

NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

February 2026



You don't want to
miss this edition of
the admin digest!

Cupid

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Is it Spring yet?



**NHPA PRESIDENT
BEN WEBB**

Kentucky has seen every season over the course of January! We had days where you would have believed it was a mid-summer day and then days that saw near record cold temperatures, and several inches of snow turning to ice as the storm came through the middle of the US! Hopefully we're on the other side of that though and headed towards spring!

Due to the winter storm, I was unable to join the council in Wausau for the winter meeting and had to join virtually on teams. I was able to see the venue last winter though and it's shaping up to be a promising event in a very nice facility! Thankful for our board members who did take the time to put boots on the ground with the host and begin planning.

I was able to make it down to Macon, Georgia for a site visit that went very well. They're very interested in hosting our events in the future. Owensboro, Kentucky and St. Louis, Missouri are also very interested in bidding for an NHPA event!

By the time the digest is released, membership surveys would have gone out, and I encourage everyone to share their feedback on these polls. These are some of our best opportunities to gather valuable data on what the membership wants in the days ahead.

We're a little late this month publishing, I would like to take a moment to say I appreciate everyone's patience, rolling out new programs and ushering in change comes with some fluidity and we will likely miss a deadline from time-to-time. January saw a very hectic start to the year for our team, and it put us a little behind on publishing. We are actively seeking to fill several very important roles at the NHPA level and encourage anyone interested to apply with me directly. As a membership driven organization, we definitely need all the help we can get, I've always said the council can't do it alone and that it takes support from every level.

2026 is shaping up to be a very productive, and busy, year for the NHPA. We've got a lot of moving parts in a lot of directions and we're actively trying to tackle all of the issues on our horizon. At the forefront of our minds though is the membership crisis. The decline curved slightly, showing a smaller loss than in years past, in 2025. We can't just rely on stopping the bleeding though, our goal is to turn this around and into growth.

Our council has also approved a full remodel of the Hall of Fame Museum in Wentzville, Missouri. The Hall of Fame was built and has had very little upgrading to the core of the museum since its creation. We'll be undergoing a major renovation to bring this into the modern era and hopefully bring some new interest to the facility!

I appreciate everyone who continues to support the NHPA in 2026 and we'll see you out there soon!

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Sponsor the NHPA in 2026!

Greetings from Illinois everyone !!!

I hope everyone is making it through this cold stretch that we are experiencing here in the Midwest. It has been some of the coldest weather we have had in a long time. If you do not live in the Midwest I hope you are enjoying your time in the sunshine.



1ST VICE PRESIDENT
AUSTIN BAILEY

I waited to write my article until after I attended our NHPA Winter Meeting that was held in Wausau at the venue of this year's world tournament. I must say that their venue did not disappoint and they are fully engaged for us coming and having out event in their state-of-the-art venue. This venue will have everything we need to make our World Tournament be a successful one. While doing our walkthrough of the facility, there were several thoughts that came to mind, and I don't think that I can say that there was not anything that wouldn't work for us. One thing that I noticed right away was the concession stand prices let me just say you will not have a problem with those as they are substantially less than we are used to seeing in some of the last couple venues we have been at. I told the event staff they had better make sure to have enough food. Like I said at the beginning this venue will not disappoint and I look forward to seeing you all there in July.

Let me touch on a couple things on Sponsorship right now I am wanting to know that if we have any current or previous sponsors that have sponsored the NHPA that would be willing to maybe sponsor again and let us put your logo on the new NHPA Jersey we are wanting to do. I have a couple in mind that I would personally like to see be a sponsor again and have their logo on the Jersey so if you know a business that would be interested please feel free to reach out to me so I can get the information over to Josh Olson for the Jersey. I know that sometimes if you have sponsored in the past that you probably feel like you haven't gotten very much advertisement other than on the website or Facebook. If you want to try it again what better way than to put it on a jersey that players will be wearing at Tournaments throughout the entire United States.

Anyone interested in sponsoring a court or pursuing higher sponsorship tiers in 2026 can reach out to me directly and I'll be glad to assist, see you all on the courts!

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2ND VICE PRESIDENT
DALTON RAKESTRAW

Wausau and coordinating this world tournament for you all! The NHPA council has been working diligently to make sure this will be a success for all of you!

This winter has been quite mild here in Southern California! However, the NHPA council just recently got back from Wausau where it was over negative 30 degrees with the wind chill!! We had a great visit and checked out Greenheck Turner Community Center, and it was impressive! Aaron Mull and the GTCC team are really going to out due themselves. I am almost positive this will be a world tournament that you will not want to miss! I am looking forward to seeing everyone in

As you progress in this edition of the Digest you will see our 2026 US Nationals to be hosted in Albuquerque, New Mexico! This tournament will run three days. With a new tournament each day!! Check out the flyer in the Digest. I am excited to be working with the council soon this tournament. Albuquerque Sports Commission CEO Angela Gandy and Ryan Abeta are excited to welcome this event to their town from April 10-12, 2026!! There are so many details. We are excited for these events to start becoming more forthcoming for our members!

