



The Ringer Report



Informative - Educational - Entertaining

December 2025

To: All MHPA Members
From: Robert Wells
Subject: The World of Horseshoes



I would like to thank Mark Burns for his support on the St. Jude backpack give away program. The backpack was won by Becky Sullivan of the Lansing Club. I had 15 tickets sold for the drawing. This year we have raised \$2,494 for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

I have resigned as the St. Jude Coordinator, but it is a very worthy cause and one that we should all feel proud. Please give Mark Burns a call.

I have been a member of the NHPA for over 53 years and I watched our membership drop substantially. We have to compete against a lot of new

sports. We have very little help at the high school level so we have to compete for players after they are much older. I have found that every horseshoe club must be in contact with a sports writer at your local newspaper, and the local TV station.



Bob Wells

If you're playing in a city or county park, make sure you let your park director know how many players are in your club and if you have a tournament, let them know how many players came from out of town. It's important they know how much money your program brought into the city. If you have a TV station that broadcast local issues, ask it you can be a guest and talk about your horseshoe club.

I want all of you to have a great horseshoe future with lots of ringers and great fellowship like I have enjoyed.

Pitcher's Dreams or Goals?

At the beginning of each season, we need to set goals as an association, as a club, and as an individual of what we would like to accomplish every year.

The first goal is to bring one new member into your club; the second goal is to bring your ringer percentage up.

It will take some work and dedication on your part to accomplish both of these goals, but you can help our association grow and showcase our sport to all who come in contact with.

So, please put some goals on paper so you can post them, see them every day, keep them on your mind, and work on them.

Takes effect January 2026
Constitution, By-Laws Changes

- **Entry fees for Indoor and Outdoor district tournaments shall be \$20.00 (minimum).**

 This adjustment in the tournament entry fee will allow for an increased payout for our participants and by reducing the number of places paid out, that will also increase the payouts.

There had not been an increase in the tournament entry fee in many years. There was also a change in the fees that were being paid to the Jackson Horseshoe Club for utilities/use of the facility. The fee was previously \$8/player and is being reduced to \$6/player. This will allow some additional money to be paid out.

- **MHPA tournament participants will be allowed to place their beverages (non-alcoholic/alcoholic) behind the backboard on the courts.** Beverages must be in a covered container and not be glass.



World Doubles Tournament

The inaugural World Horseshoe Pitching Doubles Championships in Wentzville!

Helga and Brandy took 3rd in the class A championship class! In Class B Warren Westbrook and Kayden Fowler pitched as a team.



Format:

- Standing Doubles.
- No handicapping.
- Round robin qualifying.
- All entrants will have two days of play at the event.
- No entry percentage caps.
- Bracket finish for each class.
- Entrants must have 2 sanctioned events within the past year.
- \$180 entry fee per team including scorekeeping.

NHPA council and the QRHC in Wentzville were excited to have this inaugural event as we crowned the first ever non-walking doubles champions at our Hall of Fame.

President's Report

Mark Burns



2025 is quickly coming to an end and with it the end of my first year as your president. I can honestly say, "This year has flown by!" I hope that you are all able to enjoy the holidays with your family and friends. I hope that 2026 brings you good health, fortune and new MHPA friends.

Just a few reminders from me before the 2026 pitching season begins

- Effective January 1, your membership needs to be renewed (\$45). You can mail it, pay for it at the first tournament that you pitch in for the year or pay online at the NHPA website.

- The entry fee for our local tournaments will also increase on January 1 to \$20 per person. This change was voted in at our membership meeting in August. This increase will allow for improved pay-outs for each class.

- The World Tournament will be held in Wausau, Wisconsin (July 13 – 25, 2026), which is a lot closer to us than many of the recent tournaments have been. If you plan to register and play – you must have four (4) tournaments played by the registration date of May 18, 2026. These tournaments can be anywhere in the United States and Canada.

Our hope is that with the location of the World Tournament, we will see an increase in our membership and the changes in our by-laws, they will continue to be active members of our association.

- We still have open positions that need to be filled to enable us to continue to promote and grow our MHPA. If you are interested in helping in any way, please reach out to me or Michele.

Again, Happy Holidays!



St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital®

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
is our charity of choice. Make your
ringers count even more.

Pledge forms available on the
MHPA website and Ringer Reports.

The Ringer Report

Official Newsletter of the Michigan Horseshoe Pitchers Association

Michigan Division of the NHPA - Established 1935

Issues published in March, May, August, October, December

Dean Schmitz, Editor - (989) 615-4064 - horseshoe48043@gmail.com

Emails to the Editor and news items are encouraged.



**MICHIGAN HORSESHOE
PITCHERS ASSOCIATION**

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6565 Blackman Rd.
Jackson, MI. 49201 **mabearin@yahoo.com**

Committee Chairs

Audit & Finance **Volunteer needed**

John Banks, Hall of Fame **313 596-0186**
13336 Charlotte Ave., Warren, MI 48089 **john_b313@hotmail.com**

Constitution/Bylaws: **1st Vice-President**

Grievance: **2nd Vice-President**

Membership: **Secretary / Treasurer**

HOF and Museum: **Volunteer needed**

Website, Stats & More

Bob Williams, MHPA Website **517 -392-7110**
MHPAhorseshoes.com **bob.Williams1957@gmail.com**

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49360 Carlos St., Apt 174, Chesterfield, MI 48051 **zachy214@gmail.com**

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799 Chippewa St., Mount Clemens, MI 48043 **horseshoe48043@gmail.com**

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Club	Director	Phone	Email
Brighton Indoor	Paul Bachelor	(810) 772-8678	paulbachelor@aol.com
Jackson	Brandy Morehead	(517) 599-5933	brandy.morehead@gmail.com
Kalamazoo	Josh Lull	(269) 838-7698	joshlull@gmail.com
Lake Orion	Doug Bailey	(248) 421-9708	dougbailey204@gmail.com
Lansing	Keith Schafer	(517) 256-8224	michhorseshoedir@yahoo.com
Mecosta	Helga Hewlett	(989) 621-7630	helgahewlett@gmail.com
St. Clair Shores	Tina Payne	(586) 744-3223	tinapayne0828@gmail.com

Indoor Tournament Results

Brighton Indoor - October 17, 2925

Class A	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Brandy Morehead	67.54	4-0	67	92	72.83

Class A was pitched as Classes A & B.

