



The Ringer Report



Informative - Educational - Entertaining

May 2024

Walking Doubles Championship - Lake Orion

The main event in Lake Orion, the state doubles championship, takes on competition with the best doubles teams in the state.

Don't like to walk after your shoes? Well, how about a little walking if you can pitch your own shoes and not that of your partners? That has been a common complaint with sanctioned pitchers who like to pitch their favorite shoes.

Walking doubles has two opponents stationed at one stake with their partners at the opposite stake. One pair of partners compete as a unit against the other. They alternate pitch for fairness, walk to the opposite end, call the score, and pitch back until each team has thrown 48 count-all shoes.

If you have competed in one sanctioned tournament since the last doubles event, all you have to do is grab a partner or have one assigned to you. It is all in fun; we are all out to win; but the day we chose to pitch horseshoes proves that people do truly pitch for the love of the sport.



Saturday, August 5

Welcome back Michele



Good news for the MHPA. Michele Burns has volunteered for our much needed Secretary Treasurer job. She did an amazing job before retiring with her husband Mark

and moving to Florida. We are lucky they decided to move back to Michigan. The MHPA is in good hands.

"Best Horseshoe Event of the Year" - Sue Snyder

TEAM WORLD

38th Team World Tournament
May 17, 18, & 19, 2024

24 portable courts inside the Edwards Activity Center at Telfer Park.

Beloit, Wisconsin

Michigan Rosters

Michigan #1

Andrew Adams ©	73.13%	40
J.D. Drake	68.17%	30
Lisa Smith	62.02%	30
Clip Connin	61.67%	30

Michigan #2

Brandy Morehead ©	66.02%	30
Helga Hewlett	58.50%	30
Greg Burke	48.59%	40
Warren Westbrook	48.26%	40
Dave Buikema	40.19%	40

Michigan #3

Denise Daly ©	72.46%	30
Mark Burns	42.56%	40
Michele Burns	40.74%	30
Mark Burns II	38.14%	40

Michigan #4

Dan Markley	49.21%	30
Bob Peek	47.61%	30
Paul Bachelor ©	42.94%	30
Rick Lyle	40.39%	40
Wayne Friesmuth	39.67%	40

(© = Team Captain)



State Championships - Kalamazoo

The excitement is building in Kalamazoo... the State Tournament is quickly approaching and the final details are being put in place for a GREAT tournament! The most important detail is that this is YOUR tournament – get your registration sent in by the deadline.

Members must have pitched in four tournaments (in Michigan) since last year's state tournament in order to participate. If you have questions about your number of tournaments pitched, please contact MHPA President Josh Lull.

August 23, 24 and 25 are the dates for this great weekend for the sanctioned tournament activities.



President's Report

Josh Lull



I hope everyone is ready for the outdoor season to ramp up. I always find my excitement ramps up as everything turns green.

I am happy to announce that Michele Burns has volunteered to step back into the Sec. \Treas. position for the MHPA. We are very glad to have her in the role and she is ready to make sure things are in order.

We made things official at the Spring meeting on April 20th, 2024. Be sure to tell her "Thank You!"

A new grievance form is available for members on the Website. Look for the "Contact Us" button that currently just displays the form. You will be able to electronically submit the grievance and it will be sent to our 2nd Vice President Zach Spanke to begin the review process.

We discussed several topics at the meeting and we heard a couple of suggestions that came from our membership.

One in particular we discussed was inquiring about the possibility of a "online-pay \ registration" option when it came to the State Tournament. We are awaiting some details from our bank. We will explore other avenues as well. We will share information as we have it.

Another was in regards to pitchers sometimes needing to stay at a tournament all day when they will only pitch in the morning or afternoon. Specifically, when it came to indoor tournaments.

We currently run two shifts (when the number of participants allow) and score keepers are needed for each shift. This can keep some pitchers at the site all day. (For example, they pitch or keep score in the morning and pitch or keep score in the afternoon)

The request was to consider scheduling the shifts at a certain time so that pitchers knew when they could arrive instead of requiring everyone at the site by 9:30 a.m. (Example Shift 1 at 10 a.m. and Shift 2 at 1:30 p.m.)

