



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 Tour will consist of only two divisions:
 - a. "Prime 40" (all players pitching from 40').
 - b. "Prime 30" (all players pitching less than 40').

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 during qualifying, and count as $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 will forfeit that game. After 15 minutes, they forfeit another game. When they have forfeit a majority of the scheduled games, they forfeit the match.

Section 4 – Regular Season Tournaments

1. All Horseshoe Tour events will be pre-registered. Entries must be received and signed 10 days prior to the tournament.
2. The entry fee for both Divisions is \$90.
3. 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, 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.

Dropouts:

*Unlike the standard NHPA round robin format, the Horseshoe Tour preliminaries are to determine the placement of players into the finals based on ringer average. In the course of any event, it is possible that a player, though no fault of their own, will not be able to complete the normal number of games selected by the tournament director.

In the event of a dropout, the tournament director may decide to treat the game as a forfeit, or to insert pacers if available for remaining players to acquire the normal shoe count.

- If the decision is made for a forfeit of games, not all players will have equal number of games/shoes, therefore, the standings will be decided by ringer percentage.
- A player who drops out of the event will be eliminated.
- If multiple players drop out of an event, the tournament director **may** decide to form an additional class at the bottom, and allow players to compete in the finals.
- All remaining players will be positioned in the finals in the normal fashion.

Score Sheets:

Score sheet discrepancies must be resolved prior to the score sheet going to the computer room and being recorded.

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. If a match is tied, players will play a 10 shoe playoff.
- d. If players 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, and **after the deadline**, you must contact the Tournament Director prior to the tournament being set up a refund of \$50 will be returned.
- c. If a player drops out after the tournament is set up, or no shows at 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.

(Initial version adopted April 5, 2008)

Revised 01/01/23