Brandy Morehead - is the Class A winner.

Roger Higgins, who came in 2nd, is the Class B winner.

Class B	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
2. Roger Higgins	41.04	2-2	58	184	31.52
3. David Harrison	39.29	2-2	50	164	30.49
4. Danny Markley	39.02	2-2	32	136	23.53
5. George Parsons	43.44	0-4	32	144	22.22-

Class C	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. George Jones	29.47	4-0	43	110	39.09
2. David Morehead	10.03	1-3	13	144	9.03
3. Cindy Jones	9.89	1-3	5	126	3.97

Mecosta Indoor - Sat. Oct. 25, 2025

Class A	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Brandy Morehead	69.58	6-0	152	236	64.41
2. Helga Hewlett	63.24	3-3	139	246	56.50
3. Sam Moore	54.25	2-4	122	224	54.46
4. Keith Schafer (FL)	52.67	1-5	100	222	45.05

Class B	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Larry McArthur	42.05	4-0	77	148	52.03
2. Danny Markley	39.02	3-1	52	142	36.62
3. Jonathan Landino	39.81	1-3	51	150	34.00
4. Dave Harrison	39.29	1-3	63	190	33.16
5. George Jones	32.18	1-3	41	166	24.70

Class C	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Josh Lewandowski	28.90	3-1	54	174	31.03
2. Dan Kofflin	21.54	2-2	44	182	24.18
3. Jack Mings (IN)	25.89	2-2	41	176	23.30
4. James Robinson	19.17	2-2	35	182	19.23
5. Cindy Jones	9.14	1-3	2	130	1.54

Jackson Indoor - Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025

Class A	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Brandy Morehead	67.67	6-0	123	206	59.71
2. Helga Hewlett	63.24	4-2	120	214	56.07
3. Danny Markley	40.00	1-5	64	242	26.45
4. Bobby Mumford Sr.	41.70	1-5	51	218	23.39

Class B	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Dave Harrison	39.29	3-1	61	184	33.15
2. Kevin Gladstone	27.61	3-1	44	196	22.45
3. Bobby Mumford, Jr.	25.28	2-2	45	200	22.50
4. Dan Kofflin	22.38	1-3	48	182	26.30
5. Bobby Mumford III	23.42	1-3	46	194	23.71

Mecosta Indoor - Sat., Nov. 8, 2025

Class A	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Helga Hewlett	63.24	4-0	99	174	56.90
2. Brandy Morehead	67.67	3-1	90	146	61.64
3. Larry McArthur	46.60	2-2	81	166	48.80
4. Danny Markley	40.00	1-3	85	192	44.27
5. Bobby Mumford Sr.	41.70	0-4	34	134	25.37

Class B	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Dave Harrison	39.29	6-0	86	214	40.19
2. Dan Kofflin	24.10	3-3	61	214	28.50
3. George Jones	32.18	3-3	60	230	26.09
4. Cindy Jones	9.06	0-6	6	162	3.70

Jackson Indoor - Sat., Nov. 15, 2025

Class A & B	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Brandy Morehead	67.67	4-0	143	156	64.10
2. John Banks	54.90	3-1	121	152	60.53
3. Sam Moore	55.56	2-2	108	162	56.79
4. Paul Bachelor	42.92	1-3	80	156	42.31
5. Bob Dale	52.00	0-4	48	134	35.82

Class C	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. George Jones	32.18	3-1	58	142	40.85
2. John Hesser (OH)	27.09	3-1	74	162	45.68
3. Narone Parker	29.39	2-2	71	192	36.98
4. Danny Markley	42.55	2-2	51	152	33.55
5. Bobby Mumford Sr.	41.70	0-4	15	116	12.93

Class D	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Bob Roesler (OH)	16.50	6-0	62	210	29.52
2. Myrick El	22.36	3-3	55	214	25.70
3. Darrell Harris	15.30	3-3	44	218	20.18
4. Cindy Jones	8.53	0-6	8	206	3.88

Jackson Indoor - Sat., Nov. 22, 2025

Class A	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Brandy Morehead	67.67	4-0	123	190	64.74
2. John Banks	56.92	3-1	112	168	66.67
3. Helga Hewlett	63.24	2-2	111	174	63.79
4. Quincy Johnson	55.01	1-3	72	152	47.37
5. Sam Moore	55.51	0-4	102	184	55.43
Class B	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Danny Markley	40.00	4-0	59	168	35.12
2. George Jones	35.82	3-1	57	184	30.98
3. Narone Parker	32.60	2-2	63	168	37.50
4. Bobby Mumford Sr.	41.70	1-3	48	180	26.67
5. Dave Harrison	39.85	0-4	49	172	28.49
Class C	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Chris Judson (IL)	29.03	4-0	50	150	33.33
2. Myrick El	23.84	2-2	25	154	16.23
3. Cindy Jones	8.53	0-4	6	156	3.85

2026 MHPA SANCTIONED TOURNAMENT PITCHING SCHEDULE

Outdoor Tournaments - Check-in by 9:30 a.m.

Indoor Tournaments must pre-register with the Tournament Director -

Check-in by 9:30 a.m. - Starting time 10:00 a.m.

