



Horseshoe Tour Tournament Rules and Regulations

Section 1

1. The Horseshoe Tour events are supported, and sanctioned by the NHPA, therefore, all participants must be current members of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA) in order to participate.
2. The HP Pro Tour will consist of three divisions:
 - a. "Prime 40" (all players pitching from 40' with an average of 40% and above.
 - b. "Prime 30" (all players pitching less than 40', with an average of 40% and above).
 - c. Open Division, any players less than 40%. **The Open Division will only be offered at first year sites.**
3. Players with less than a 40% average, has the option to move to a "Prime Division" prior to the deadline of any event, only if it is a first year site.

Section 2 – Equipment

1. The Horseshoe Tour observes NHPA rules and specifications regarding horseshoe pitching equipment.

Section 3 – Regulation Horseshoe Tour Games

1. The Horseshoe Tour observes NHPA rules of horseshoe pitching with the exceptions below.
2. Horseshoe Tour games consist of 30 shoes.
3. Scoring is "Count All – Ringers Only", Alternate Pitch (qualifying only).
 - a. Each ringer will count 1 point.
 - b. Close shoes or leaners are considered out of count.
 - c. Tied games will remain as ties and count as ½ a win for each contestant.
4. If any contestant is not present for the start of a game.

- a. If the contestant is not present for a preliminary round game, or has to drop out for any unexpected reason, the Tournament Director has the discretion to make the decision to resolve the problem.
- b. If the contestant is not present for the start of the first game of a bracket match, they forfeit that game. After each 20 minutes has elapsed, they forfeit another game. When they forfeit a majority of the scheduled games, then they forfeit the match.

Section 4 – Regular Season Tournaments

1. All Horseshoe Tour events will be pre-registered. Entries must be received 10 days prior to the tournament.
2. The entry fee for all “Prime Divisions” is \$80, and \$35 for Open Division players.
3. No player will be permitted to move between divisions during an event. Entry fee may be a full or partial refund, or transferred to another event, with special approval of the Director of Operations. (Refer to rule 10, “Refund Policy”)
4. After the entry deadline, the Tournament Director will determine the exact format that will be used, based on the number of entries and available courts.
5. A player meeting is required prior to each event, in order to communicate to the players: format, payout, etc.

6. Initial Preliminary Round

- a. Contestants will be seeded into the first round, based on their current NHPA/CANSTATS average.

In the qualifying round, all players are grouped together, names are drawn randomly for 6-8 round robin games. Games will be 30 shoes, ringers only, with alternate pitch. Ties will remain ties. At the completion of the round, players are placed into 4 person groups for the finals on Sunday based on ringer percentage.

- b. Any tied places/positions in the final standing in this round will be broken by entering seeds.

7. Bracket Rounds – Single game, best of 3 games, or best of 5 games.

After preliminary round, bracket rounds begin with match play. Using this format, players must win the “best of three” games, then are eliminated, or advance to subsequent rounds based on head to head matches. There will be no alternate pitch in this round.

8. Bracket Matches

- a. Winners advance, and losers are eliminated.
- b. **Tied Matches**- Since tied games count a ½ a win for each player, it is possible to end a bracket match with a tie.
- c. The Tournament Director has the option of either a 10 shoe, or 10 ringer tie breaker. In a 10 ringer tie breaker, the contestants pitch complete innings (2 shoes each) until one of them reaches 10 ringers. If players are still tied, they will pitch down and back until a player scores a winning ringer.
- d. In the 10 shoe tie breaker, if both pitchers are still tied, they will pitch down and back until a player scores a winning ringer.

9. Inclement Weather

- a. In the event of inclement weather or other delays, the Tournament Director may implement a shortened schedule for the preliminary round, and single game matches for the bracket rounds.
- b. If the tournament cannot be played due to weather, or other factors, each participant will be refunded their entry, or can be used for entry into a future tournament.
- c. If the tournament is cancelled after the preliminary rounds have been completed, but before the finals can be completed, the final standings for the remaining players will be determined based on their seeding.
- d. **Note:** If a player drops out of an event for any reason after the deadline, but before tournament play, you may contact the Tournament Director for a \$50 refund of the entry fee.

10. Horseshoe Tour refund policy

- a. If a player, for any reason, decides not to attend an event after their entry has been sent in, and **prior to the deadline**, all of the entry will be returned.
- b. If a player, for any reason, decides not to attend an event after their entry has been sent in after the deadline, and **after the deadline**, you must contact the Tournament Director prior to the tournament being set up (usually the weekend after the deadline, which usually falls on a Wednesday) a refund of \$50 will be returned.
- c. If a player drops out of an event, no part of the entry fee will be returned.
- d. **Once the tournament is set up, all monies are figured into the payout.**

Section 5 – Amendments

1. The Horseshoe Tour Executive board will review these tournament rules annually.
2. These rules may be changed by a simple majority of the Executive Board.

Revised 1/01/20