We have some thoughts about this and will share some of it with the person who inquired. We will see if they follow up with us.

I want to get everyone thinking about the Fall meeting at the State Tournament (In Kalamazoo). The position of President and 2nd Vice President are up for election. If you or anyone or know would make a good officer or want to step into them now would be the time to start considering it.

See you on the courts,

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.



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Grievance: 2nd Vice-President

Membership: Secretary / Treasurer

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Website, Stats & More

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Tournament Results

Jackson@Jackson - Sat., March. 30, 2024

Class A	<u>Entry%</u>	<u>WL</u>	<u>Rgrs</u>	<u>Sh</u>	<u>R%</u>
1. Brandy Morehead	66.02	5-1	145	244	59.43
2. Danny Markley	49.21	4-2	117	264	44.32
3. Helga Hewlett	58.50	3-3	121	250	48.40
4. Bobby Mumford Sr.	46.62	0-6	92	254	36.22

Class B	<u>Entry%</u>	<u>WL</u>	<u>Rgrs</u>	<u>Sh</u>	<u>R%</u>
1. Sam Moore	40.91	4-0	78	168	46.43
2. John Smith	42.20	3-1	67	162	41.36
3. John Cousins	36.50	2-2	54	152	35.53
4. Mark Burns	42.56	1-3	51	156	32.69
5. Michele Burns	41.74	0-4	48	178	26.97

Class C	<u>Entry%</u>	<u>WL</u>	<u>Rgrs</u>	<u>Sh</u>	<u>R%</u>
1. James Toth	31.59	4-0	51	140	36.43
2. Martin Quillen	17.19	2-2	36	172	20.93
3. Kevin Gladstone	22.56	2-2	23	146	15.75
4. Barbara Meadows	30.18	1-3	45	194	23.20
5. Tonya Toth	16.57	1-3	22	152	14.47

Lapeer@Jackson - Sun., April 14, 2024

Class A	<u>Entry%</u>	<u>WL</u>	<u>Rgrs</u>	<u>Sh</u>	<u>R%</u>
1. Andrew Adams		4-0	108	150	72.00
2. JD Drake		3-1	105	166	63.25
3. Lisa Smith		1-3	126	208	60.58
4. Quincy Johnson		1-3	78	144	54.17
5. Larry McArthur		1-3	55	132	41.67

Class B	<u>Entry%</u>	<u>WL</u>	<u>Rgrs</u>	<u>Sh</u>	<u>R%</u>
1. Warren Westbrook		4-0	92	180	51.11
2. Sam Moore		3-1	90	196	45.92
3. Danny Markley		2-2	69	188	36.70
4. John Smith		0-4	70	168	41.21

Class B	<u>Entry%</u>	<u>WL</u>	<u>Rgrs</u>	<u>Sh</u>	<u>R%</u>
1. George Parsons		3-1	65	154	42.21
2. Raymond Pritchett		3-1	60	144	41.67
3. Johnnie Smith		1-3	42	160	26.25
4. Zachary Spanke		0-4	16	136	11.76

Class E	<u>Entry%</u>	<u>WL</u>	<u>Rgrs</u>	<u>Sh</u>	<u>R%</u>
1. Bobby Mumford, Jr.		4-1	49	228	21.49
2. Dan Koffin		4-1	52	242	21.49
3. Kevin Gladstone		2-3	32	236	13.56
4. Jack Mings		1-4	41	246	16.67
5. Lawrence Hinton		0-5	6	202	2.97

Jackson, Thrun/Vincent - Sat., April 27, 2024

Class A	<u>Entry%</u>	<u>WL</u>	<u>Rgrs</u>	<u>Sh</u>	<u>R%</u>
1. J.D. Drake	68.17	4-0	119	182	65.38
2. Brandy Morehead	66.02	3-1	106	168	63.10
3. Lisa Smith	62.02	2-2	103	188	54.79
4. Helga Hewlett	58.50	1-3	79	162	48.77
5. Clip Connin	61.67	0-4	64	148	43.24