		DATE	HOST CLUB	
January	PRE - REGISTER			
	TO GUARANTEE	1/3/2026 - Sat		
	YOUR SPOT FOR	1/4/2026 - Sun		
	WINTER TOURNAMENTS	1/10/2026 - Sat	Mecosta	
		1/11/2026 - Sun	Jackson	
		1/17/2026 - Sat	Kalamazoo	
		1/25/2026 - Sun		
		1/31/2026 - Sat	Tom Burns Memorial (Mark Burns) \$600 added prize \$\$\$	
February	PRE - REGISTER			
	TO GUARANTEE	2/1/2026 - Sun		
	YOUR SPOT FOR	2/8/2026 - Sun		
	WINTER TOURNAMENTS	2/14/2026 - Sat	Mecosta	
		2/15/2026 - Sun	Jackson	
		2/21/2026 - Sat		
		2/22/2026 - Sun		
March	PRE - REGISTER			
	TO GUARANTEE	3/1/2026 - Sun		
	YOUR SPOT FOR	3/8/2026 - Sun		
	WINTER TOURNAMENTS	3/14/2026 - Sat	Jackson	
		3/15/2026 - Sun		
		3/21/2026 - Sat		
		3/22/2026 - Sun		
		3/28/2026 - Sat	Mecosta	
		3/29/2026 - Sun		
April	PRE - REGISTER			
	EASTER	4/4/2026 - Sat		
	TO GUARANTEE	4/5/2026 - Sun		
	YOUR SPOT FOR	4/11/2026 - Sat		
	WINTER TOURNAMENTS	4/12/2026 - Sun		
	SPRING MEETING	4/18/2026 - Sat	Jackson - Thrun Vincent	
		4/19/2026 - Sun		
		4/25/2026 - Sat		
		4/26/2026 - Sun		
	OUTDOOR SEASON BEGINS			
May				
	MOTHER'S DAY	5/1/2026 - Sun		
	TEAM WORLD	5/12/2026 - Fri		
	TEAM WORLD	5/16/2026 - Sat		
	TEAM WORLD	5/17/2026 - Sun		
		5/23/2026 - Sat		
		5/24/2026 - Sun		
	MEMORIAL DAY	5/25/2026 - Mon		
		5/30/2026 - Sat	Lansing - St. Jude	
June		5/31/2026 - Sun		
		6/6/2026 - Sat	St. Clair Shores Memorial Tournament	
		6/7/2026 - Sun		
		6/12/2026 - Fri	Kalamazoo	
		6/13/2026 - Sat	Lake Orion	
		6/14/2026 - Sun		
		6/20/2026 - Sat	Mecosta	
	FATHER'S DAY	6/21/2026 - Sun		
		6/27/2026 - Sat	Lansing - 40/30 Throwback Tournament (50 Point games)	
		6/28/2026 - Sun		
July	4th of JULY	7/4/2026 - Sat		
		7/5/2026 - Sun		
		7/11/2026 - Sat	Lake Orion	
		7/12/2026 - Sun		
	WORLD TOURNAMENT @ WAUSAU, WI 7/13 - 7/26/2026			
		7/18/2026 - Sat		
		7/19/2026 - Sun		
		7/25/2026 - Sat		
		7/26/2026 - Sun		
August	STATE DOUBLES @ LAKE ORION	8/1/2026 - Sat	Mark Burns MHPA President	
		8/2/2026 - Sun		
		8/7/2026 - Fri	Kalamazoo	
		8/7/2026 - Fri	St. Clair Shores	
		8/8/2026 - Sat	St. Clair Shores	
		8/9/2026 - Sun	St. Clair Shores	
		8/15/2026 - Sat	Jackson - Mark Burns (TD)	
		8/16/2026 - Sun		
	STATE SINGLES @ KALAMAZOO	8/21/2026 - Fri		
	STATE SINGLES @ KALAMAZOO	8/22/2026 - Sat		
	STATE SINGLES @ KALAMAZOO	8/23/2026 - Sun		
		8/29/2026 - Sat		
		8/30/2026 - Sun		
September	LABOR DAY	9/5/2026 - Sat		
		9/6/2026 - Sun		
	FALL INDOOR BEGINS	9/7/2026 - Mon		
October	PRE - REGISTER	10/3/2026 - Sat		
	TO GUARANTEE	10/4/2026 - Sun	Jackson	
		10/10/2026 - Sat		
		10/11/2026 - Sun		
	YOUR SPOT FOR	10/17/2026 - Sat		
		10/18/2026 - Sun		
	FALL TOURNAMENTS	10/24/2026 - Sat	Mecosta	
		10/25/2026 - Sun		
		10/31/2026 - Sat		
November	PRE - REGISTER	11/1/2026 - Sun		
	TO GUARANTEE	11/7/2026 - Sat	Jackson	
	YOUR SPOT FOR	11/8/2026 - Sun		
		11/14/2026 - Sat		
		11/15/2026 - Sun		
	FALL TOURNAMENTS	11/21/2026 - Sat		
		11/22/2026 - Sun	Jackson	
Contact information for Tournament Directors for indoor tournaments				
Jackson	Brandy Morehead - 517.599.5933			
	Mark Burns - 734.323.9116			
Mecosta	Helga Hewlett - 989.621.7630			
Kalamazoo	Josh Lull - 269.838.7698			

Participants: Help the TD's by bringing the correct fee money.

It will speed up check-in. Bring dollars for scorekeepers.

It is good etiquette to wear a tournament shirt at all events.



Larry "Woody" Woods

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Larry "Woody" Woods. Larry passed away Nov. 28, 2025.

For those who aren't aware, Larry was instrumental in starting the "Woody Cup", a horseshoe tournament meant to bring recognition to the sport of horseshoes and benefit St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

He was a past member of the MHPA, original/start-up member of the "Pitching for Charity" Club and a start-up member of the defunct Mount Clemens Indoor Club.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Larry's wife, Juanita, and their family during this difficult time.

Editor's Note

Larry was the founder of the South Eastern Michigan Horseshoe Club. This was a charity club that pitched charity tournaments in Lapeer, Macomb and St. Clair Counties. His co-founder was the owner of the Pink Elephant Pub in Smiths Creek, MI. The owner of the Pink Elephant had a dog named "LeRoy" who was injured in a train accident. He put a jar out on the bar, and as a joke, labeled it "for LeRoy's medical bills." When the jar quickly filled, he pondered what to do with the donations. He thought of a charity, "Leader Dogs for the Blind." Every year after that and, getting together with Larry "Woody" Woods, they formed the South Eastern Michigan Horseshoe Club. The first horseshoe tournament every year, and continuing today, is held at the Pink Elephant. Bars throughout the Southeastern Michigan area that have horseshoe courts, began to sponsor charity tournaments with the urging of Larry Woods. Thousands of dollars have been raised by these events for charity.

Larry Woods was also instrumental in the forming of the Mount Clemens Indoor Horseshoe Pitchers Club. With his horseshoe pitching knowledge and advice, the club had 162 different members before the City of Mount Clemens had to close the Recreation Department due to finances. The pitcher's "carry over" from the indoor club helped form the St. Clair Shores Horseshoe Club doubles league. The league fills all 12 courts every Tuesday evening in the summer and fall leagues.

