Membership Committee. The chairpersons and committees shall be appointed by the president from the membership of the MHPA. No member shall be selected for more than two committees or be a chairperson of more than one committee.

A. Auditing and Finance

B. Hall of Fame

C. Publicity

D. Any other committee the president deems advisable for the good of the MHPA. It is necessary for majority of members of standing committees to be in actual attendance only if a problem arises which requires action by a particular committee. No committee shall decide an issue without a majority present. Should an occasion arise in which immediate action by a committee is required the president shall have the authority to dissolve the existing committee and appoint a new committee if a majority is not present. It shall be the duty of all committees to serve willingly and in the best interest of the MHPA. Any committee member may be removed by the Board of Directors.

Article III: Judiciary

Section 1.

All officers shall have their books, records and property belonging to the MHPA at all membership meetings. If unable to be present, the officers must forward these to the president by registered mail before the first day of the meeting. Officers shall turn over to their successors all records and property of the MHPA that may or should be in their possession at the end of their term.

Section 2.

Any bill of account or expense against the MHPA amounting to over one hundred dollars, except routing supplies, shall be submitted to the Board of Directors and paid when approved by the Board of Directors. Any bill not approved in this manner, or any amount contested by the Board of Directors, shall be brought before the membership for approval by a majority of members present.

Duties of the Secretary/Treasurer

The secretary/treasurer shall be the custodian of all membership records and act as recording secretary at all meetings, handle the issuance of NHPA cards and membership reporting to the NHPA. The secretary/treasurer shall also be the custodian of the funds of the MHPA. He/she shall furnish a complete statement to the membership of monies received and paid out at the spring meeting and after the close of business of October 1 and/or any time the Board of Directors demands. During the annual state tournament meeting, Secretary/Treasurer shall provide a verbal update of the bank account. He/she shall furnish the information requested by the Auditing and Finance Committee and have the books audited at least once per year. Any election of the secretary/treasurer shall be invalid if the elected person does not furnish the necessary information to be bonded or if he/she cannot be bonded for a minimum of \$10,000. The bonding should be done no later than January 1, when officers take over their positions, and a copy of the bonding turned over to the chairperson of the Audit and Finance committee to verify the bonding.

The duties of the Statistician will be handled by the Secretary/Treasurer. This will also add the payment for the statistician to the payment received by the Secretary/ Treasurer.

The statistician is to gather and maintain a State Tournament record of statistics that may be pertinent to the MHPA such as longest game, most consecutive ringers, State Champion, consecutive four-dead, etc. The statis-

tician shall be the custodian of printed materials and other documents belonging to the MHPA. The statistician shall maintain current ringer percentages and report all tournament results to eShoe. The statistician shall turn over these records upon demand of the Board of Directors or the authorized representative(s) of the MHPA.

Article IV: Club Charters

Section 1.

A club charter may be granted to any group requesting to sponsor a MHPA tournament if the following guidelines are fulfilled:

- A. The club shall furnish to the MHPA secretary/treasurer the name of a club member or a local Park and Recreation Department who shall receive money from the MHPA.
- B. The club shall furnish to the MHPA secretary the name of a club member who will be responsible for organizing tournaments sanctioned by the MHPA at the Scheduling Meeting.
- C. The club shall have a minimum of six horseshoe courts. There shall be six courts set up for less than 40 feet pitching. All courts must contain the same material.
- D. The club shall designate one member to handle publicity.

Section 2.

Objectives of all clubs and members.

- A. To stimulate and maintain interest in horseshoe pitching.
- B. To inform all interested persons in the rules governing the sport.
- C. To promote sound ethics in fair play.
- D. To encourage greater participation in local, regional, state and national contests.

Article V: By-laws

Section 1.

The MHPA shall have jurisdiction over all members and guests at any MHPA function.

Section 2.

The MHPA shall maintain at least a \$300.00 balance in the treasury to carry over to the coming year.

Section 3

All applications for State membership (when accepted) automatically entitle members to all courtesies and privileges extended to clubs and associations.

Section 4.