The Marketing Committee has been re-vamped and working on new things for the membership. We want to focus more on membership retention. We are working with the NHPA President to see a new program develop to incentive members to be retained with the NHPA. Stay tuned for more details. That is about all I have for now. Until next time I'll see you all on the courts!

Award Nominations Closing Soon!

Nominations for the 2026 Arch Stokes award close on March 1st ! Send in your nomination to Ben Webb before the deadline for consideration. Achievement award nominations are also open as well, these are given to people who go above and beyond either through their promotional/organizational work or have an outstanding pitching achievement. These have long been limited to WT attendees, but 2025 saw us open the door to recognize more charters with these awards, we need your help in nominating deserving individuals to continue the trend!

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2026 Proposal Window Has Passed

As I write this, the historic winter storm is still pummeling the eastern states after hammering the south. I hope all of you and your families made it safely through the storm. It also caused some travel heartburn for our winter meeting in Wausau, where we clocked a smooth -28 degrees, plus wind that made it -50. We got a chance to tour the Greenheck facility and it will be a fantastic venue for our event. I surely hope you are making plans to attend this year's world tournament in Wausau because I can assure you it's going to be a great one. I will be giving updates here each month. Make sure you get your qualifying events in and make plans to attend.

NHPA 3RD VICE PRESIDENT
JERRY LABROSSE



By the time you read this, the deadline for proposed rule changes is passed. I will update you all in March. Now is the time of year to think about who you could invite into trying the game and joining our horseshoe family. Promotion and recruitment is most successful on the ground level face-to- face. These days there aren't many sports as economical and family fun like horseshoes. Let's try to get our membership numbers going in the right direction.

HALL OF FAME SPOTLIGHT

Danny Kuchcinski
Erie, Pennsylvania



Danny started pitching at the age of ten. He won his first World Title at the age of 18 in 1967 in Fargo, North Dakota, being the youngest winner since 1933. He won world championships again in 1969 and 1970. He averaged over 84% ringers in each of his three championships, while losing only two games and winning 103 games. He had a streak of 66 consecutive ringers.

Danny married Women's World Champion Sue Gillespie and together had a traveling exhibition that toured all the United States and Canada. Their act was witnessed by millions of viewers on television, including the Johnny Carson Show and even a show in Japan.

Submitted by Stan Griggs

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Tech Tips from the NHPA

Do you ever get tired of scrolling forever through a huge webpage, document, or email just to find a certain word? There's an easy trick: just hit Ctrl + F (or Command + F if you're on a Mac). A little search box pops up, and you can type what you're looking for—it'll show you every spot where it shows up, so you can go straight to it. This works pretty much everywhere—browsers, Word, PDFs, spreadsheets, and even some apps you wouldn't think of. Like, if you're looking through some long instructions or rules and want to find something about "passwords," just press Ctrl + F, type "password," and you'll see every place it's mentioned. No need to read the whole thing! Why bother?

- Saves time – No more endless scrolling
- Helps avoid mistakes – You don't accidentally miss stuff
- Makes big files less annoying – Super useful for long or complicated stuff

**NHPA 5TH VICE PRESIDENT
JOSH OLSON**



So next time you're hunting for some info in a never-ending email chain or trying to spot that one number in a spreadsheet, just remember this handy shortcut. It's the easiest way to zip through your work way faster—no tech skills needed.

We are still working out a few minor details to purchase an Official World Tournament Horseshoe pitching Jersey. Keep an eye open for those details to come out. Here are a couple examples from the company that we will be working with this year.



**Preorders open soon for 2026
World Tournament Jerseys!**

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**NHPA 4TH VICE PRESIDENT
BARBARA CARSON**

New Regional Director in Nevada

Just a quick update on the Charter/League Patches and Tournament Patches. I have sent out 75% of The Tournament Patches. For those RD's that haven't placed your order, please send me your order ASAP so you have time to distribute them to your clubs before your tournaments begin. They will be sent based on the date of your first 2026 Tournament.

Additional Doubles Class Champion have been ordered. They will be sent as soon as I receive them. I apologize for the delay. The League Patches have arrived. Have fun in your 2026 Leagues.

I would like to express my appreciation and Good Luck to Nevada RD, Ken Jose.. Ken resigned from the RD position due to Personal Reasons. Thank you Ken for everything you do for the sport of Horseshoes and especially for the support you have given me during your years of service. I am looking forward to seeing you at Valley of the Sun this month. Ken is replaced by Lathan Dilger from Parump, Nevada. Thank you Lathan for stepping up to take this position. Welcome to the team. I am looking forward to working with you.

The council just returned from Wausau, Wisconsin. The venue is spectacular and the Wisconsin charter is excited to help with the 2026 World Tournament. I would like to ask each RD and League Director who will be attending to volunteer to help with the tournament. We will need you to help with Check-in, and Shift Directors. Looking forward to meeting all of you.

Thank You to all of you for everything you do to support our sport. See you at the pits!

Support the Sport, Get Involved!

The NHPA is currently seeking several motivated individuals to join our team! We have openings on the sponsorship and marketing committees and are actively seeking a promotions director and Historian, anyone interested can reach out to NHPA President, Ben Webb, to apply or for more information!

