



# **OHIO HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION (OHPA)**

## **BY-LAWS**



Adopted September 4, 1993  
Revised September 2, 2023

## **OHPA STATE OFFICERS**

### **President**

Gary Roberts  
638 Salem Cave Rd  
Beaver, Ohio 45613  
740-820-3142  
gbroberts5542@yahoo.com

### **First Vice-President**

Brian Fisher  
9655 Paris-Hillsboro Rd  
New Paris, Ohio 45347  
937-239-6877  
brian.fisher6877@gmail.com

### **Second Vice-President**

Darryl Miller  
10915 Converse Rd  
Plain City, Ohio 43064  
614-496-7158  
diggerdarryl@aol.com

### **Third Vice-President**

Mike Byers  
7471 Degood Rd  
Ostrander, Ohio 43061  
740-666-1641  
degoodf150@aol.com

### **Fourth Vice-President**

Randy Shoemaker  
1615 Hanna Ln  
Londonderry, Ohio 45647  
740-804-7886  
rankay8@gmail.com

### **Fifth Vice-President**

Carol Sanford  
3265 Dry Run Rd  
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601  
740-703-1452  
sanfordcarol@yahoo.com

### **Secretary-Treasurer**

Amy Miller  
PO Box 475  
Hilliard, Ohio 43026  
614-507-2468  
ohpasecretary@gmail.com

## **DIRECTORS**

### **Membership Director**

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Amy Miller

### **Publicity Chairperson**

#### **Junior Promotions Director**

Brian Fisher

### **By-Laws Chairperson**

Randy Shoemaker

### **Hall of Fame Chairperson**

Mike Byers

### **NHPA Regional Director**

Darryl Miller

## ARTICLE 1 - NAME

The name of the 501(c)3 non-profit organization shall be the Ohio Horseshoe Pitchers Association (“OHPA”).

## ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE

The purpose of the OHPA shall be to develop, foster, and promote horseshoe pitching at the local and state levels.

## ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERSHIP

### **Section 1 - Qualifications for Membership**

Any person may become a member of the OHPA by the payment of State and National annual membership dues (“Dues”) as fixed by the OHPA and the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (“NHPA”). Dues include NHPA liability insurance.

### **Section 2 - Adult Membership Annual Dues**

- a) Dues for **Full** members are the National Dues of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) plus the State Dues of fifteen dollars (\$15.00). Only Full members may enter State and World Tournaments.
- b) Dues for **Provisional** members are the National Dues of ten dollars (\$10.00). Provisional members are allowed to enter any tournament/league (upon paying their entry fee) for the period beginning at their first entry to the end of the current calendar year, at which time they must become a **Full** member to continue to participate. **Provisional** members may upgrade to **Full** member at any time by paying National Dues of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) and State Dues of fifteen dollars (\$15.00).
- c) Dues for **Trial** members are waived, and the member is allowed to enter one sanctioned tournament/league (upon paying their entry fee).

### **Section 3 – Junior/Cadet Membership Annual Dues**

Dues for Junior and Cadet members are NHPA Dues only (\$5.00 for Full membership). Cadet members are twelve (12) years old or under and are not turning thirteen (13) this year and will pitch from the twenty-foot (20’) foul line. Junior members are turning thirteen

(13) this year and not turning nineteen (19) this year and will pitch from the twenty-seven foot (27') foul line.

#### **Section 4 – Membership Annual Dues Payment**

Membership dues, valid through December 31st of the upcoming year, may be paid starting October 1st of the current year (or upon joining), which provides a (15) month membership. Dues paid after January 1<sup>st</sup> will expire December 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Section 5 – Membership Card**

A combined OHPA and NHPA membership card can be purchased through “eShoe,” the NHPA membership website ([www.nhpa-eshoe.com](http://www.nhpa-eshoe.com)). eShoe enables (a) purchase and membership renewal; (b) printing a membership card; and (c) view your current ringer percentage and completed events. eShoe also provides a schedule and results of all sanctioned events nationwide. Membership purchase/renewal can also be completed through the OHPA website ([www.ohiohorseshoes.org](http://www.ohiohorseshoes.org)), by mailing a membership application with payment to the OHPA Secretary-Treasurer. Membership applications are available on the OHPA website. OHPA members must maintain legal residence in the State of Ohio. Legal residence is determined by place of voting and/or State in which driver’s license is issued.

