



Horseshoe Pitching Professional Tour Bylaws

(Draft Pending Approval – December 1, 2009)

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Horseshoe Pitching Professional Tour, hereinafter known as HP Pro Tour.

ARTICLE II: Purpose

The purpose of the HP Pro Tour shall be to promote the competitive sport of Horseshoe Pitching at the highest levels.

ARTICLE III: Affiliation

Beginning with the 2010 season HP Pro Tour events will be sanctioned by the National Horseshoe Pitching Associations under the Special Tournaments provision of the NHPA Rules.

ARTICLE IV: Membership

Requirements to apply for HP Pro Tour membership (as of the date you apply):

- a. Must be at least 18 years of age.
- b. Must be a current or new member of either the NHPA or Horseshoe Canada.**
- c. Must meet ringer average qualifications for the division which they are applying for:**
 - Division I 60% & over**
 - Division II 50% - 59.99%**
 - Division III under 50%**
- d. Ringer average may be based on one of the following:**
 - Current NATSTATS or CANSTATS average**
 - Qualifying average for new NHPA or Horseshoe Canada members.**
 - Any player may apply for a higher division if they believe that their documented ringer average does not reflect what they are capable of pitching. Such applications will require the approval of the Director of Operations.**

Exemptions:

- ~~i. 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.~~**

~~ii. Any tournament champion or points champion will be automatically eligible for the next 5 seasons.~~

The Director of Operations along with the Pro Tour Commissioner may approve exceptions to these requirements **if deemed to be in the best interest of promoting the HP Pro Tour.**

Each applicant must declare which division, Division I 30', Division I 40', Division II or **Division III**, for which they are applying. Applicants are eligible to enter the 30' division if they currently pitch at the 30' distance in either the NHPA or Horseshoe Canada.

- ~~• They are age 65 or older as of the day they apply for membership.~~
- ~~• They have a permanent physical disability documented by a doctor's statement with approval of the Executive Board.~~

Application for membership must be completed, signed, and submitted to the HP Pro Tour Treasurer along with membership dues based on the division applied for:

- **Division I** \$50
- **Division II** \$25
- **Division III** \$5

ARTICLE V: Member Responsibilities

It is essential that the HP Pro Tour maintains a professional image. The HP Pro Tour exists for the benefit of the members, spectators and the Horseshoe Pitching community. It is the responsibility of each member to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects well upon the organization.

1. Dress Code

- a. When entering an HP Pro Tour event members must present a clean, neat, and tasteful appearance.
- b. Shirts must have ~~a collar and sleeves with~~ the members name neatly lettered on the back and approved by the tournament director.
- c. The HP Pro Tour member patch must be displayed on either the right or left sleeve.
- d. Additional sponsor patches, logos or lettering may also be displayed elsewhere on the shirt.
- e. No sponsor patches, logos or lettering may be displayed on the pants or skirts.
- f. No cut-off, frayed or tattered clothing allowed.
- g. Members must wear shoes during HP Pro Tour events.
- h. No open toed shoes, sandals or flip-flops will be allowed.
- i. Sweat pants or wind suits are not permitted.
- j. Shorts such as khaki's or blue jean shorts that are neatly hemmed may be worn.

2. Members Meeting

- a. The HP Pro Tour will hold a player meeting prior to each event, at a time designated by the Director of Operations. All members entered in the current event will be required to attend.

3. Promotions

- a. Members should make themselves available to meet and greet the fans and media before or after they compete in the HP Pro Tour event.
- b. Selected players may be asked to participate in exhibition matches or interviews to promote the HP Pro Tour.

4. Member Conduct

- a. Contestants must not heckle, taunt, distract or disturb their opponents or other contestants on adjacent courts.
- b. Contestants must observe local rules & regulations regarding alcohol & tobacco use.
- c. All cell phones must be turned off within the confines of the courts.
- d. Profanity is not permitted.
- e. **Throwing of pickup hooks, measuring tools, horseshoes, or other such equipment is dangerous and a display of poor sportsmanship and will not be tolerated. Violation of this particular rule will result in immediate suspension from the current event.**
- f. Members are not permitted to engage in fixing games or cheating, during a HP Pro Tour event.
- g. Members may not place a bet of monetary value on a contestant, or self, when participating in a competition.

5. Disciplinary Actions

Willfully violating the member conduct rules, playing rules or bylaws of the HP Pro Tour may result in one or more of the following disciplinary actions.

- a. Verbal warning
- b. Forfeiture of the current game
- c. Suspension from the remainder of the current event with forfeiture of entry fee.
- d. Suspension from one or more future events.
- e. Suspension of HP Pro Tour membership for 12 months and forfeiture of membership fees and any Championship Points.
- f. Lifetime suspension of HP Pro Tour Membership.

The Tournament Director will administer a verbal warning when misconduct is observed. If the conduct is repeated the Tournament Director will notify the Executive Board; the Executive Board will then determine what additional disciplinary actions are warranted.

ARTICLE VI: Spectators

1. Spectator Etiquette

Spectators need to be respectful of the competitors at all times during competition.

- a. Spectators should turn off cell phones.
- b. Spectators should remain quiet during competition, and are asked to hold their applause until the end of the match.
- c. For safety purposes, spectators should avoid leaning on, or stand directly behind fenced area during competition.
- d. Spectators should not use flash photography during competition.
- e. Spectators who do not follow these rules will be asked to leave the playing area.

