



Horseshoe Pitching Professional Tour Tournament Rules & Regulations

(Draft Pending Approval – December 1, 2009)

Section 1 - Equipment

1. The HP Pro Tour observes NHPA rules and specifications regarding horseshoe pitching equipment with exceptions 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 observes NHPA rules of horseshoe pitching with exceptions noted below.
2. 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.
3. HP Pro Tour games consist of 30 shoes or 15 innings.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. If any contestant is not present for the start of the game they forfeit that game.
 - a. If the contestant is not present for a Preliminary round game then they forfeit the game and receive a score of 0 ringers for each 30 shoe game missed.
 - 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 they forfeit the match.

Section 3 - Regular Season Tournaments

1. All tournaments will be pre-registration.
2. The entry fee is \$100 for the Pro Tour Division I, \$50 for Division II **and \$30 for Division III.**
3. You must be a HP Pro Tour ~~or Division II~~ member to enter a regular season tournament.
4. All entries must be received by the Treasurer at least **10 7** days before the date of the tournament.
5. **The HP Pro Tour Division I will consist of separate 30' and 40' divisions. Division II and III may be mixed depending upon the number of entries.**
6. 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. The Tournament Director may elect to use all three or any combination of the following formats.
 - a. Initial Preliminary Round – Modified Round Robin format

Using this format players are grouped into generally large classes and only play a portion of the regular schedule (ie. 10 games). This is done so that all players play exactly the same number of games even if the classes are not all the same size. When this format is used players are eliminated or advance to subsequent rounds based on:
 - 1) Ringer average.
 - 2) ~~Win-Loss record.~~
 - 3) A single game playoff match. Ten-ringer tiebreaker if needed.
 - b. Second Preliminary Round - Regular Round Robin format

Using this format players are grouped into smaller classes of equal sizes and complete the full round robin schedule. When this format is used players are eliminated or advance to subsequent rounds based on:
 - 1) Win-Loss record
 - 2) ~~Their ringer average.~~
 - 3) A single game playoff match.
 - 4) Ten-ringer tiebreaker if needed.
 - c. Bracket Rounds – Single game, best of 3 or best of 5 games format.
7. Each division will be allocated **1/4** of the available courts. If the entries for a division does not fill their allocated courts completely the unused courts may be used by the other divisions.
8. After the Preliminary Rounds the bracket will be seeded as follows:

Division Entries	Final Round
Up to 14	4
15-17	5
18-20	6
21-23	7
24-26	8

9. Seeding

- a. Contestants will be seeded into the first preliminary round based on their current HP Pro Tour average or current NATSTATS/CANSTATS average.
- b. Contestants will be seeded into the second preliminary round based on their ringer average from the first preliminary round.
- c. Contestants advancing directly from the first preliminary round will be the top seeds in the final bracket round.
- d. Contestants advancing from the second preliminary round will be seeded for bracket play based on their win-loss record then ringer average from the second preliminary round. Contestants will be seeded such that the top seed will be paired with the bottom seed and so on...

10. Bracket Matches

- a. Winners advance and losers are eliminated.
- ~~b. Contestants eliminated in the same round will all receive the same prize money and championship points.~~
 - b. Final standings for players eliminated in the same round will be determined by:**
 - i. A single 30-shoe playoff game will be used to determine 3rd & 4th place only.**
 - ii. Their ringer average in the finals.**
 - ~~iii. Win-loss record in the finals.~~
- c. Tied matches - Since tied games count as $\frac{1}{2}$ a win for each player it is possible to end a bracket match with a tie. Tied matches will be decided by a ten-ringer tiebreaker as follows.
 - i. Players will flip a shoe to determine who pitches first.
 - ii. The contestants pitch complete innings (2 shoes each) until one of them reaches 10 ringers.
 - iii. If both pitchers tie with 10 or more ringers then they pitch another inning.
 - iv. The first player to lead with more than 10 ringers is the winner of the tiebreaker and the match.

11. Inclement Weather

- b. In event of inclement weather or other delays the tournament director may implement a shortened schedule for the preliminary round with no fewer than 5 games and single game matches for the bracket rounds.
- c. If the tournament can not be played due to weather or other factors each participant's will be mailed a voucher that can be used to enter a future tournament.
- d. Participants wishing a refund should send their request to the Treasurer along with the voucher from the canceled tournament.
- e. If the tournament is canceled after the preliminary rounds have been completed, but before the finals can be completed, final standings for the remaining players will be determined based on their seeding.

12. These tournaments will payout 90% of the entry fees plus 90% of any additional tournament sponsorship funds unless the sponsor requests funds be utilized differently. The number of places paid and amount paid will depend on the number of entries in the division (40', 30' or Division II). Total prize fund for each division will be distributed based on the following chart:

Position	Division Entries		
	12-23	24-47	48-95
1 st	30.00%	30.00%	25.00%
2 nd	24.00%	20.00%	16.50%
3 rd - 4 th	18.00%	10.00%	8.25%
5 th - 8 th	-	5.00%	4.00%
9 th - 16 th	-	-	2.00%
Total	90.00%	90.00%	90.00%

12. Payouts will be based on the following schedule.

Entries	Guaranteed 1 st Place	Places Paid
8 or more	\$1,000	4 or 1/3
7	\$800	3
6	\$700	3
Less than 6	Will be Canceled	

Division II will be allocated 10% of the available sponsorship funds.

Division I 30' and 40' will be allocated a prorated share of remaining sponsorship funds based on number of entries for each pitching distance using this formula:

Div. I 30' Sponsorship Amount	=	$\frac{\text{Div. I 30' Entries}}{\text{Total Division I Entries}} * \text{Total Div. I Sponsorship Funds}$
Div. I 40' Sponsorship Amount	=	$\frac{\text{Div. I 40' Entries}}{\text{Total Division I Entries}} * \text{Total Div. I Sponsorship Funds}$

After allowing for guaranteed first place payout the Director of Operations will determine the payout amount for the remaining places providing up to 10% for Pro Tour expenses.

Payout for Division III will be made from the entry fees for that division unless the sponsors designate funding specifically for this division.

13. In addition to the bracket places there will be consolation payouts to a number of contestants so that 1/3 of the total entries will receive some payout. These consolation places will be decided based on cumulative ringer average for the entire tournament, including all preliminary rounds.

Section 4 - HP Pro Tour Season

1. The HP Pro Tour season will consist of 2 parts
 - a. HP Pro Tour Regular Season Tournaments
 - b. HP Pro Tour Regular Season Tournament Points Championship.

Section 5 - Championship Points System

1. 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 awards may be provided to the top points winners.**

- 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:~~

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

4. ~~The Division II will not participate in the Championship Points System.~~

Section 6 - 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 annually.
3. These rules may be changed by a simple majority of the Executive Board.

Draft revision pending approval December 1, 2009.