Class B	<u>Entry%</u>	<u>WL</u>	<u>Rgrs</u>	<u>Sh</u>	<u>R%</u>
1. Larry McArthur	50.49	4-0	98	228	42.98
2. Quincy Johnson	53.85	2-2	106	210	50.48
3. Danny Markley	48.59	2-2	96	200	48.00
4. Pam Yates	48.90	2-2	81	200	40.50
5. Greg Burke	48.59	0-4	52	158	32.91

Class C	<u>Entry%</u>	<u>WL</u>	<u>Rgrs</u>	<u>Sh</u>	<u>R%</u>
1. Paul Bachelor	42.94	4-0	82	150	54.67
2. Gerald Harris (WI)	41.97	3-1	79	182	43.41
3. Bob Peek	47.61	2-2	58	144	40.28
4. Bobby Mumford Sr.	46.62	1-3	52	148	35.14
5. Mark Burns	41.97	0-4	65	168	3
	8.69				

Class D	<u>Entry%</u>	<u>WL</u>	<u>Rgrs</u>	<u>Sh</u>	<u>R%</u>
1. Sam Moore	37.40	3-1	88	198	44.44
2. Bob Dale	40.10	3-1	69	166	41.57
3. Michele Burns	40.74	2-2	73	164	44.51
4. Alfred Cortez (OH)	40.51	2-2	71	196	35.14
5. William Sash	37.83	0-4	42	156	38.69

Class E	<u>Entry%</u>	<u>WL</u>	<u>Rgrs</u>	<u>Sh</u>	<u>R%</u>
1. Roger Higgins	37.35	4-0	70	184	38.04
2. James Toth	32.77	3-1	75	178	42.13
3. Dan Koffin	26.90	1-3	51	174	29.31
4. Johnnie Smith	36.85	1-3	39	170	22.94
5. Bobby Mumford	24.26	1-3	29	186	15.59

Class F	<u>Entry%</u>	<u>WL</u>	<u>Rgrs</u>	<u>Sh</u>	<u>R%</u>
1. Crystal Devine	22.20	4-0	40	150	26.67
2. Kevin Gladstone	22.56	3-1	40	142	28.17
3. Tonya Toth	15.94	1-3	26	146	17.81
4. Bobby Mumford III	22.00	1-3	23	142	16.20
5. Martin Quillin	20.32	1-3	23	148	15.54

Constitution Changes Starting 1/1/2024

Rule change regarding the pitchers with ringer percentages under 25%, 30 points or 40 shoes, whichever comes first. That is probably the biggest change and we (as an association) will need to make sure we start off on the right foot with enforcing and staying consistent with it. I know as we have more tournaments it will become old hat. However, old habits die hard too. —Josh Lull, MHPA President



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

Many reasons the NHPA-WT has a poor turn-out this year; Distance is too far from where most horseshoe pitchers reside, which is in the midwest; Driving, flying and housing keep going up because of gouging; And, confusion this year of the change in who pitches when.

Lack of Publicity: Horseshoe Pitching despite being one of the common sports in the USA doesn't have a channel dedicated to it nor does it get occasional exposure on major TV channels or sports magazines.

Michigan World Tournament Entries

2024 World Tournament Entries:

293 as of May 7

Category	Name	City	Entry%
EM	Dan Kofflin	Jackson	26.90
AM	Rick Filush	Cedar Springs	32.71



NHPA rule changes now and yet to come?

- **There has been questions and talk about the "pacer" rule the NHPA passed at last years convention.** The spirit of the rule is to allow clubs the ability to let non-sanction pitchers pace in leagues and tournaments. It is a way to recruit pitchers and allow them to try our sport before committing to a sanctioned membership.

- **Another rule was allowing women over 65 to pitch up to the 20' line.** NHPA Standing Rule for Senior Women 65+ October 2023 to July 2024: May pitch from any place on the extended or full-distance platform and shall observe the Twenty-foot (20') foul line.

This will be voted on at the 2024 Convention as to the experimental results that we obtain prior to that date. We are working on tracking the results of this experiment on e-shoe. In Ohio, we are already tracking all such people to get credible data.