ARTICLE VII: Executive Board

1. Officers

The HP Pro Tour Executive Board shall consist of the following HP Pro Tour officers:

- a. Commissioner
- b. Director of Operations
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer
- e. Player Representative – 40'
- f. Player Representative – 30'
- g. Director of Marketing
- h. Webmaster/Statistician
- i. NHPA Liaison (non-voting position)

2. Conducting Business

- a. The Executive Board shall have power to conduct the business of the HP Pro Tour provided such business is not contrary to the bylaws.
- b. The Executive Board may conduct business by mail, e-mail, or telephone when necessary.

3. Meetings:

- a. The Executive Board shall meet annually at a time and place scheduled by the Secretary/Treasurer. At the annual meeting the Executive Board will:
 - i. Review tournament format and rules.
 - ii. Review HP Pro Tour bylaws.
 - iii. Address any player complaints or concerns.
 - iv. Review financial records and establish a budget for the following year.
 - v. Consider new sponsorship opportunities.
- b. The Executive Board should meet quarterly by conference call.
- c. Emergency meetings may be conducted during HP Pro Tour events or by conference call as required. The Secretary/Treasurer will notify all members of the Executive Board of any meetings that are to be conducted.
- d. Two thirds (2/3) of the current voting board members must be present to constitute a quorum and conduct any HP Pro Tour business.

ARTICLE VIII: Duties of officers

1. Commissioner's Duties:

- a. Preside at all HP Pro Tour meetings.
- b. Administer the business of the HP Pro Tour.
- c. Appoint members to committees.
- d. Sign contracts and make commitments on behalf of the HP Pro Tour.
- e. Promote the best interests of the HP Pro Tour.
- f. Act on any emergency situation which may arise.

2. Director of Operations Duties

- a. Direct tournaments according to the HP Pro Tour tournament format guidelines.
- b. Accept RFPs from locations for tournament dates confer with other officers and make final decisions regarding the schedule for the following year.
- c. Makes tournaments official at end of each event.
- d. Assist the Commissioner, when requested and assume the duties of the Commissioner in his/her absence.
- e. Responsible for calling member meeting prior to each event.

3. The Secretary Duties:

- a. Arrange special meetings, and notify all members of the Executive Board.
- b. Take minutes in all meetings, and provide a copy to all Board members at next meeting.

4. The Treasurer Duties:

- a. Be custodian of all funds, property, records and other HP Pro Tour owned assets.
- b. Keep records of all monies received and disbursed.
- c. Provide a quarterly financial statement to the Executive board.
- d. Pay all bills for routine supplies and all special purchases that have been approved by the Executive Board.
- e. Provide all financial records to the HP Pro Tour accountant for financial and regulatory reporting at the end of the fiscal year which runs from January 1st through December 31st.
- f. Write out checks for tournament payouts.

5. Player Representative-40'

- a. Promote the HP Pro Tour, and serve as an HP Pro Tour Board member.
- b. Solicit input from 40' members regarding suggested rule changes.
- c. Represent the 40 foot distance players at all Executive Board meetings.
- d. Serve as liaison between 40 foot distance players and the HP Pro Tour Executive Board to resolve any concerns or complaints.
- e. Work with the Director of Marketing to coordinate member's participation in any exhibition matches, interviews or guest appearances.
- f. Assist the Tournament Director in administering disciplinary actions for member conduct issues in the 40' division.

6. Player Representative-30'

- a. Promote the HP Pro Tour, and serve as an HP Pro Tour Board member.
- b. Solicit input from 40' members regarding suggested rule changes.
- c. Represent the 30 foot distance players at all Executive Board meetings.
- d. Serve as a liaison between 30 foot distance players and the HP Pro Tour Executive Board to resolve any concerns or complaints.
- e. Work with the Director of Marketing to coordinate member's participation in any exhibition matches, interviews or guest appearances.
- f. Assist the Tournament Director in administering disciplinary actions for member conduct issues in the 30' division.

7. Director of Marketing

- a. Market HP Pro Tour
- b. Work with Director of Operations to solicit new facilities.
- c. Seeking out possible sponsors
- d. Contacting local media before, during, and after tournament.
- e. Arranging interviews between media and members of the HP Pro Tour.
- f. Work with player representatives to coordinate exhibition matches, interviews or guest appearances.

8. Webmaster/Statistician

- a. Maintain website
- b. Keep statistics updated
- c. Send stats to media
- d. Posting stats on the websites
- e. Keeping Stats at all events

9. NHPA Liaison

- a. Attend Executive Board meetings
- b. Represent the NHPA views during Executive Board meetings
- c. Communicate HP Pro Tour Executive Board actions to NHPA leadership

ARTICLE IX: Time and Expense Reimbursement

Executive Board members and other HP Pro Tour staff will be reimbursed for reasonable expenses. Receipts should be submitted to the Treasurer for reimbursement.

ARTICLE X: Removal from office

- a. Any officer may be removed from office upon failure to perform the duties of the office or for any reason that brings discredit to the HP Pro Tour.
- b. Removal from office shall be by majority vote of the remaining members of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XI: Vacancies in office

- a. In the event of a vacancy the remaining Board members will select a replacement.
- b. Any vacancies in office except that of Commissioner shall be filled in a timely manner by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XII: Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by 2/3 vote of the Executive Board present at the annual meeting or special meetings of the HP Pro Tour.

Draft revision pending approval December 1, 2009.