Annual membership dues are \$45.00. Dues shall be distributed as follows:

- A. \$25.00 - NHPA Membership Dues
- B. \$5.00 - General Fund
- C. \$6.00 - State Tournament Fund
- D. \$7.00 - Newsletter
- E. \$1.00 - Secretary/Treasurer F. \$1.00 - Statistician

If there are two or more cards bought in the same household the cost of the second and subsequent cards shall be \$38.00 each if requested.

Provisional Membership Dues: Provisional Membership Dues shall be the NHPA portion of the Provisional Membership Dues (currently \$10). The dues for the MHPA will be \$0 for Provisional Members.

Trial Membership Dues: No membership dues will be collected for Trial Members. Section 5.

The scorekeeping fee for all tournaments shall be One Dollar (\$1.00) per player per game, including juniors. The scorekeeping fee for all tournaments shall be One Dollar (\$1.00) per player per game, including juniors. To be added to this section: Due to circumstances at a tournament, pitchers may be asked to assume scorekeeping duties during their bye in a group game. Those who refuse to keep score will not be allowed to pitch on an open court until their bye is complete, and they also will be responsible for the scorekeeping fees for the replacement scorekeeper. Reason: No pitcher should gain an advantage by refusing to assist with the scorekeeping of a tournament.

Section 6.

The MHPA shall pay compensation of \$100.00 per year to the editor of the newsletter.

Section 7.

The host club shall retain \$4.00 out of each adult entry fee for court fees. In the event that a club or community would like to hold a MHPA tournament, but does not have the knowledge or capability to do so, they may request the Board of Directors to appoint an individual, a committee or the officers of the MHPA to act as tournament director or committee. In return, the tournament director or committee shall be paid \$1.00 for each adult entrant. The \$1.00 fee is to be paid from the \$4.00 court fee. It is imperative that the Board of Directors is precise and explicit concerning the individuals who shall make up the tournament committee.

Section 8.

The cost of the newsletter shall be \$8.00 to people who are not members of the MHPA.

Section 9.

Roberts Rules of Order, revised and reading as follows shall govern the order of conducting all meetings.

- A. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
- B. Approval, additions or corrections of the minutes.
- C. Reading of the financial report.
- D. Reports of officers, boards and standing or special committees.
- E. Memorandum of the President.
- F. Unfinished business.
- G. New Business
- H. Report of good and welfare work. I Election of officers.
- J. Adjournment.

Members shall not speak on any subject more than twice. Members shall speak no longer than five minutes the first time and no longer than three minutes the second time. Committee reports, recommendations and visiting guests shall be exempt from time limitations.

Section 10.

The president shall refer all resolutions made from the floor or received in writing to the appropriate committee.

Section 11.

The Hall of Fame Committee is to be made from current Hall of Fame members when possible. Replacement of Hall of Fame Committee Members shall be selected by the existing Hall of Fame Committee chairperson and members. This committee shall decide the criteria for election into the Michigan/MHPA Hall of Fame. Recommendations are to be presented to the president before any announcement. The committee may solicit information from the membership or introduce possible candidates independently.

Section 12.

Recommendations for lifetime membership shall be made by the Membership Committee to the president before any announcement. There shall be no more than six lifetime members of the MHPA at any time. Criteria for selection to lifetime membership of the MHPA are as follows:

- A. Mandatory: A minimum of 15 years membership with the MHPA.
- B. Mandatory: Minimum age of 60 years.
- C. Mandatory: A resident of Michigan at time of selection.
- D. Mandatory: A member of MHPA Hall of Fame.

Section 13.

In the event this association should take action to no longer function, the assets of the association shall be awarded to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA).

Article VI: Tournaments

Section 1.

The Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing the host club's actions and decisions during district tourna-

ments. The Board of Directors may suspend the sponsorship of the district tournament by the host club if the Constitution and By-Laws, Rules and Regulations are not followed.

Section 2.

The host club is responsible for having the courts ready for all tournaments they hold and for furnishing shovels and water cans. The players are responsible for conditioning the courts at the start of each game. Players playing in the last shift are to condition and cover the courts upon conclusion of play.

Section 3.

District tournaments under jurisdiction of the MHPA shall start at 9:30 A. M. All participating members must be signed in by that time.