In 2004, Larry "Woody" Woods got together with Mike Ardelean of the Lake Orion Horseshoe Club and Dean Schmitz of the SCSHC to form the "The Woody Cup Challenge". Mike is also credited with the tournament name. The purpose of this event is to raise money for a charity, to make the public



Juanita and "Woody"

aware of the fun of pitching horseshoes, meeting our friends, making new friends and enjoying the great game of horseshoe pitching. This trophy is presented annually to the MHPA league champion to create awareness of local clubs, MHPA, NHPA, promote youth participation, and encourage membership in organized horseshoe pitching. The Cup is to be displayed promoting Club and State Horseshoe Pitching. Established as the MHPA league championship tournament and later to include non-sanctioned leagues. With the Woody Cup Challenge being open to all Michigan Horseshoe Pitchers Association Club Leagues, upwards of seven clubs have been represented at the annual tournament.

Berkley, Lake Orion, Lansing, Lincoln Park/Romulus, St. Clair Shores, Taylor and Mount Clemens Shadyside have had participating teams.

After retirement, Juanita and Larry Woods became the owners of LDJ Trophies. They would supply horseshoe clubs with trophies just at their cost. He wanted to make sure clubs rewarded their members with the best moments of the game. Every

year, after the "Woody Cup" became a traveling trophy, he would supply the name plate for the trophy with the new winners. He contributed generously to The Woody Cup Challenge event.

In over 20 years of existence, this tournament has raised over \$14,000, mostly for St. Jude.

Larry Woods was a truck driver who loved pitching horseshoes. On his route, he knew which establishments had horseshoe courts outback. He would often pitch a game with workers before continuing his deliveries.

Larry "Woody" Woods pitched horseshoes all of his life. His biggest contribution to our sport is the PROMOTION of our sport. He has been a MHPA member for many years.



Larry, Cathy Ardelean and Juanita.



NHPA
National Horseshoe Pitchers Association
"Come Pitch with Us!"

Renewing Membership Online for 2026 Cards

Listed below are the basic steps to renewing your membership card online. This is the preferred method and it saves the MHPA time and money.

1. Go to www.horseshoepitching.com
2. Click on the eShoe link
3. Click in the players search box.
4. Type name or your card number.
5. Click on your name.
6. Next to card year click renew.
7. Then click print

These 7 steps are the easiest way of renewing your card online. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call Michele Burns and she will be more than happy to help you.

2025 MHPA Champions are:

<u>Champion</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Ringer %</u>
Men	Andy Adams	Lakeview	76.04
Women	Brandy Morehead	Jackson	69.78
Elders	Clip Connin	Hudson	54.42
Cadet Girls	Audrey Hedrick	Schoolcraft	3.76
Cadet Boys	Jackson VanCleave	Schoolcraft	17.72
Junior Boys	Bryce VanCleave	Schoolcraft	29.30

2025 NHPA Champions are:

<u>Champion</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Ringer %</u>
Men	Alan Francis	OH	86.94
Women	Jennifer Gegg	MO	81.98
Elders	Tom Moffat	BC	73.43
Elder Women	Sharon Chiddister	IN	65.00
Senior Women	Cindy Clausen	WA	62.37
Senior Men	Ken Fraser	NY	71.28
Junior Boys	Hastiin Begaye	CA	75.19
Junior Girls	Sadie Wolken	MO	44.94
Cadet Boys	Jeremiah DeMello	WA	50.00
Cadet Girls	Kateri Navarro	CA	31.18

MHPA CLUB NEWS

Lake Orion Club

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Lake Orion Horseshoe Club stay healthy my friends.

—Ronald Price

Mecosta Club

We are looking forward to our indoor tournaments January 10th, February 28th, and March 28th. We are encouraging everyone to join us on those dates. We have decided to have a special Raffle for Team Worlds to raise money to help offset the cost of the competition. We plan to raffle off a 28 inch Blackstone Griddle with stand and cover. We may have other prizes as well but are still ironing out the details. We are hoping Team One can bring home the win for Michigan again. Remember to sign up early for the tournaments as we only have room for 30 pitchers.

Thank you for supporting the sport.

—Helga Hewlett TD, Mecosta Club

Jackson Club

Our winter leagues are off to a great start, so great in fact that we added another night! We now have leagues on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday – twelve teams each night. This is very exciting for us since we tried to add another night many years ago and were unable to field enough teams! We have many new teams and former pitchers have returned after some time away. If you have any questions about our leagues, please reach out to Mark Burns or Tom Williams.

St. Clair Shores Club

• Past HOF committee chair, Dan Markley stepped down, and SCSHC member John Banks will be taking over the Hall of Fame committee. Thank you, Dan, for your work on this committee. John our new Hall of Fame Chair, has James Dunlap, Keith Schafer, Andy Matthews and JD Drake on his committee.

To appoint a new member to the HOF, you must fill out the HOF form found on the MHPA website, so the committee will have something to discuss. John Banks' cell is 313 740-2509, and email: john_b313@hotmail.com.

• Lake Orion Horseshoe Club generosity gave St. Clair Shores 7 5-gallon buckets of clay. Thank you to the kind pitchers at LO.

DID YOU KNOW?

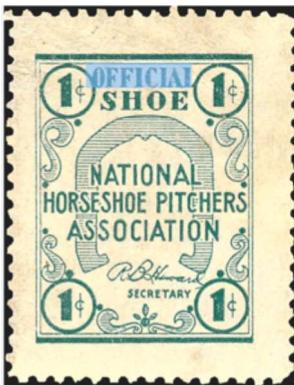
Horseshoe Revenue

A while back, I pictured a [National Horseshoe Pitchers Association](#) cinderella stamp and wondered about its origins.

It turns out to be a private revenue, and it was used by the association to mark boxes of new horseshoes to indicate that a sanctioning fee of a penny per pair of horseshoes had been paid.

The stamp also indicated to customers that they were buying a reputable horseshoe that was approved for play by the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association.