#### **Section 6 - Medical Exemptions**

Pursuant to the Official Rules of Horseshoe Pitching (See NHPA Rule 1, Section F, No. 2), “Physically challenged, Male pitchers less than sixty-five (65) years old may be given permission, by their governing Charter, to move onto the extended platforms in the Elders Division and observe the twenty-seven foot (27') foul lines. The prior completion and approval of a Medical Exemption Application form (available from Charter Secretaries and on some Charter Websites) is required. At the World Tournament and at State Championship Tournaments, they shall compete in the Elders Division.” To obtain this OHPA form, contact the 4<sup>th</sup> Vice Pres. The OHPA Executive Council will review each application and provide their decision. Any member cannot pitch from a shorter distance in any sanctioned event before permission is granted by the OHPA Executive Council.

## **Section 7 - Suspension**

Any member under suspension by either the NHPA or the OHPA shall not be permitted to pitch, keep score, enter the court area, or otherwise participate in any sanctioned event held or sponsored by the OHPA. Any member may be suspended for:

- a) Willfully violating any official Playing Rules or By-Laws of the OHPA or NHPA.
- b) Fixing games, cheating or any other conduct unbecoming a member.
- c) Placing a bet of monetary value on a contestant or self when participating in a competition.
- d) Using an unsanctioned or altered shoe in a sanctioned tournament.
- e) Forfeiting in a tournament for an unapproved reason.

Suspension shall be considered by the OHPA Officers after receipt of written complaint from a current bona-fide member of the OHPA or NHPA stating the rule allegedly violated. The suspension, if approved by a majority of the OHPA Officers, shall be in effect for one year or until the next annual Convention, at which time the suspended member may appeal to the Convention for reinstatement. Additional suspensions shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the OHPA Officers. Letters of suspension shall be mailed by the OHPA Secretary-Treasurer to all clubs in the State. No member may be suspended without being given an opportunity of attending a hearing before two or more of the OHPA Officers. If a member refuses to or does not attend a hearing, they may be suspended without a hearing.

## **ARTICLE 4 – CONVENTION**

### **Section 1 - Time of Convention**

The Convention shall be held during the annual State Tournament at a time announced by the President.

## **Section 2 - Location**

The Convention shall take place at the site of the annual State Tournament.

## **Section 3 - Delegates, Voting and Quorum**

Delegates will be every NHPA/OHPA member in attendance at the Convention who is in current good standing. Only delegates in attendance are eligible to vote, including junior members. A quorum is defined as five percent (5%) of good standing members present.

## **Section 4 - Business and Proposals**

Any delegate may present business during the Convention either in writing or verbally from the Convention floor. Written proposals, resolutions, etc. are preferred as they allow for careful consideration by other delegates. Proposals for revisions to By-Laws are described in Article 9, Sections 2 and 3 below.

An agenda shall be prepared for each Convention. A brief subject matter description of any item proposed for inclusion on the agenda must be communicated to the President not less than five (5) days prior to the Convention either in writing or by telephone.

Other matters may be considered by the Convention if they arise out of other business or are of such an urgent or late breaking nature that they could not have been anticipated prior to the five (5) day deadline.

## **Section 5 - Rules of Order**

Roberts Rules of Order (revised) shall govern Convention proceedings except to the extent inconsistent with these By-Laws, in which case these By-Laws shall control.

## **ARTICLE 5 - STATE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS; TERMS AND DUTIES**

### **Section 1 - Officers**

The Officers of the OHPA shall be:

- a) President
- b) First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Vice-President

- c) Secretary-Treasurer

The above Officers constitute the Executive Council.

## **Section 2 - Eligibility of Officers**

- a) All Officers shall be NHPA/OHPA members in good standing and not under suspension.
- b) At least one Officer, if available, shall be a woman, and, similarly, at least one Officer must be a man. No junior member may be an Officer.
- c) All Officers must subscribe to the NHPA newsletter (*Newsline*).

