



Horseshoe Pitching Professional Tour Tournament Rules & Regulations

(Draft Pending Approval – April 30, 2008)

Section 1 - Equipment

1. The HP Pro Tour generally observes NHPA rules regarding equipment with a few exceptions as noted below:
2. HP Pro Tour events may be conducted on sanctioned or non-sanctioned courts approved by the Director of Operations
3. The HP Pro Tour may allow use of portable courts with a pit area that is smaller than the NHPA minimum dimensions.

Section 2 - Regulation HP Pro Tour Games

1. HP Pro Tour generally observes NHPA rules regarding flow of the game with a few exceptions noted below.
2. The HP Pro Tour will have separate 30' and 40' divisions.
3. Each contestant will water, if needed, and turn the clay on one end of the court prior to the start of each game. This may not be performed by anyone other than the contestants playing on that court.
4. HP Pro Tour games consist of 30 shoes or 15 innings.
5. Scoring is "Count All – Ringers Only".
 - a. All ringers will count 1 point.
 - b. Close shoes or leaners are considered out of count.
 - c. Tied games will remain as ties and count as $\frac{1}{2}$ a win for each contestant.
6. The contestant that scores highest in one inning will pitch first the next inning. If both score the same then the pitcher that pitched 2nd on the previous inning will pitch first.

Section 3 - HP Pro Tour Season

1. The HP Pro Tour season will consist of 3 parts
 - a. Qualification
 - b. HP Pro Tour Regular Season Tournaments
 - c. HP Pro Tour Regular Season Tournament Points Championship.

Section 4 - Qualification

1. Per HP Pro Tour by-laws basic skill level qualification requirements are:
 - a. A single NHPA or Horseshoe Canada sanctioned tournament ringer average of 50% or higher
 - b. Horseshoes Canada members with a current CANSTATS average of 50.00% or higher
2. Individuals that do not qualify based on their NATSTATS or CANSTATS average may qualify in one of 2 other ways:
 - a. Provide suitable documentation of 50% or higher average in non-sanctioned club or league as approved by the Director of Operations.
 - b. Open qualification tournaments may be held prior to the start of or during the regular season if there is sufficient interest.
3. Exemptions:
 - a. Any HP Pro Tour member that finished a tour event with a ringer average of 50% or higher will be eligible for HP Pro Tour membership the following year.
 - b. Any tournament champion or points champion will be automatically eligible for the next 5 seasons.

Section 5 - Regular Season Tournaments

1. All tournaments will be pre-registration with number of entries limited based on the court availability. A 24 court facility with lights can accommodate a maximum of 144 entries, combined for both divisions.
2. The entry fee is \$100.
3. You must be a HP Pro Tour member to enter a regular season tournament.
4. All entries must be received by the Treasurer at least 10 days before the date of the tournament.
5. A HP Pro Tour tournaments consists of 2 parts
 - a. Preliminary Round – Round Robin format
 - b. Bracket Rounds – Best of 3 Games format
6. The Preliminary round will consist of 1-3 shifts of round robin classes with shifts being scheduled and filled in sequence so that the highest average pitchers are spread throughout the various classes.
 - a. Friday Evening - Classes FN1 – FN4
 - b. Saturday Morning - Classes SM1 – SM4