- **Still another rule was allowing people from one State to play in the State Tournament of another state under certain difficult circumstances.**

Difficult circumstances could be driving a long distance in your state when you live and pitch in a neighboring State. Also, people who live in more than one State may choose which state they want to pitch in. The Council has decided that a pitcher should submit evidence as to why they want to pitch in a neighboring State. This rule was not implemented to allow people to switch to another State just because they have a problem with their home State.

—NHPA

Just a reminder of some of the ways to bring someone into play who isn't sure.

Free Trial member - can play in a summer league for free or one tournament. Pitching stats will not be loaded into eshoe. They will not be eligible for any awards from the league or state. Would have to pay full membership the following year.

\$10 Provisional Member - Can play league and play as many tournaments but not allowed to play in any state event. Pitching stats will be uploaded to eshoe. Might be eligible for club awards but not state. May enter state events only by paying the difference on the full membership (\$45).

Constitution and By-laws Changes

The Constitution and By-laws may be revised by submitting changes at any membership meeting or sending to the chairperson of the Constitution and By-laws Committee, 1st Vice-President Tina Payne, by July 15th.

All proposed revisions are voted on at the State Tournament meeting. Any additions, deletions and/or changes takes a two-thirds vote of members present at the meeting and become effective January 1st of the following year.

Hall of Fame nomination forms must be received by June 15th for the nominee to be included in the voting for that year. Send HOF form to Danny Markley.

(See page 2 for addresses.)

Mechanics of a Pitch

- Grip:** (3/4, 1-1/4, 1-3/4, Flip)
- Assume a Stance:** Placement of feet, side by side, left foot in front, or in back of right, allowing for one step, and enough room so foul line won't be stepped on.
- Address the Stake:** Preparing to pitch, getting comfortable and balanced, staring at the stake, taking a deep breath, taking aim, blocking out distractions, concentration.
- Back Swing:** The back swing of your arm, the height of the back swing is usually when your arm is parallel to the ground or comfortably behind you.
- The Step:** Weight distributed so you are comfortable. The step begins when the back swing is complete and allows enough leverage to lift the shoe to the target.
- Front Swing:** The front swing of your arm, the height of the front swing is usually shoulder high in front of you in line with the stake.
- Release and Lift:** At the height of the front swing, shoulder high, letting the shoe slip out of your grip.
- Follow Through:** The nice easy motion of allowing your body to stay in place as you watch your shoe go on for a ringer, the front swing should continue straight up after releasing the shoe with a bend in the elbow.



Renewing Your Membership

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



1. Go to www.horseshoepitching.com
2. Click on the E Shoe 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 Josh Lull (269-838-7698) and he will be more than happy to help you.

From MHPA Hall of Fame members

Bob Hitt, Plymouth, 1967: The winners prizes in the '30's were ridiculously small. When Hitt won his three state championships, his share of the prize money was a mere \$40 per tournament. When he was in a fairgrounds exhibition, he rarely made over \$15. After he had won his first state title, young Bobbie told a reporter: "With the \$40 I got, I bought a suit of clothes, my school supplies and took in a ball game,"

Pitching a Horseshoe,

What you want to accomplish...

Open Shoe: An open shoe landing.

Distance: The same distance constantly.

Alignment: Making sure of hitting the stake. *(the most difficult)*

Rhythm Pitch: Using the same motion to deliver.

History gets made in Jackson!

By Keith Schafer, Historian

On February 17, 2024, a first happened in Michigan Horseshoe Pitching Association history. Four women threw over 60% in the same tournament, and in the same class indoors at Jackson. Denise Daly threw 71.95% for first in A, with Brandy Morehead tossing 72.22%, Helga Hewlett pitching 61.73%, and Lisa Smith pitched 60.63%. There were only two instances in a cursory look through old tournaments where there were three over 60%. The first was the State Tournament in 1996, where Kathy Yaworski (68.1%), Anne French (67.4%), and Judy Curtiss (64.7%) topped 60% (Dorothy Falk came close to 60% with 58.1%). The second was at the State Tournament in 2010, where Judy Curtiss (78.1%), Judy Dennis (62.8%), and Terry Beagle (60.8%) topped 60% (these 3 and Sheryll Card all were over 60% in NatStats in the late 2000s, but never did all more than three hit over 60% in the same tournament.)