Section 4.

Entry fees for Indoor and Outdoor district tournaments shall be \$15.00 (minimum) The MHPA Executive Council will be responsible for defining and publishing minimum payouts for both Indoor and Outdoor district tournaments.

	1ST:	2ND:	3RD:	4TH:
Three person	20.00	13.00		
Four person	24.00	20.00		
Five person	25.00	20.00	10.00	
Six person	30.00	21.00	15.00	
Seven person	30.00	22.00	15.00	10.00
Eight person	35.00	25.00	18.00	10.00

Section 5.

The scorekeeping fee for all tournaments shall be One Dollar (\$1.00) per player per game, including juniors

Section 6.

The host club or tournament committee has the option to decide how ties for positions shall be broken. The host club or tournament committee decision shall be expressed before the tournament if different from recommended options. Recommended options are as follows:

A. All two-way ties for first place to be decided by a play-off game.

B. All other position ties to be decided by ringer percentage.

C. Three-way ties for first place shall be decided by the two lowest percentage pitchers to play one game with the loser placing third. The winning pitcher plays the highest percentage pitcher for first and second places.

D. Four-way ties for first place shall be decided by the highest percentage pitcher playing the lowest percentage and the second highest percentage pitcher playing the third highest percentage pitcher. The winners shall play for first and second places and the losers shall play for third and fourth places.

E. All other circumstances shall be decided by the tournament director, the tournament committee and/or the Board of Directors.

Section 7.

MHPA tournaments are to be NHPA sanctioned.

Section 8.

Sanctioned horseshoes shall be used in all tournaments.

Section 9.

A member's average is based upon the method established by NHPA By-laws, Article XII: All NHPA Tournaments, Section 3, which reads as follows: "All pitchers' averages shall be based on the three highest NHPA sanctioned tournaments pitched in the 12 months or the last ten tournaments during the same period, whichever comes first. Members with less than three tournaments shall use the combined average of the one or two they have pitched. Out of state tournaments pitched are reported to the pitchers' home charter by eShoe and are used in calculating their average.

Section 10.

A new member or a member who does not have an established ringer percentage shall pitch 100 qualifying shoes that must be witnessed by two NHPA members or use a NHPA sanctioned league ringer percentage based on two hundred (200) or more shoes.

Section 11.

All MHPA sanctioned tournaments shall be 35 point cancellation.

Exception: Any game at a state singles tournament between two pitchers with a 25% or lower ringer percentage shall play to 30 points or 40 shoes, whichever occurs first. Any game at a district tournament between two pitchers with a 25% or lower ringer percentage shall play to 30 points or 40 shoes, whichever occurs first. In case of a tie game the pitchers shall pitch down and back (four shoes) until a winner is decided.

Section 12.

Junior/Cadet's to be treated like all other pitchers. They are to pay the appropriate tournament entry fee, and will be awarded any all monetary awards and payouts they may have earned for the appropriate finish position in their class. Prizes or cash awards to a Junior or Cadet by the tournament/league officials may have immediate or deferred monetary value. It shall be the responsibility of all Junior/Cadet pitchers (or their parents/guardians) to make sure that their amateur standing is not jeopardized by any violation of the above information. A determination was made by the NHPA that amateur status for horseshoe pitching will not affect college amateur status. Horseshoes is not a varsity sport at colleges.

Section 13.

Rain procedures

A. If raining at starting time each group will be allowed one hour and thirty minutes delay. If still raining money will be refunded to all players in the effected classes.

B. If rain starts after classes have started play and less than one-half of the games have been completed, classes will be allowed one hour delay. If it is still raining play will be canceled for the effected classes and money refunded except court fees.

C. If rain starts after classes have started play and one-half or more games have been completed, classes will be allowed one hour delay. If still raining, play will be canceled and winners will be decided by wins and losses of games completed.

D. These rain procedures are not to apply to special preregistered tournaments. The tournament director will select rain procedures for these tournaments.

E. A rained out tournament shall not count as an eligible tournament for the State Tournament.

Section 14.