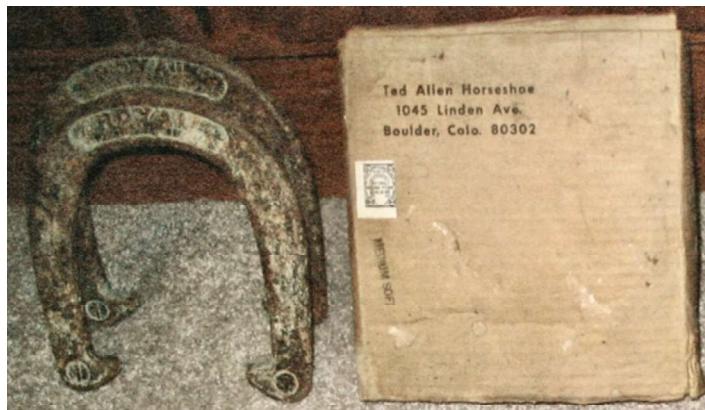
A rule may have even existed that required this stamp for horseshoes to be used in tournaments sanctioned by the association.



The signature "R. Howard" on the cinderella belongs to Raymond Howard, secretary of the association in 1921 and 1933. As the type of horseshoe depicted was in service between 1934 and 1946, 1933 would seem to be the likely date of creation of the cinderella.

In 1937, the association's magazine listed 11 manufacturers that used the stamp.

After a membership vote in 1939, the fee was raised to 5¢ in 1940. A 5¢ version of the stamp was produced for the new fee. It did not include a signature. An example used on box is shown below.



The fee lapsed in 1942 and was reestablished in 1946. At some point, the fee per pair of horseshoes was replaced by an annual sanctioning fee.

Thanks to Charles E. Nelson, who researched these stamps in the association's publications of the 1930s and 1940s. Peter Dearing, Casey Sluys and John Austin also provided information.



US #5627

2021 Horseshoes – Backyard Games

One of eight stamps commemorate the many backyard games that entertain us during the warmer months of the year.

Why the stamp was issued: To celebrate horseshoes – one of the most popular backyard games played in the United States.

About the stamp design: Pictures original artwork by Mick Wiggins of people playing horseshoes.

First Day City: The First Day of Issue Ceremony was held at the Great American Stamp Show 2021 in Rosemont, ILL.

About the Backyard Games set: Includes eight designs picturing original artwork by Mick Wiggins of a different backyard game: badminton, bocce, cornhole, croquet, flying disc, horseshoes, tetherball, and pick-up baseball.

History the stamp represents: Horseshoes is a lawn game that has been around for over 100 years. It is usually played by two people, but can also be played by teams. The equipment includes four horseshoes and two stakes set up 40 feet apart.

By the 1940s, horseshoes had become such a widespread game that President Harry Truman had a horseshoe pit built at the White House. President George H.W. Bush restored the pit in 1989, and shared the game with staff, family, and even visiting foreign dignitaries. Horseshoes really is a game for everyone.



Mystic Stamp Company
America's Leading Stamp Dealer

**Constitution and By-laws of the
Michigan Division of the NHPA established 1935
REVISED December 2025**

Preamble

The sport of horseshoe pitching affords a healthy, scientific, pleasant and competitive sport suitable to all persons with a desire to unify horseshoe adherents, standardize horseshoe pitching rules, authorize and conduct tournaments of local, state and national scope, promote the establishment of league and clubs. We the horseshoe pitchers of Michigan, in convention assembled do here establish the following Constitution and By-laws for the Association.

Article I: Name

The name of this Association shall be MICHIGAN HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION (MHPA).

Article II: Administration

Section 1.

All legislative power herein granted shall be vested in the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of the president, 1ST and 2ND vice presidents, secretary/treasurer, MHPA statistician, Regional Director and the chairperson of the standing committees.

Section 2.

The Board of Directors is required to meet a minimum of two times each year. The Board of Directors is responsible for the business of the MHPA. A two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors must be present to form a quorum. A majority vote by the members of the Board of Directors present is required to transact any business.

Section 3.

The officers of this Association shall consist of a president, 1st and 2nd vice-presidents and secretary/treasurer. The officers shall be known as the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall be in charge of the Association's operating affairs. They shall be empowered to transact such business in the interest of the game and the Association as they deem advisable providing this is not contrary to the Constitution and By-laws or the Board of Directors.

Section 4.

The president and 2nd vice-president are to be elected in even-numbered years. The 1st vice-president and secretary/treasurer are to be elected in odd-numbered years. Their term of office shall be two years. Election of officers may be by secret ballot. Elections are held during the state Championships Tournament. Elected officers are to begin January 1. A member nominated for office shall be present at the meeting to accept the nomination. A letter of acceptance for a nomination may be submitted if the member cannot be present at the meeting.

Section 5.

In case of death, resignation or removal of an officer between state meetings, the president may make an appointment to fill the unexpired term. Any appointments are to be subject to a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors within thirty days. Should the office of president become vacant due to death, resignation or removal, the 1st vice president shall become president and the 2nd vice president shall become the 1st vice president. The 2nd vice president position shall be filled at the next scheduled meeting.

Section 6.

State officers may be removed from their positions upon failure to perform the duties of the office or for any action that brings discredit to the MHPA. A two-thirds vote by the remaining Board of Directors is required to re-move an officer. Voting may be done by Registered Mail or Electronic Mail. (email)

Section 7.

The Constitution and By-laws, Rules and Regulations may be revised by submitting changes at any member-ship meeting or sent to the chairperson of the Constitution and By-laws Committee by July 15. Such proposed revisions shall be published in the MHPA's August newsletter. All proposed revisions shall be voted upon at the State Tournament meeting. Any additions, deletions and/or changes shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of members present at the meeting and shall become effective January 1 of the following year. The president may at his/her option, have the State Tournament meeting later if tournament scheduling or other unforeseen reason does not allow proper time for the meeting to be held during the tournament.

Section 8.

The 1st vice-president shall be the chairperson of the Constitution and By-laws Committee. The 2nd vice-president shall be the chairperson of the Grievance and Credentials Committee. The secretary/treasurer shall be the chairperson of the Membership Committee. The chairpersons and committees shall be appointed by the president from the membership of the MHPA. No member shall be selected for more than two commit-tees or be a chairperson of more than one committee.

A. Auditing and Finance

B. Hall of Fame

C. Publicity

D. Any other committee the president deems advisable for the good of the MHPA. It is necessary for majority of members of standing committees to be in actual attendance only if a problem arises which re-quires action by a particular committee. No committee shall decide an issue without a majority present. Should an oc-casion arise in which immediate action by a committee is required the president shall have the authority to dis-solve the existing committee and appoint a new committee if a majority is not present. It shall be the duty of all committees to serve willingly and in the best interest of the MHPA. Any committee member may be removed by the Board of Directors.