Keith

Plenty of changes have happened through the years. At one point, a woman pitching 50% was a rare event through the 60s into the 70s. Men would have to be pitching 60% just to hope to get into Class A during that same time, and Elders at 30 foot were nonexistent.

Comparing the standards of the top 100 Men pitchers in the NHPA, it took 68.8% in 1979 to be there, in 1985 the top 27 were over 70%, and it now takes only 50.9% to reach the top 100 in 2024. Let's look at the names on the 1979 list from Michigan:

Roy Smith 76.0% (27), Floyd Bartley 72.1% (57), Gerald Maison 70.0% (81), Mark Freeman 68.8% (99). Sandy Wohlgemuth was in the top 20 Women in 1979 with 60.2% (20). There was no Elder list back then.

On April 4, 2024, the tops in each class were pulled for this report. **Here are the Top 100 Men from Michigan:**

- Andrew Adams 73.13% (7)
- James Dunlap 62.50% (28)
- Eric Soltis 56.89% (55)
- Quincy Johnson 53.46% (83)
- Keith Schafer 51.61% (93)



Lisa Brandy Denise Helga

The Top 100 Women from Michigan are:

- Denise Daly 72.46% (14)
- Brandy Morehead 66.02% (22)
- Lisa Smith 62.02% (32)
- Helga Hewlett 58.50% (49)
- Terry Beagle 57.12% (52)
- Pam Yates 48.90% (100)

There are two Michigan Men in the Elders Top 100 list:

- J D Drake 68.17% (27)
- Clip Connin 61.67 (85)

In the Top 50 boys are:

- Kayden Fowler 56.47% (3)
- Jayden Fri 36.61% (18)
- Brent Castle 27.26% (38)
- Jackson VanCleave 21.64% (14) is in the Top 25 Cadets.

The research into results before 1992 continues, and any help for the "district" tournament results for this time-period will be appreciated. Contact me with your finds (I have been through the News Digests and other national stuff the NHPA has, and I need anything else that can be found to fill in the gaps.) Thanks for anything we can put together to create a full record. The tournament schedules for 1969, 1971, 1983, 1988, and 1989 are also incomplete. We now have almost 50,000 lines of individual pitcher's data since January 1992 (thanks to Paula Summerlin and her successors as statistician), nearly 8,000 lines of incomplete results prior to 1992, and some 1970s Upper Peninsula data which is also incomplete. I will hand everything over to Josh Lull this fall for him to add to our Hall of Fame computer for the membership to access and to update in the future.

See you on the courts!

2024 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.

May		5/11/2024 - Sat	Lapeer
	MOTHER'S DAY	5/12/2024- Sun	
	Team World	05/17/24	
	Team World	5/18/2024 - Sat	Lansing - 30/40
	Team World	5/19/2024- Sun	
		5/25/2024 - Sat	
		5/26/2024- Sun	
	MEMORIAL DAY	5/27/2024 - Mon	

June		6/1/2024 - Sat	St. Clair Shores Memorial Tournament
		6/2/2024- Sun	Lake Orion
		6/7/24 - Friday	Kalamazoo - 7:00 Signup Deadline
		6/8/2024 - Sat	Kalamazoo/Mecosta
		6/9/2024- Sun	
		6/15/2024 - Sat	Lake Orion - Mike Ardelean St. Judes
	FATHER'S DAY	6/16/2024- Sun	
		6/22/2024 - Sat	Lapeer/Mecosta
		6/23/2024- Sun	
		6/29/2024 - Sat	Lansing Water Wonderland Tournament
		6/30/2024- Sun	St. Clair Shores - Non Walking Doubles

July			
	4th OF JULY	07/04/24	
		7/6/2024 - Sat	
		7/7/2024- Sun	
		7/13/2024 - Sat	Lake Orion
		7/14/2024- Sun	
		7/19/2024 - Fri	St. Clair Shores
		7/20/2024 - Sat	St. Clair Shores
		7/21/2024- Sun	
		7/27/2024 - Sat	Dewey Howard Memorial - Lansing
		7/28/2024- Sun	
	World Tournament	7/29/2024	