Forfeits

In tournament competition, the wins and losses and all statistics accumulated shall remain in the books for a pitcher who has forfeited one or more games for any reason. A pitcher may miss any number of games due to illness or legitimate reason approved by the tournament director or tournament committee and still be allowed to return to competition. If a pitcher forfeits for an unapproved reason, the pitcher will not be allowed to return to competition and will forfeit all prize money and/or awards. Any pitcher who forfeits for an unapproved reason may be suspended from tournaments for up to one year. The Grievance Committee is required to meet within two weeks upon notification of a pitcher forfeiting for unapproved reasons. The decision of the committee shall be final.

Section 15.

After a tournament schedule has been completed and announced there shall be no refund of entry fees to a no-show or a pitcher that drops out of the tournament. Pitchers that are no-shows to a preregistered tournament are required to pay the entry fee and any additional fee. The pitcher shall be suspended immediately and shall not be reinstated until all fees have been collected. Notification shall come from the secretary to tournament directors. The repayment may be added to entry fees or membership dues, whichever comes first. Upon receipt of this fee the member shall be reinstated and the tournament director shall notify the secretary.

Section 16.

Groups scheduled for the second or later shifts shall not begin warmups until announced by the tournament director. Only pitchers scheduled for that shift shall warmup.

Article VII: State Tournament

Section 1.

To qualify for the State Singles Tournament a MHPA member must have completed four sanctioned events within Michigan, from the previous State Singles Tournament. A junior must complete one sanctioned tournament. The high three tournament percentage shall decide the placement in his/her class. The presiding class A State Champion shall be the top seed in their respective divisions. All classes are to be scheduled by the State Tournament Committee consisting of the current President as Tournament Director and the rest of the Executive Council as assistants. The committee has the option to set up classes to the best of their abilities. All entries and qualifications for the State Tournament must be received by the secretary or tournament director on the Sunday one week before the tournament. At State Tournaments pay judges \$15.00 per session from the MHPA account.

Section 2.

A resident of the Upper Peninsula must compete in three sanctioned tournaments in a recognized association or league to enable the member to qualify for the State Tournament.

Section 3.

Seniors (age 60 and over) may compete in Senior and open divisions at the State Tournament.

Section 4.

While pitching, all participants of the State Singles Tournament shall wear a shirt or blouse with their last name professionally lettered on the back.

Section 5.

There shall be two trophies or plaques per class for the State Singles Tournament.

Section 6.

The State Tournament entry fee shall be \$40.00. At State Tournaments pay judges \$15.00 per session from the MHPA account.

Section 7.

Any club that meets the requirement of 18 lighted courts should be able to host the singles state tournament. If there is no host club for the singles state tournament, The executive council will contact qualified clubs and award one of them the tournament. The MHPA will decide how 50/50 raffles are conducted and by who during the State Tournament to supplement the prize money

Section 8.

This association shall award the Junior Boy and Junior Girl State Champion a \$100 scholarship each. These scholarship monies shall be awarded upon a college, university or trade school's letter of enrollment to the association. This award must be claimed before their twenty-first birthday. Junior and Cadet players are to pay the State Tournament entry fee. They will be eligible to receive monetary awards for the class pitched in.

Article VIII: State Doubles Tournament

Section 1.

To qualify for the State Doubles Tournament a MHPA member must have completed one sanctioned event or league within Michigan during the last 12 months.

Section 2.

The combined NatStats average of both players must not exceed 120.

Section 3.

All classes are to be scheduled by the Tournament Director (current president of the MHPA). The Tournament Director has the option to set up classes to the best of his/her ability.

Section 4.

If two juniors enter as a team Junior and Cadet players are to pay the Double State Tournament entry fee. They will be eligible to receive all monetary awards (patches, plaques, and Money)

Section 5.

A trophy or plaque will be awarded to the first place winners in each class.

Section 6.

Entry fee is \$40.00 per team.

Section 7.

Sign-up deadline is 9:30 a.m. on the day of the tournament.

Section 8.

While pitching, all participants of the State Doubles Tournament shall wear a shirt or blouse with their last name professionally lettered on the back.

Section 9.