Article III: Judiciary

Section 1.

All officers shall have their books, records and property belonging to the MHPA at all membership meetings. If unable to be present, the officers must forward these to the president by registered mail before the first day of the meeting. Officers shall turn over to their successors all records and property of the MHPA that may or should be in their possession at the end of their term.

Section 2.

Any bill of account or expense against the MHPA amounting to over one hundred dollars, except routing sup-plies, shall be submitted to the Board of Directors and paid when approved by the Board of Directors. Any bill not approved in this manner, or any amount contested by the Board of Directors, shall be brought before the membership for approval by a majority of members present.

Duties of the Secretary/Treasurer

The secretary/treasurer shall be the custodian of all membership records and act as recording secretary at all meetings, handle the issuance of NHPA cards and membership reporting to the NHPA. The secretary/ treasurer shall also be the custodian of the funds of the MHPA. He/she shall furnish a complete statement to the member-ship of monies received and paid out at the spring meeting and after the close of business of

October 1 and/or any time the Board of Directors demands. During the annual state tournament meeting, Secretary/Treasurer shall provide a verbal update of the bank account. He/she shall furnish the information requested by the Audit-ing and Finance Committee and have the books audited at least once per year. Any election of the secretary/treasurer shall be invalid if the elected person does not furnish the necessary information to be bonded or if he/she cannot be bonded for a minimum of \$10,000. The bonding should be done no later than January 1, when officers take over their positions, and a copy of the bonding turned over to the chairperson of the Audit and Finance committee to verify the bonding.

The duties of the Statistician will be handled by the Secretary/Treasurer. This will also add the payment for the statistician to the payment received by the Secretary/ Treasurer.

The statistician is to gather and maintain a State Tournament record of statistics that may be pertinent to the MHPA such as longest game, most consecutive ringers, State Champion, consecutive four-dead, etc. The statistician shall be the custodian of printed materials and other documents belonging to the MHPA. The statistician shall maintain current ringer percentages and report all tournament results to eShoe. The statistician shall turn over these records upon demand of the Board of Directors or the authorized representative(s) of the MHPA.

Article IV: Club Charters Section 1.

A club charter may be granted to any group requesting to sponsor a MHPA tournament if the following guide-lines are fulfilled:

- A. The club shall furnish to the MHPA secretary/treasurer the name of a club member or a local Park and Recreation Department who shall receive money from the MHPA.
- B. The club shall furnish to the MHPA secretary the name of a club member who will be responsible for organizing tournaments sanctioned by the MHPA at the Scheduling Meeting.
- C. The club shall have a minimum of six horseshoe courts. There shall be six courts set up for less than 40 feet pitching. All courts must contain the same material.
- D. The club shall designate one member to handle publicity.

Section 2.

Objectives of all clubs and members.

- A. To stimulate and maintain interest in horseshoe pitching.
- B. To inform all interested persons in the rules governing the sport.
- C. To promote sound ethics in fair play.
- D. To encourage greater participation in local, regional, state and national contests.

Article V: By-laws

Section 1.

The MHPA shall have jurisdiction over all members and guests at any MHPA function.

Section 2.

The MHPA shall maintain at least a \$300.00 balance in the treasury to carry over to the coming year.

Section 3

All applications for State membership (when accepted) automatically entitle members to all courtesies and privileges extended to clubs and associations.

Section 4.

Annual membership dues are \$45.00. Dues shall be distributed as follows:

- A. \$25.00 - NHPA Membership Dues
- B. \$5.00 - General Fund
- C. \$6.00 - State Tournament Fund
- D. \$7.00 - Newsletter
- E. \$1.00 - Secretary/Treasurer F. \$1.00 - Statistician

If there are two or more cards bought in the same household the cost of the second and subsequent cards shall be \$38.00 each if requested.

Provisional Membership Dues: Provisional Membership Dues shall be the NHPA portion of the Provisional Membership Dues (currently \$10). The dues for the MHPA will be \$0 for Provisional Members.

Trial Membership Dues: No membership dues will be collected for Trial Members.

Section 5.

The scorekeeping fee for all tournaments shall be One Dollar (\$1.00) per player per game, including juniors. Due to circumstances at a tournament, pitchers may be asked to assume scorekeeping duties during their bye in a group game. Those who refuse to keep score will not be allowed to pitch on an open court until their bye is complete, and they also will be responsible for the scorekeeping fees for the replacement scorekeeper. Reason: No pitcher should gain an advantage by refusing to assist with the score-keeping of a tournament.

Section 6.

The MHPA shall pay compensation of \$100.00 per year to the editor of the newsletter.

Section 7.

The host club shall retain \$4.00 out of each adult entry fee for court fees. In the event that a club or community would like to hold a MHPA tournament, but does not have the knowledge or capability to do so, they may re-quest the Board of Directors to appoint an individual, a committee or the officers of the MHPA to act as tournament director or committee. In return, the tournament director or committee shall be paid \$1.00 for each adult entrant. The \$1.00 fee is to be paid from the \$4.00 court fee. It is imperative that the Board of Directors is precise and explicit concerning the individuals who shall make up the tournament committee.

Section 8.

The cost of the newsletter shall be \$8.00 to people who are not members of the MHPA.

Section 9.

Roberts Rules of Order, revised and reading as follows shall govern the order of conducting all meetings.

- A. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
- B. Approval, additions or corrections of the minutes.
- C. Reading of the financial report.
- D. Reports of officers, boards and standing or special committees.
- E. Memorandum of the President.
- F. Unfinished business.
- G. New Business
- H. Report of good and welfare work. I Election of officers.
- J. Adjournment.

Members shall not speak on any subject more than twice. Members shall speak no longer than five minutes the first time and no longer than three minutes the second time. Committee reports, recommendations and visiting guests shall be exempt from time limitations.

Section 10.

The president shall refer all resolutions made from the floor or received in writing to the appropriate committee.

Section 11.

The Hall of Fame Committee is to be made from current Hall of Fame members when possible. Replacement of Hall of Fame Committee Members shall be selected by the existing Hall of Fame Committee chairperson and members. This committee shall decide the criteria for election into the Michigan/MHPA Hall of Fame. Recommendations are to be presented to the president before any announcement. The committee may solicit information from the membership or introduce possible candidates independently.