August	World Tournament	8/3/2024 - Sat	State Doubles - Lake Orion
	World Tournament	8/4/2024- Sun	
	World Tournament	8/10/2024 - Sat	St. Clair Shores/Mecosta
		8/11/2024- Sun	
		8/17/2024 - Sat	Lansing St. Jude
		8/18/2024- Sun	
		8/24/2024 - Sat	State at Kalamazoo
		8/25/2024- Sun	State at Kalamazoo

September		9/1/2024- Sun	
	LABOR DAY	09/02/24	
		9/7/2024 - Sat	
		9/8/2024- Sun	
		9/14/2024 - Sat	Woody Cup - St. Clair Shores
		9/15/2024- Sun	
		9/21/2024 - Sat	
		9/22/2024- Sun	
		9/28/2024 - Sat	
		9/29/2024- Sun	Fall Scheduling Meeting

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	michhorseshoectdir@yahoo.com
Lapeer	Debbie Markley	810) 459-1772	dcdam127@AOL.com
Mecosta	Helga Hewlett	(989) 621-7630	helgahewlett@gmail.com).
St. Clair Shores	Tina Payne	(586) 744-3223	tinapayne0828@gmail.com

Condolences

Janice Decker

Age 80, passed away at her home on April 1, 2024. She was born June 23, 1943, in North Baltimore, Ohio, to Clifford and Bessie Campbell. Jan worked for Theroux Development Company for many years. She enjoyed gardening, flowers, playing horseshoes and doing wordsearch and crosswords.



She was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, John Decker, in 2018. Surviving are: children, Tracy (Eric) Bobier, Eric Decker, Barry (Sarah) Decker, Tammy (Mark) Bursley, and Judy (Andrew) Ragatz; grandchildren, John Gilreath, Chance (Erin) Bobier, Lyndsey (Jason) LaLonde, Erica Johnson, Bonny Decker, Nicole Bursley, Jessica Bursley, and Bre (Alex) Vining; great-grandchildren, Alexis Gilreath, Willow Bobier, Silas Bobier, Logan LaLonde, Lincoln LaLonde, Dylan LaLonde, Olivia Johnson, Aubrey Romankewitz, Nathan Bursley, Jae Linares, Harper Greathouse, Jordyn Bath, and Alexis Meirndorf.

The funeral service was held on Saturday, April 6, 2024. —Estes Leadley Funeral Homes

Robert Leo Daudlin

Robert Leo Daudlin of Sterling Heights, Michigan, passed away on April 18, 2024 at the age of 95. Robert was born on Aug. 22, 1928 to William Albert and Marie Daudlin in Detroit.

Robert married the love of his life, Eunice Marie Laporte, on Nov. 26, 1959 in Detroit. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy. Robert is now reunited with Eunice, who preceded him in death in March of 2022. The loving father of 5 children and eight grandchildren.



Eunice and Bob

Robert enjoyed spending time with his family, along with golfing, bowling, and horseshoes. A member of the St. Clair Shores horseshoe Club, MHPA and pitched in the Woody Cup Challenge.

Service was April 27, 2024. Interment at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, Michigan.

—Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home

National Horseshoe Pitchers Museum and Hall of Fame



The only horseshoe pitching related charity needs your tax-deductible donations to support many programs of the sport including the Hall of Fame and Grants to install new or upgrade existing courts.

Deadline for grant Applications: March 1st & Sept. 1st
Mail Inquires & contributions to:

NHPF - 100 Bluestem Way - Wentzville, MO 63385
www.nhpf.info

In the Hall of Fame & Museum, just inside the entrance, visitors will notice several large plaques on the wall. On each plaque there are forty (40) engraved name plates. Each plate recognizes a contributor and the year they reached or exceeded a level of \$500 in contributions.