## **Section 3 - Terms of Office**

Each Officer shall serve a term of two years. Officers shall be elected by a vote of the delegates at the annual Convention and shall assume their duties immediately following the Convention. Officers shall be elected according to the following schedule:

**Even Years:** President, Second and Fourth Vice Presidents

**Odd Years:** Secretary-Treasurer, First, Third and Fifth Vice-Presidents

## **Section 4 - Duties of Executive Council, Officers, and Directors**

- a) **Executive Council:**
  - i) The Executive Council shall conduct OHPA regular business between annual Conventions in accordance with these By-Laws. Regular business shall include setting a budget which shall include payment of compensation and allowances, purchase of necessary supplies and equipment, setting of prize monies for the State Tournament, and all other necessary OHPA expenditures. The Executive Council shall establish rules for payment of any OHPA expenses.
  - ii) Executive Council decisions may be challenged at the next Convention and overturned, if deemed necessary, by a simple majority of the delegates present (provided a quorum is present).

- iii) The Executive Council shall meet as scheduled by the President at least once each year at a time other than the Convention. Other meetings may be called by the President or by any two other members of the Executive Council. Business may also be conducted by mail, e-mail, telephone, or other necessary means.
- iv) Unless excused, for good cause, all Officers are expected to attend and help conduct the State Tournament.
- b) **President:** The President shall (i) preside at all OHPA Executive Council meetings; (ii) preside over the Convention, (iii) assign specific duties to the other elected Officers, (iv) convene at least one (more if needed) meeting of the Executive Council between Conventions, (v) appoint standing and temporary committees, (vi) be an ex-officio member of all committees, (vii) appoint from among the Vice-Presidents one to preside over any meeting at which he/she is unable to attend, (viii) cast tie breaking votes at Executive Council sessions and at Conventions, (ix) manage the State Tournament in cooperation with the Tournament Director at the Tournament site, and (x) appoint the State Tournament Director. The President may receive an annual stipend of \$250.00 or other amount as determined by the OHPA Executive Council.
- c) **Vice-Presidents:** The Vice-Presidents shall (i) assist the President when called upon, (ii) assist, when possible, in setting up and running tournaments in their districts, (iii) assist in establishment of new clubs when called upon, (iv) ensure that all tournament results are promptly reported to eShoe, (v) attend as many tournaments as possible, and (vi) assist with running the State Tournament. Each Vice-President may receive an annual stipend of \$150.00 or other amount as determined by the OHPA Executive Council.
- d) **Secretary-Treasurer:** The Secretary-Treasurer shall (i) be the custodian of all funds, property and records of the OHPA, (ii) keep minutes of all meetings of the Executive Council and of the Convention, (iii) maintain and update eShoe records accordingly as Membership Director, (iv) record all Dues paid directly to the OHPA, reconcile membership Dues with the NHPA as required by NHPA By-Laws and procedures, (v) pay all routine bills of the OHPA, and (vi) submit a detailed written report of receipts and expenditures to the Officers and to the annual Con-



vention. The Secretary-Treasurer may receive an annual stipend based on \$1.50 per OHPA member or other amount as determined by the OHPA Executive Council.

- e) **Tournament and League Directors:** Tournament and League Directors shall report all results of any Sanctioned Event to the NHPA eShoe database. Patches, certificates, and token numbers are provided by the Regional Director for posting results to eShoe. All Tournament and League Directors are responsible for ensuring that all participating members have paid their current Dues to the OHPA/NHPA prior to the Event, that all entrants have officially qualified for their current category and that all entrants observe the NHPA Dress Code. Tournament Directors shall pay the OHPA \$1.00 sanction fee per member that participates in any Sanctioned Tournament. These funds will be used for junior promotions.
- f) **OHPA Newsletter Editor:** The *Ohio Horseshoe Newsletter* is a free, bi-annual Spring and Fall publication for all current OHPA members, made available on the OHPA website, by e-mail or by USPS. The Editor's responsibilities include the announcement of article deadlines, gathering of articles, and distribution. This position may receive a stipend of \$300.00 per publication or other amount as determined by the OHPA Executive Council.
- g) **Publicity Director:** This Director (usually a Vice-President) shall be appointed by the OHPA President and shall: (i) chair the Communications Committee (see Article 8 - Standing Committees), (ii) be responsible for helping to publicize all OHPA scheduled sanctioned tournaments, and (iii) seek sponsorship for the OHPA State Championships Tournament.
- h) **Junior Promotions Director:** This Director (usually a Vice-President) shall be appointed by the OHPA President to be responsible for the promotion of Junior pitching, by contacting and providing information and ideas to all Ohio clubs and area schools, in an effort to encourage young Ohio pitchers to experience and become involved in this lifetime sport.
- i) **Webmaster:** The OHPA Webmaster will be appointed by the OHPA President. If a Vice-President or other charter member is not qualified or available for this position, the OHPA Executive Council may hire someone to maintain the OHPA website.