Any MHPA club that meets the requirements of having 12 similar courts may be able to host the Doubles State Tournament. Bids will be accepted at the fall scheduling meeting. If more than one club bids, Tournament Directors present will vote to award the club. The club must be able to host a cookout/potluck meal in between the morning and afternoon sessions. Only the host club will be able to run 50/50 drawings during the tournament.

Section 10.

A non-walking doubles tournament may be added to the MHPA schedule. Same rules as Walking doubles except for the walking. Same scoresheet. The Tournament Director should review any changes in the rules during the orientation. No "special lunch" will be served. This is treated like a regular district tournament. Fee of \$20 each team member or \$40 per team.

Article IX: Playing Rules

Section 1.

All NHPA playing rules and regulations shall apply.

Section 2.

Referees or judges appointed by the Board of Directors, tournament committee or tournament director shall decide points when contestants are in doubt. Decisions of the referee or judge shall be final. Referees and judges shall ensure that rules are followed

Section 3.

All pitchers and score keepers shall wear shirts and blouses.

Appendix A: Miscellaneous Rules

A. Copies of rules, regulations and the Constitution and By Laws shall be given to all new members and published in the newsletter each year for current members.

B. Judy Curtiss, Dick Frakes and Bob Wells are granted lifetime membership to the MHPA. (Lee Jacobs will forever remain on the active membership rolls. See F below.)

C. The fiscal year for the MHPA shall be 10/1 through 9/30.

D. eShoe averages can be printed from the NHPA's website or a copy can be requested from the Statistician.

E. A resolution passed by the membership of the MHPA on March 20, 1994, has retired MHPA/NHPA card number 300001 in honor Lee Jacobs. Mr Jacobs is to forever remain on the active membership rolls of the MHPA



National Horseshoe Pitchers Association
2025 World Horseshoe Pitching Championship
 July 21 - August 2, 2025
 Salt Lake City, Utah



NAME: _____		2025 NHPA Card # _____	
Address: _____	First (Please Print Legibly)	Last	(or Canadian #)
City: _____	State/Prov: _____	Zip/Postal Code: _____	
Telephone: _____	Cell: _____	Birth Date: _____	
Email: _____			
Circle One >>>>>>	I will Print My schedule	Email my schedule	Mail my schedule
Circle the Division you are Entering: (You may enter only one Division) (See notes at bottom on page)			
Open Men 40 ft	Sr Men 40 ft	Elder Men 30 ft	Open Women 30 ft
			Sr Women 30 ft
			Elder Women 20 ft
			Jr Boys 30 ft
			Jr Girls 30 ft
			Cadet Boys 20 ft
			Cadet Girls 20 ft
	Note #2	Note #1	Note #3

All application information above is required. Form will be returned if not signed below or is incomplete. ENTRY DEADLINE MAY 19, 2025

NO REFUNDS will be made after June 1, 2025.

NOTE: A processing fee of \$15 will be deducted from all refunds.

PARTICIPANTS LIABILITY RELEASE: In consideration of participating in such activity, I hereby waive, release and forever discharge the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA), all officers, employee's, agents and the servants of the NHPA, and all fellow participants of this event, for any and all action, cause of action, damage, loss or injury, which I may suffer as a consequence of participating in the World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament. The NHPA and it's legal representatives (NHPA Officers) assigns, and retains the right and permissions to publish, without charge, photographs taken during the 2025 World Tournament. These photos or videos may be used in any publication, or in audio-visual presentations including "Live" interviews, promotional literature, advertising, sponsorships, or in other similar ways that the NHPA sees fit to use on behalf to represent and promote the NHPA World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament and the sport.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

*** Mail top half only ***

Entry Fees	US Adults --	\$130 before Feb 1, 2025 --	\$150 Feb 1 to May 19, 2025
	All Juniors/Cadets --	\$25	
	Adults outside US --	\$135 before Feb 1, 2025 --	\$155 Feb 1 to May 19, 2025
	<i>Canadian Entries must use a Money Order if sending payment</i>		Entry Fee includes Scorekeeping Fee