Michigan \$500:

- Steve & Paula Summerlin, 2000
- Mount Clemens Indoor Horseshoe Club, 2001
- Boyd Stonerock, 2001
- Larry/Pat Ingraham, 2002
- William Tedrick, 2002
- Gerald & Carol Shene, 2003
- Ron Kohn, 2006
- St. Clair Shores Horseshoe Club, 2006
- John & Janice Decker, 2006
- Michigan Horseshoe Pitching Association, 2006
- Mike & Cathy Ardelean, 2010
- Kevin & Gregory Smith, 2014
- Dean Schmitz, 2017
- Peggy Smith, 2021
- Network for Good, 2022

Many have contributed by buying a brick in the Jack Freeman Memorial Plaza. Michigan section #31.

Information from NHPA website.

Welcome 
to the Village of Lake Orion

2024 State Doubles Championship Saturday, August 5

Hosted by the Lake Orion Horseshoe Club

- **Pre-register:** (Josh (269) 838-7698 or Doug Bailey (248) 421-9708)
- Need one MHPA tournament to qualify
- 9:30 a.m. Sign-In Deadline \$40.00 per Team

Note if the tournament is cancelled - The rain date will be Sunday, August 6

- Combined average cannot be greater than 120%
- Pick your partner or we'll find one for you
- Walking doubles
- Pitch your own shoes
- 48 shoe count-all scoring
- All money returned in prizes and trophies
- Roasted Chicken/ **Bring a Dish to Pass**



2024 MHPA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

August 23-25, 2024

Hosted by: Kalamazoo Horseshoe Club

August 23: Tournament Prelims

August 24: Tournament Prelims

August 25: Class/Championship Play

Entry Mailing Deadline: August 15, 2024

**Entries will be accepted at the last two regularly
scheduled tournaments (see schedule.)**

Entry Fee: \$40.00 Adults and \$0.00 Juniors



Entry form in the Ringer Report and MHPA website

An Open Letter to Tournament, League Directors and Women

By Cathy Ziemann,
Minnesota Gopher State Horseshoe Pitchers Association

We all agree that we need to do something to keep or increase our membership. I have checked some past minutes of membership and board meetings and found that in 2018 we had 622 members of the MGSHPA and in 2023 that number had dropped to 313, a loss of 309 members. That is a huge loss in membership.

We need to all do what we can to keep the members we have while promoting our sport to recruit new members.



One way we can do this is to embrace the new NHPA Standing Rule for Senior Women in our leagues, local and state tournaments. Sr. Women like Sr. Men or Elders lose muscle mass and strength as they age, and this new standing rule is a long time coming. I know that many people disagree with this, but many sports have changed rules / guidelines over the years to have increased participation and interest, and Horseshoes should be NO different. Just because a senior woman has lost muscle mass or strength, doesn't mean that she is ready to be relegated to the sidelines. These women have often been members for 20, 30, 40 plus years, still have the drive to compete and to the desire to stay active. Sr. Women deserve to

be given the same consideration as Elders.

Standing Rule for Senior Women at 65 years old

Senior Women turning sixty-five (65) during the calendar year may pitch from any place on the extended or full-distance platform and shall observe the Twenty foot (20') foul line.

What this means is that Sr. Women can stand anywhere from the 30' line up and not go beyond the 20' line. Most women will likely move up a couple of steps, but the NHPA didn't want to add another foul line to the pitching platform, so they came up the compromise to observe the 20' foul line.

My ask is two-fold: 1) that every league, every local open-tournament include this division and that we embrace this group of Horseshoe pitchers as we would cadets and elders, and 2) to any Woman who will be turning 65 in 2024 or who are older, enter your league and tournaments as a Sr. Woman.

We all know that we play against opponents in tournaments based on our averages, not the age of our opponent or from where they stand on the pitching platform. Minnesota needs to be the leader in embracing the Sr. Women division including at our State Tournament.

Sr. Women are vital to our sport.

Editor's Notes

Dean Schmitz



The above article was taken from the Minnesota Horseshoe Ringer Digest, April/May/June 2024. All of the NHPA Charter Clubs should be able to identify with the decline in membership.

The MHPA is basically down to 7 clubs. Some of us were around and pitched in most of the clubs that we have lost.