The Webmaster shall receive an annual stipend of \$300.00 or other amount as determined by the OHPA Executive Council.

#### **Section 5 - Vacancies**

- a) **President:** A vacancy in the presidency shall be filled from among the Vice-Presidents by Executive Council appointment, with the Secretary-Treasurer presiding over the process. The person selected by this method shall fill the unexpired term of the President.
- b) **Vice-President:** A vacancy in any office of Vice-President shall be filled upon recommendation of the President to, and appointed by, the Executive Council. The person selected by this method shall fill the unexpired term of the Vice-President.
- c) **Secretary-Treasurer:** A vacancy in the office of Secretary-Treasurer shall be filled upon recommendation of the President to, and appointed by, the Executive Council. The person selected by this method shall fill the unexpired term of the Secretary-Treasurer.

### **ARTICLE 6 - THE OHPA STATE TOURNAMENT**

#### **Section 1 - Location**

The annual State Tournament shall be held on Labor Day weekend at a site agreed upon by the delegates at a preceding annual Convention. Any site chosen shall have sufficient courts to permit pitching the usual number of contestants at a State Tournament according to past tournament records.

#### **Section 2 - Bidding Process**

- a) A city or organization desiring to hold the State Tournament shall submit its bid to the OHPA Secretary-Treasurer by March 15th, two years in advance. The OHPA President shall designate one or more members of the Executive Council to open bids after having determined that these members shall have no conflict of interest in the matter. No bid will be considered unless all the following conditions are met:
  - 1) The sanctioned facilities available for conducting the tournament are stated.

- 2) A minimum bid of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) is offered.
  - 3) A minimum deposit of one-third (33%) of the total cash bid accompanies the bid. This deposit is refundable, after the Convention, to the unsuccessful bidder.
- b) The Convention shall award, two years in advance and by a simple majority vote, the privilege of conducting a State Tournament. If three or more sites are bidding and there is no majority vote, the two bids receiving the most initial votes will be voted on again. If no State Tournament bid is received by the OHPA deadline, the Executive Council will award the Tournament for that next open year only.
  - c) Bidders who are awarded the State Tournament must sign a contract that, among other things, requires the remaining bid to be paid at least one year prior to the tournament dates.

### **Section 3 - Dress Code**

All pitchers competing in the State Tournament must have, as a minimum, their last name and City or State abbreviation professionally lettered on the back of their shirts. Letters shall be a minimum of three-quarter inches (3/4") in height and shirts cannot be sleeveless. Further dress code rules can be imposed by the Executive Council if all entrants are notified not later than the distribution of their pitching schedule.

### **Section 4 - Alcohol, Tobacco, Controlled Substances, and Cell Phones**

At the State Tournament, while in the confines of the courts, alcoholic beverages, any form of tobacco, controlled substances, and cell phone use shall be prohibited for all contestants, officials, and scorekeepers.

### **Section 5 - Entries**

Entry into the State Tournament shall be based on eShoe records. The State Tournament Director shall obtain these records the day after the tournament deadline and place participants into classes based on these records. A ringer percentage is required to enter the State Tournament. Any pitcher without a ringer percentage may pitch one hundred (100) qualifying shoes in the presence of any

sanctioned member, league, or tournament director prior to the entry deadline. The State Tournament Director shall then place the qualified pitcher in a class which most closely approximates the pitcher's ability. Any entries received after the entry deadline will not be permitted to pitch in the State Tournament.

#### **Section 6 - Residence Requirement**

To pitch in the State Tournament, a pitcher must (i) meet the legal residence requirements (stated in Article 3, Section 5), (ii) be a sanctioned member, and (iii) have lived in Ohio for a minimum of 90 days prior to the event. No pitcher may pitch in more than one State Tournament. A pitcher cannot pitch twice in the same State Tournament other than as a pacer.

#### **Section 7 - Presentation of Awards**

At an appropriate time during each State Tournament, a brief meeting will be announced to present awards, remember deceased pitchers, make announcements, and inform those present of any news of importance to the membership. Times for these presentations and announcements will be set by the Executive Council after consultation with the Tournament Director and/or the host site committee.

### **ARTICLE 7 - RULES OF PLAY**

The official rules for pitching any sanctioned horseshoe tournament in the State of Ohio shall be governed by the most recent Official Rules or By-Laws published by the NHPA except where Ohio rules are published to cover specific needs and do not constitute a violation of NHPA rules that would endanger the status of the Ohio Charter.