Mail to: NHPA
 2660 S Fairway Drive
 Pocatello, ID 83201

Telephone & Email inquires to:
 Phone: 208 201-3326
 Email: sec.treas@horseshoepitching.com

All Entries must be on this signed form and mailed with a postmark no later than May 19, 2025. You may enter anytime prior to May 19, 2025 using this form or on our website link. Entries received with a postmark after May 19, 2025 shall be put on a waiting list and entered into the World Tournament only as spaces are available. All Adults must have pitched in a minimum of four (4) US/Canadian sanctioned events in the twelve (12) months prior to May 19, 2025 in the same division you are entering. Only one (1) event is required for Juniors/Cadets. Exceptions for US Armed Forces members and family and Foreign competitors (other than Canadians) are outlined in Rule 11, Sec D.1 of the RGS Book. Contact NHPA for more information regarding qualifying exceptions. All Averages used will be the average on record in NHPA-eShoe as of May 19, 2025. Anyone qualifying under an exception must have those scores recorded by the same date. All NHPA and any special tournament rules apply. Please see note regarding refunds.

READ CAREFULLY: Any Adult male pitching from the full distance platform may enter the OPEN Men's Division regardless of age, just as any Adult Female may enter the OPEN Women's Division. To enter the Senior Division, you must be 60 years of age or older before the end of 2025. Any Man/Women that turns 65 years of age in 2025, or has an approved Medical exemption may enter the Elders Division. Entrants in the Junior Boys and Junior Girls Division must be 18 years old or less for the entire 2025 calendar year. Cadet Boys & Cadet Girls Division entrants must be 12 years old or younger for the entire 2025 calendar year.

- NOTE #1:** 30 ft Men with a Medical Exemption must be in NHPA eShoe as "Exempt" to pitch in this Division. A copy of the Exemption Form must be sent with this application.
- NOTE #2:** For Prelim Class play, a minimum of 48 pitchers must enter Sr Division's or it may be canceled. All entrants will then pitch in the Open Division if canceled.
- NOTE #3:** Junior Boys & Junior Girls Divisions will be mixed for preliminary class play. Cadet Boys & Cadet Girls Divisions will be mixed for preliminary class play.

The pitching schedule will be finalized by May 31, 2025 and published on the NHPA website www.horseshoepitching.com. If you indicate above to receive the schedule by mail, it will be mailed to the address you have listed above during the 2nd week in June. Please write address clearly & readable.

Please note: The NHPA reserves the right to disallow your participation for any of the following reasons: Any errors on this form, if your records don't appear in NHPA eShoe or any false or misleading information on this form, cannot validate Medical Exemption, or for any other reason by majority vote of the NHPA Council. The NHPA also reserves the right to add qualified entrants and to make class participant changes after the above deadline. No pitcher will be moved from a class or pitching time, without notification, after the final schedule has been published.



St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
 is our charity of choice. Make your ringers count even more.
 Pledge forms available on the MHPA website, and Ringer Reports.

St. Jude Report...

Bob Wells,
St. Jude Coordinator

Last week I received a letter about a 5 year old girl having Leukemia and getting treated at St. Jude Hospital. This is what we as an organization can be proud of in supporting the research needed to fight and cure childhood diseases.

I want to thank all that contributed and assisted in raising the monies for St. Jude in 2024.

We donated **\$2,356.00.**

Next year I will still be selling MHPA hats and I am working on a program to offer incentives for members to participate in giving contributions to St. Jude Hospital and Research.

I wanted to let you know that St. Jude also mailed me return address labels that said Michigan Horseshoe Pitchers Association.

—Bob Wells

Horseshoe pitching outdoors in Michigan's harsh winters is not good...

Pitch indoors in Jackson



The Jackson indoor courts are open for practice from 1-5 p.m. each Thursday. We generally warm up for a few minutes. We have a great time and pitch many shoes. It's a great way to keep your game from getting rusty in the winter months.
 The cost is \$5 per person.
All are welcome. Just show up.
 Contact Paul Bachelor at 810-772-8678 if you have any questions.

Let Us Talk about Lake Orion Horseshoe Club!