VP Zachary Spanke remembers:

"When I started over 20 years ago when I was 9 years old, these were clubs that were going strong:"

Adrian, Auburn, Midland, Hillsdale, Brown City, Manton, Clio/Mt. Morris, Union City, Kalamazoo, Jackson, Lake Orion, Taylor, Lansing, St. Clair Shores, Romulus, Lincoln Park, Berkley, Brighton, Lapeer.

These clubs are now doing our tournaments: Lake Orion, Lansing, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lapeer, Mecosta, St. Clair Shores.

These clubs are the latest to disappear: Holt, Hillman, and Brighton (does hold in-

door tournaments).

There were many other clubs in the Association, as the late Paul Wishon would remind me when I first started pitching. Most of these were in the western part of the state and have long gone. Paul gave me a keychain of the Championships held in Nashville. At that time I thought Nashville was in TN. Yes, Nashville, MI, held the Sstate tournament. Other forgotten cities that held in state tournament are: Detroit, Iron River, Dimondale, Burr Oak, Weston, and Lake Orion, (not forgotten).

The BIG question: "How can we save the sport of horseshoe pitching?"

The least we can do is to wear our horseshoep shirt...

It is always an honor to put on a uniform representing the sport you love. Wear a horseshoe shirt to all events; it is the uniform of our sport. The shirt will feel beyond great and look good on you, too. Top it off with your favorite horseshoe pitching cap.

Also, wear a horseshoe pitching shirt so members will know you by name. As part of new membership, give new members a

club shirt so if they want to join in on sanctioned tournaments, they will already be prepared. Keep bugging them about pitching in your scheduled sanctioned tournaments. The first one can be without joining the NHPA.

It has always amazed me that most of us have more than one tournameant shirt or some other horseshoe pitching shirt in our closets. How can you not wear one when you are at a horseshoe event?

Volunteer at your local club. Help with equipment and maintaining the courts.
Learn how to keep score in leagues and tournaments.

Recruiting new members seems to be a one on one adventure. Most of us have brought in a friend or relative to join the MHPA. Keep up the good work.

Quotes from MHPA Hall of Fame members:

"The whole secret is getting a ringer. All pitchers lie a little bit about how many ringers they throw, but most of the good ones can make 80 percent."

—Jonas "Hap" Otto, HOF, 1967

Michigan Horseshoe Pitchers Association - April 20, 2024

Spring Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Josh Lull, Association President at 9:12 A.M.

Pledge of Allegiance, led by Josh Lull, said by all.

8/26/2023 Membership Meeting Minutes read President and approved by all.

Financial and Membership reports – no reports presented due to secretary/treasurer vacancy.

Reports of Officers Josh Lull, President

Membership renewals that have been mailed to the President have been processed. We are receiving our updates from the National Organization.

1st VP, Tina Payne – nothing to report

2nd VP, Zach Spanke - nothing to report.

Reports from Standing Committees Hall of Fame – No report, was not in attendance

Finance – No report, was not in attendance

Publicity – Tina Payne, suggested that anyone that has information for her to post on the Facebook page should message her using Facebook or send a text message to her first and then send the information via email. President cautioned the group to use discretion when posting, to avoid the page being taken over like the NHPA page was late last year.

Charitable Donations – Josh is going to check in with Bob Wells to see if he has taken over the St. Jude coordinator position again from Becky Sullivan

New Business –

Michele Burns has volunteered to take over the secretary/treasurer position. Thank you, Michele.

Question was raised about providing a way for our members to pay their State Tournament entry fees online. Michele will check into this and make sure that something is available to everyone and include it on the registration form and communicate it early via the Ringer Report, Facebook page and possibly an email blast.

A member inquired about the possibility of changing the report times for our regular tournaments. Many have stated that they would like to report just before they are scheduled to pitch rather than to be at the tournament site all day and waiting around to play.

The Executive board asked Zach to respond to the inquiry that a proposal should be submitted for a By-law change to address the requested change.

The Kalamazoo Horseshoe club is ready to host the State Tournament in August. They are working through some of the details with the VFW but any changes will be communicated to the membership as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned at 11 A.M.

MHPA Ringer Report Editor

Dean Schmitz

799 Chippewa St.

Mount Clemens, MI 48043

www.mhpahorseshoes.com



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.)