### **ARTICLE 8 - STANDING COMMITTEES**

Standing committees will be appointed by the President and shall consist of one or more members as follows:

a) **By-Laws Committee:** This committee shall have a chairperson, being a Vice-President appointed by the OHPA President, to (i) annually review all proposed amendments to the OHPA By-Laws, and (ii) determine whether any amendment to the OHPA By-Laws is needed based on amendment to the NHPA By-Laws.

b) **Hall of Fame Committee:** This committee shall have a chairperson, being a Vice-President appointed by the OHPA President, to (i) establish written guidelines for membership into the OHPA Hall of

Fame (subject to approval by the Executive Council and the Convention) and (ii) research, evaluate and oversee the voting process of the well-deserved individuals for induction.

c) **State Tournament Host:** The State Tournament Host shall be responsible for preparation and maintenance of the courts at the State Tournament, (ii) ensure the availability of judges and judging tools, proper lighting, and necessary equipment (such as scoreboards and chairs), and (iii) compliance with all other terms of the tournament contract. Decisions regarding discontinuance and restart of play due to weather conditions or emergency shall be made by the Tournament Director and/or the Executive Council.

## ARTICLE 9 - AMENDMENTS

### **Section 1 - No Conflict with NHPA By-Laws or Rules**

If the NHPA adopts new or amended By-Laws or Rules which conflict with the OHPA By-Laws, the NHPA Rules or By-Laws shall supersede the OHPA By-Laws. The President shall direct the By-Laws Committee to draft the necessary amendment to the OHPA By-Laws, to be voted on at the next Convention if sufficient time is available for proper notification to delegates.

### **Section 2 - Amendments to the OHPA By-Laws**

Except as provided in Sections 1 and 4, these By-Laws shall only be amended in odd-numbered years. The By-Laws Committee shall review and accept written amendment proposals in the interim. All proposed amendments must be received, in writing, by the By-Laws Committee prior to March 1<sup>st</sup> of the year when voting takes place.

### **Section 3 - Publication of Proposed Amendments**

Except as provided in Section 4, any proposed amendment to these By-Laws shall be first, considered by the By-Laws Committee and the Executive Council, and second, distributed to the members, prior to being considered by the Convention. Both the existing and proposed text shall be printed for comparison. This publication shall constitute notice to the members that the amendment(s) to the By-Laws shall be voted on at the next Convention. If possible, publication and distribution shall be through the *Ohio Horseshoe Newsletter*.

#### **Section 4 - Emergency Amendment**

If, during a Convention, an issue is presented which requires emergency amendment to these By-Laws, the emergency amendment may be considered at the Convention if three-fourths (3/4ths) of the Convention delegates present agree to do so (provided that a quorum is present).

#### **Section 5 - Required Vote to Pass Amendments**

A two-thirds (2/3rds) affirmative vote of the delegates present at the Convention is required to pass a By-Laws amendment (provided that a quorum is present).

### **ARTICLE 10 - CONDUCTING BUSINESS**

#### **Section 1 - Executive Council**

Conduct of business at a meeting shall require a minimum of four (4) of the six (6) voting members be present. Conduct of business by telephone, mail, e-mail, or virtual meeting shall require input by the President and Secretary-Treasurer. Other Executive Council members shall be notified accordingly.

#### **Section 2 - Convention**

Business may be conducted at the Convention (provided a quorum is present).

#### **Section 3 - Tie-Breaking Votes**

The President shall not vote on any matter before the Executive Council or Convention except in the case of a tie vote, in which case the President shall cast the tie-breaking vote.

#### **Section 4 - Vote Requirement**

Except for amendment to these By-Laws (see Article 9), the routine business of the OHPA shall require a simple majority (51%) vote for passage (provided a quorum is present).

This edition of the OHPA By-Laws was adopted on September 4, 1993, revised September 5, 2011, and revised September 2, 2023.

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**NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS**  
**ASSOCIATION**  
**<https://www.horseshoepitching.com/>**

**NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS**  
**FOUNDATION**  
**<https://nhpf.info/>**

**ESHOE**  
**<https://www.nhpa-eshoe.com/>**

**ESHOE HOW-TO VIDEOS**  
**<http://www.nc-horseshoepitching.com/eshoe-videos.html>**