Let me remind the horseshoe community that the Lake Orion Horseshoe Club is the oldest horseshoe club in Michigan. Established in 1960 and we plan to have a 65th birthday celebration sometime in 2025. Which is right around the corner. But today the Lake Orion Horseshoe Club wishes to recognize one of our members which also has reached an unbelievable accomplishment, almost forty consecutive years with the Lake Orion Horseshoe Club.



Congratulations "Butch Terry!" Butch remembers when the club got permission from the Village of Lake Orion to start construction of the courts where they remain today which was 1965. Before that the Lake Orion Horseshoe Club started in "Bunny Run" in 1960. At that time there were only a handful of members. Many of us may remember their names, Lloyd and Fred Barkley, Moses Smith and his wife Chris, Bill Dalby which I knew very well. Bill did excavating. Eleven courts were first constructed that was the amount of land owned by the Village. A small piece of property to the South was leased to the Club so four more courts could be built, that makes the fifteen courts that we have today. The founding members had enough foresight to get the fifteen courts for future tournaments and in promoting horseshoe pitching. Butch joined Lake Orion Horseshoe Club in 1985, in 1988 with a grand total of nine members. Butch became secretary and kept that position for 3 years. Through publishing news articles and handing out flyers their membership grew to twenty-eight members. Butch served as vice president for 4 years, president for 7 years, and 1 year following that as treasurer. Butch has seen a lot of changes within the club and still loves the game and he still can throw some ringers. In 2018 Butch won the league championship and in 2024 he was only able to pitch twenty-two games due his love for golf. With that he still had a ringer percentage of 15% and an average score of 26 points per game. During our end of season banquet of 2024, we decided to recognize Lake Orion Horseshoe Club members with patches that noted their consecutive years membership starting with 5 years and then 5-year increments. Low and behold Butch was highly recognized. Butch was also presented with a Lake Orion Horseshoe Club waterproof jacket for his dedication to our club and his commitment to horseshoes. Other long-time members with 25 years such as Doug Bailey, George Parsons, and Greg Korth, many more had 20 and 15 years, respectively.



Lake Orion Horseshoe Club is proud of the all members! It says a lot about the Club. I feel all clubs must continue to recruit and use every tool at their disposal to keep members, while seeking new members. Last year we had nineteen new members sign-up and only fourteen survived the season for a variety of personal and health reasons. We had our first 20-foot woman pitcher.

So, if you see Lake Orion Horseshoe Club pitchers at any tournament, please check out their seniority patches, they do not come easy.

Horseshoe pitchers love that sound the shoes make hitting that darn stake.

—Ron Price

MHPA Ringer Report Editor

Dean Schmitz

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Mount Clemens, MI 48043

www.mhpahorseshoes.com

Publishing Schedule
for the MHPA Ringer Report

March

May

August

October

December



FIRST CLASS

NHPA/MHPA Membership Application

Name: _____ Last NHPA Card #: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Is this a new address? [] Yes

Phone: () _____, Email: _____

How do you wish to get the Ringer Report? *website* *standard mail*

(Circle One) Category: Man 40' Man 30' Woman Junior Girl Junior Boy Cadet

Date of Birth: _____/_____/_____ **Mandatory for Juniors and Men Pitching at 30'.**

(We would appreciate all pitchers providing birth date for statistical purposes.)

____ **Full Member \$45:** Voting member with full privileges, able to enter all sanctioned tournaments upon paying fees.

____ **Provisional Member \$10:** Must pay entry fees and can play in as many tournaments as you like for the year.

____ **Trial Member \$0:** Must pay tournament entry fee and allowed only one tournament.

(Provisional and Trial memberships are for first time NHPA members. If you were a previous NHPA member, Provisional/Trial memberships cannot be used.)

Make Check Payable to: MHPA

Mail to: **Michele Burns, Secretary/Treasurer - 6565 Blackman Rd. - Jackson, MI. 49201** - **mabearin@yahoo.com**

FULL MEMBER Card Costs: \$45.00 Adults - \$38.00 for second card in the same household.

\$0.00 Juniors \$7.00 for a junior wanting to receive the newsletter

\$8.00 Ringer Report Subscription only. (Subscription included in full membership.)