Section 12.

Recommendations for lifetime membership shall be made by the Membership Committee to the president before any announcement. There shall be no more than six lifetime members of the MHPA at any time. Criteria for selection to lifetime membership of the MHPA are as follows:

- A. Mandatory: A minimum of 15 years membership with the MHPA.
- B. Mandatory: Minimum age of 60 years.
- C. Mandatory: A resident of Michigan at time of selection.
- D. Mandatory: A member of MHPA Hall of Fame.

Section 13.

In the event this association should take action to no longer function, the assets of the association shall be awarded to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA).

Article VI: Tournaments Section 1.

The Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing the host club's actions and decisions during district tournaments. The Board of Directors may suspend the sponsorship of the district tournament by the host club if the Constitution and By-Laws, Rules and Regulations are not followed.

Section 2.

The host club is responsible for having the courts ready for all tournaments they hold and for furnishing shovels and water cans. The players are responsible for conditioning the courts at the start of each game. Players playing in the last shift are to condition and cover the courts upon conclusion of play.

Section 3.

District tournaments under jurisdiction of the MHPA shall start at 9:30 A. M. All participating members must be signed in by that time.

Section 4.

Entry fees for Indoor and Outdoor district tournaments shall be **\$20.00** (minimum) The MHPA Executive Council will be responsible for defining and publishing minimum payouts for both Indoor and Outdoor district tournaments.

Indoor

	1st	2nd
Three person	42.00	
Four person	40.00	16.00
Five person	45.00	25.00
Six person	55.00	29.00
Seven person	60.00	38.00

Outdoor

	1st	2nd
Three person	48.00	
Four person	45.00	19.00
Five person	50.00	30.00
Six person	60.00	36.00
Seven person	70.00	42.00

Section 5.

The scorekeeping fee for all tournaments shall be One Dollar (\$1.00) per player per game, including juniors

Section 6.

The host club or tournament committee has the option to decide how ties for positions shall be broken. The host club or tournament committee decision shall be expressed before the tournament if different from recommended options. Recommended options are as follows:

- A. All two-way ties for first place to be decided by a play-off game.
- B. All other position ties to be decided by ringer percentage.
- C. Three-way ties for first place shall be decided by the two lowest percentage pitchers to play one game with the loser placing third. The winning pitcher plays the highest percentage pitcher for first and second places.
- D. Four-way ties for first place shall be decided by the highest percentage pitcher playing the lowest percentage and the second highest percentage pitcher playing the third highest percentage pitcher. The winners shall play for first and second places and the losers shall play for third and fourth places.
- E. All other circumstances shall be decided by the tournament director, the tournament committee and/or the Board of Directors.

Section 7.

MHPA tournaments are to be NHPA sanctioned.

Section 8.

Sanctioned horseshoes shall be used in all tournaments.

Section 9.

A member's average is based upon the method established by NHPA By-laws, Article XII: All NHPA Tournaments, Section 3, which reads as follows: "All pitchers" averages shall be based on the three highest NHPA sanctioned tournaments pitched in the 12 months or the last ten tournaments during the same period, whichever comes first. Members with less than three tournaments shall use the combined average of the one or two they have pitched. Out of state tournaments pitched are reported to the pitchers' home charter by eShoe and are used in calculating their average.

Section 10.

A new member or a member who does not have an established ringer percentage shall pitch 100 qualifying shoes that must be witnessed by two NHPA members or use a NHPA sanctioned league ringer percentage based on two hundred (200) or more shoes.

Section 11.

All MHPA sanctioned tournaments shall be 35 point cancellation.

Exception: Any game at a state singles tournament between two pitchers with a 25% or lower ringer percentage shall play to 30 points or 40 shoes, whichever occurs first. Any game at a district tournament between two pitchers with a 25% or lower ringer percentage shall play to 30 points or 40 shoes, whichever occurs first. In case of a tie game the pitchers shall pitch down and back (four shoes) until a winner is decided.

Section 12.

Junior/Cadet's to be treated like all other pitchers. They are to pay the appropriate tournament entry fee, and will be awarded any all monetary awards and payouts they may have earned for the appropriate finish position in their class. Prizes or cash awards to a Junior or Cadet by the tournament/league officials may have immediate or deferred monetary value. It shall be the responsibility of all Junior/Cadet pitchers (or their parents/guardians) to make sure that their amateur standing is not jeopardized by any violation of the above information. A determination was made by the NHPA that amateur status for horseshoe pitching will not affect college amateur status. Horseshoes is not a varsity sport at colleges.

Section 13.

Rain procedures

- A. If raining at starting time each group will be allowed one hour and thirty minutes delay. If still raining money will be refunded to all players in the effected classes.
- B. If rain starts after classes have started play and less than one-half of the games have been completed, classes will be allowed one hour delay. If it is still raining play will be canceled for the effected classes and money refunded except court fees.
- C. If rain starts after classes have started play and one-half or more games have been completed, classes will be allowed one hour delay. If still raining, play will be canceled and winners will be decided by wins and losses of games completed.
- D. These rain procedures are not to apply to special preregistered tournaments. The tournament director will select rain procedures for these tournaments.
- E. A rained out tournament shall not count as an eligible tournament for the State Tournament.

Section 14.

Forfeits

In tournament competition, the wins and losses and all statistics accumulated shall remain in the books for a pitcher who has forfeited one or more games for any reason. A pitcher may miss any number of games due to illness or legitimate reason approved by the tournament director or tournament committee and still be allowed to return to competition. If a pitcher forfeits for an unapproved reason, the pitcher will not be allowed to return to competition and will forfeit all prize money and/or awards. Any pitcher who forfeits for an unapproved reason may be suspended from tournaments for up to one year. The Grievance Committee is required to meet with-in two weeks upon notification of a pitcher forfeiting for unapproved reasons. The decision of the committee shall be final.

Section 15.

After a tournament schedule has been completed and announced there shall be no refund of entry fees to a no-show or a pitcher that drops out of the tournament. Pitchers that are no-shows to a preregistered tournament are required to pay the entry fee and any additional fee. The pitcher shall be suspended immediately and shall not be reinstated until all fees have been collected. Notification shall come from the secretary to tournament directors. The repayment may be added to entry fees or membership dues, whichever comes first. Upon receipt of this fee the member shall be reinstated and the tournament director shall notify the secretary.