c. Saturday Afternoon - Classes SA1 – SA4

7. The round robin classes will consist of
 - a. 10 – 20 pitchers (at least 12 if possible)
 - b. As many even number classes as possible, leaving only 1 odd class if necessary.
 - c. Any odd class will be scheduled for Saturday afternoon and filled with a pacer if available. If no pacer is available the contestant will pitch that game unopposed.
 - d. The preliminary round will consist of 10 games as follows:
 - i. 10 person RR – game 9 then game 1 – 9 of a double RR schedule
 - ii. 11 person RR – games 2 – 11 with a pacer
 - iii. 12 person RR – games 2 – 11
 - iv. 13 person RR – games 4 – 13 with a pacer
 - v. 14 person RR – games 4 – 13
 - vi. 15 person RR – games 6 – 15 with pacer
 - vii. 16 person RR – games 6 – 15
 - viii. 17 person RR – games 8 – 17 with pacer
 - ix. 18 person RR – games 8 – 17
 - x. 19 person RR – games 10 – 19 with pacer
 - xi. 20 person RR – games 10 - 19
8. Each division will be allocated $\frac{1}{2}$ of the available courts. If the entries for either division do not fill their allocated courts completely the unused courts may be used by the other division.
 - i. Example:
 - b. 24 courts can accommodate 4 classes of 12, times 3 shifts for a total of 144 entries.
 - c. A maximum of 72 entries each for the 40' & 30' divisions.
 - d. If the 30' division only receives 60 entries then the 4 unused courts can be used by the 40' division, allowing a total of 80 entries in that division.
 - e. This is still a maximum of 144 entries.
9. After the conclusion of the Preliminary Round contestants will advance to the bracket rounds based on the total number of entries in each division.
 - a. from 10 to 19 entries – 8 places advance to brackets
 - b. from 20 – 49 entries – 16 places advance to brackets
 - c. from 50 – 124 entries – 32 places advance to brackets
 - d. from 125 – 144 entries – 64 places advance to brackets
10. Advancing contestants will be selected based on:
 - a. Overall ringer average pitched during the Preliminary round.
 - b. Win-loss record during the preliminary round
 - c. A 1 game ladder playoff match.
11. Seeding
 - a. Contestants will be seeded into the bracket based on their ringer average from the preliminary round.
 - b. Contestants will be seeded such that the highest average will be paired with the lowest average and the next highest will be paired with the next lowest average, etc...

- c. The last 4 contestants will be reseeded before the final 2 rounds based on their average from the earlier rounds of the tournament - #1 vs. #4 and #2 vs. #3.

12. Bracket Matches

- a. Each Bracket match will be best of 3 games.
- b. Winners advance and losers are eliminated.
- c. Contestants eliminated in the same round will all be eligible for the same prize money and points.
- d. Tied matches - Since tied games count as ½ a win for each player it is possible to end a bracket match with a 1 ½ to 1 ½ tie.
 - i. Tied matches will be decided by a Sudden Death tie breaker as follows.
 - ii. Players will flip a shoe to determine who pitches first.
 - iii. Each contestant pitches 2 shoes.
 - iv. If both pitchers pitch the same number of ringers then they pitch another inning.
 - v. The first player to score an unanswered ringer wins the tie breaker and the match.

- 13. In event of inclement weather or other delays the tournament director may decide to implement a shortened schedule for the preliminary round with no fewer than 5 games and single game matches for the bracket rounds, except for the final 2 rounds, which will still be best of 3 games.

- 14. These tournaments will payout at least 90% of the entry fees – possibly more based on sponsorship. The number of places paid and amount paid will depend on the number of entries in the division (40’ or 30’). Total prize fund for each division will be distributed based on the following chart:

| Position | Division Entries | | | |
|--------------|------------------|--------|--------|---------|
| | 10-19 | 20-49 | 50-124 | 125-144 |
| 1st | 40.00% | 30.00% | 25.00% | 22.50% |
| 2nd | 30.00% | 20.00% | 16.50% | 15.00% |
| 3rd - 4th | 10.00% | 10.00% | 8.25% | 7.25% |
| 5th - 8th | | 5.00% | 4.00% | 3.40% |
| 9th - 16th | | | 2.00% | 1.45% |
| 17th - 32th | | | | 0.80% |
| Total | 90.00% | 90.00% | 90.00% | 90.00% |

Section 6 - Championship Points System

1. 75 championship points will be awarded per tournament to the top 8 finishers as follows:
 - a. 20 points – 1st
 - b. 15 points – 2nd
 - c. 10 points – 3rd & 4th
 - d. 5 points – 5th - 8th
2. The HP Pro Tour member that accumulates the most Championship Points during a season will be declared the Points Champion for that season.
3. Championship Points money will be distributed at season end.
 - a. The Championship Points money will be determined based on the amount of sponsor contributions.
 - b. If sponsorship is determined to be insufficient then the Championship Points money may be funded by a combination of sponsorship and membership dues.
 - c. If there is no sponsor then the points money will be funded from membership dues using this formula:

$$\frac{(\# \text{ members} * \$100) * .75}{(75 * \# \text{ of tournaments})}$$

Section 7 - Amendments

1. The 30' & 40' Player Representatives will solicit input from members regarding suggested rule changes.
2. The HP Pro Tour Executive Board will review these tournament rules a minimum of annually.
3. These rules may be changed by a simple majority of the Executive Board.