Section 16.

Groups scheduled for the second or later shifts shall not begin warmups until announced by the tournament director. Only pitchers scheduled for that shift shall warmup.

Article VII: State Tournament

Section 1.

To qualify for the State Singles Tournament a MHPA member must have completed **two (2)** sanctioned events within Michigan, from the previous State Singles Tournament. A junior must complete one sanctioned tournament. The high three tournament percentage shall decide the placement in his/her class. The presiding class A State Champion shall be the top seed in their respective divisions. All classes are to be scheduled by the State Tournament Committee consisting of the current President as Tournament Director and the rest of the Executive Council as assistants. The committee has the option to set up classes to the best of their abilities. All entries and qualifications for the State Tournament must be received by the secretary or tournament director on the Sunday one week before the tournament. At State Tournaments pay judges \$15.00 per session from the MHPA account.

Section 2.

A resident of the Upper Peninsula must compete in three sanctioned tournaments in a recognized association or league to enable the member to qualify for the State Tournament.

Section 3.

Seniors (age 60 and over) may compete in Senior and open divisions at the State Tournament.

Section 4.

While pitching, all participants of the State Singles Tournament shall wear a shirt or blouse with their last name professionally lettered on the back.

Section 5.

There shall be two trophies or plaques per class for the State Singles Tournament.

Section 6.

The State Tournament entry fee shall be \$40.00. At State Tournaments pay judges \$15.00 per session from the MHPA account.

Section 7.

Any club that meets the requirement of 18 lighted courts should be able to host the singles state tournament. If there is no host club for the singles state tournament, The executive council will contact qualified clubs and award one of them the tournament. The MHPA will decide how 50/50 raffles are conducted and by who during the State Tournament to supplement the prize money

Section 8.

This association shall award the Junior Boy and Junior Girl State Champion a \$100 scholarship each. These scholarship monies shall be awarded upon a college, university or trade school's letter of enrollment to the association. This award must be claimed before their twenty-first birthday. Junior and Cadet players are to pay the State Tournament entry fee. They will be eligible to receive monetary awards for the class pitched in.

Article VIII: State Doubles Tournament

Section 1.

To qualify for the State Doubles Tournament a MHPA member must have completed one sanctioned event or league within Michigan during the last 12 months.

Section 2.

The combined NatStats average of both players must not exceed 120.

Section 3.

All classes are to be scheduled by the Tournament Director (current president of the MHPA). The Tournament Director has the option to set up classes to the best of his/her ability.

Section 4.

If two juniors enter as a team Junior and Cadet players are to pay the Double State Tournament entry fee. They will be eligible to receive all monetary awards (patches, plaques, and Money)

Section 5.

A trophy or plaque will be awarded to the first place winners in each class.

Section 6.

Entry fee is \$40.00 per team.

Section 7.

Sign-up deadline is 9:30 a.m. on the day of the tournament.

Section 8.

While pitching, all participants of the State Doubles Tournament shall wear a shirt or blouse with their last name professionally lettered on the back.

Section 9.

Any MHPA club that meets the requirements of having 12 similar courts may be able to host the Doubles State Tournament. Bids will be accepted at the fall scheduling meeting. If more than one club bids, Tournament Directors present will vote to award the club. The club must be able to host a cookout/potluck meal in between the morning and afternoon sessions. Only the host club will be able to run 50/50 drawings during the tournament.

Section 10.

A non-walking doubles tournament may be added to the MHPA schedule. Same rules as Walking doubles except for the walking. Same scoresheet. The Tournament Director should review any changes in the rules during the orientation. No "special lunch" will be served. This is treated like a regular district tournament. Fee of \$20 each team member or \$40 per team.

Article IX: Playing Rules

Section 1.

All NHPA playing rules and regulations shall apply.

Section 2.

Referees or judges appointed by the Board of Directors, tournament committee or tournament director shall decide points when contestants are in doubt. Decisions of the referee or judge shall be final. Referees and judges shall ensure that rules are followed

Section 3.

All pitchers and score keepers shall wear shirts and blouses.

Appendix A: Miscellaneous Rules

- A. Copies of rules, regulations and the Constitution and By Laws shall be given to all new members and published in the newsletter each year for current members.
- B. Judy Curtiss, Dick Frakes and Bob Wells are granted lifetime membership to the MHPA.
(Lee Jacobs will forever remain on the active membership rolls. See E below.)
- C. The fiscal year for the MHPA shall be 10/1 through 9/30.
- D. eShoe averages can be printed from the NHPA's website or a copy can be requested from the Statistician.
- E. A resolution passed by the membership of the MHPA on March 20, 1994, has retired MHPA/NHPA card number 300001 in honor Lee Jacobs. Mr Jacobs is to forever remain on the active membership rolls of the MHPA.

MHPA Ringer Report Editor

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Mount Clemens, MI 48043

www.mhpahorseshoes.com

Publishing schedule
for the MHPA RR:

March

May

August

October

December



FIRST CLASS

NHPA/MHPA Membership Application

Name: _____ Last NHPA Card #: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Is this a new address? [] Yes

Phone: () _____, Email: _____

How do you wish to get the Ringer Report? website standard mail

(Circle One) Category: Man 40' Man 30' Woman Junior Girl Junior Boy Cadet

Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____ **Mandatory for Juniors and Men Pitching at 30'.**

(We would appreciate all pitchers providing birth date for statistical purposes.)

Full Member \$45: Voting member with full privileges, able to enter all sanctioned tournaments upon paying fees.

Provisional Member \$10: Must pay entry fees and can play in as many tournaments as you like for the year.

Trial Member \$0: Must pay tournament entry fee and allowed only one tournament.

(Provisional and Trial memberships are for first time NHPA members. If you were a previous NHPA member, Provisional/Trial memberships cannot be used.)

Make Check Payable to: MHPA

Mail to: **Michele Burns, Secretary/Treasurer - 6565 Blackman Rd. - Jackson, MI. 49201** - mabearin@yahoo.com

FULL MEMBER Card Costs: \$45.00 Adults - \$38.00 for second card in the same household.

\$0.00 Juniors \$7.00 for a junior wanting to receive the newsletter

\$8.00 Ringer Report Subscription only. (Subscription included in full membership.)