We have 3 officers up for election: 2nd Vice President (incumbent - Dalton Rakestraw), 4th Vice President (Barbara Carson), and Secretary/Treasurer (Brian Poole), have all submitted their letters of intent to run for reelection. These will be published in the coming editions of the digest.

Anyone interested in running for one of these offices must submit their letter of intent no later than April 1st to get on the ballot for 2026!

ELECTIONS

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Faith as the Foundation

A new year for many means a new start, new ideas, new vacations, new excitement, & of course new goals. There is nothing wrong with any of these! But let's not forget about the 'old', what we've already established. Perhaps it's like adding to what has been built.

The Bible speaks of faith as the foundation of our lives. Faith is the starting point, the gift of believing in God. It's the rock on which we stand. But then we ought to add on to that foundation. It's like supplementing our belief in God with convictions & actions that back up our faith. We demonstrate what we believe.

Moral excellence, inner strength & good character are a model to others. There should be a quality about us, of habitually doing what is right. Perfection ... oh no! That's impossible. But we strive to attain it. With the World Tournament coming to the great state of Wisconsin, I hope you are making plans to come. The opportunity to see friends across the country who share the same love of horseshoe pitching is something very special. May the Lord richly bless you ... not only while you pitch horseshoes but in every other endeavor you take on. And remember, if you are a Christian, you are truly BLESSED BEYOND MEASURE!! Now live like it!!

"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind ..." II Pet. 1:5-9



**NHPA CHAPLAIN
KEN HEINRITZ**



NHPF UPDATES!

2026 started off with two vacancies on the NHPF board of directors, we've made the appointments after reviewing the few applications we received. The NHPF has already elected their officers for the 2026 fiscal year as well, a full roster of the board is available below:

Jim Kinney Jr - NHPF President

Norman Pierce - NHPF Vice President

Mark Neubauer - NHPF Secretary/Treasurer

Deb Scully - NHPF Board Member

Hal Griswold - NHPF Board Member

Dalton Rakestraw - NHPF Board Member

Ben Webb - NHPF Board Member





**NEXT GEN
STATS**

**Stan Griggs,
NHPA World Tournament Statistician
NHPA Hall of Fame Chairman**



**NHPA STATISTICIAN
STAN GRIGGS**

250TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION PART 1



2026 is here and we will be celebrating our 250 th Anniversary this coming July. This brings me back to the last big celebration we had which was in 1976 (Our 200th Anniversary). I remember it very well as this was also my first year of pitching in the NHPA. As a young 12-year-old, I went to tournaments every weekend with my father, brother and neighbor all throughout Missouri and Kansas. Places like St. Joseph, Atchison, Leavenworth and Topeka. I remember vividly that there was a tournament on the 4 th of July in Mound City, Missouri and I painted my horseshoes red, white and blue like the flag. That was 50 years ago and how times have changed, even in our sport. Let's just look back at what the World Tournament looked like back then in Part I of the 250 th Anniversary Edition.

The 1976 World Tournament was held in Levittown, Pennsylvania, it spans several townships, with a significant portion located in Bristol Township, creating a close relationship with the surrounding historical area. After the 36-Man Round Robin a best 2 out of 3 playoff was needed to crown the Men's World Champion. Carl Steinfeldt from New York and Curt Day from Indiana as both were tied with records of 33-2. Carl was victorious winning his only Men's World Title defeating Curt in the playoffs with a record of 2-1. Pitching 2,665 ringers out of 3,220 shoes for an 82.76%. Curt would finish with a better overall ringer percentage while pitching 2,586 ringers out of 3,072 shoes for an 84.18%. Four other men would finish with averages over 80%

3 rd Place – Mark Seibold – Indiana 31-4 2,474 / 2,914 84.90%

4 th Place – Elmer Hohl – Canada 29-6 2,507 / 3,014 83.18%

5 th Place – Glen “Red” Henton – Iowa 29-6 2,571 / 3,132 82.09%

7 th Place – Bob West – Oregon 25-10 2,400 / 2,986 80.38%

The NHPA Hall of Fame was only into its eleventh year of existence with four individuals being inducted that year.

If you have any questions regarding the World Tournament Stats or the NHPA Hall of Fame, you may email me at moshoe63@gmail.com .

“Honesty is the first chapter of the book wisdom”

Thomas Jefferson

Drafted the Declaration of Independence in June 1776

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HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2026 YET?

Hello fellow horseshoe pitchers. We had a great visit to Wausau, Wisconsin. We toured the Greenheck Community Center and it is a great place for our World Tournament. I hope everyone is getting entered and excited to come see what a great tournament this will be. We also had our January meeting to keep this great organization moving forward and growing.

I let the council know that I am running for Sec/Treasurer again and hope I can serve you for another 3 years. It has been a pleasure to be on the NHPA Council and organize the World Tournament each year with the great council members I get to work with. If there is anything that I can help you with, please give me a call.

I would like everyone that has entered the World Tournament to go verify your entry in eShoe and check that you are in the correct Division. It is still early and you have until May 18th to get entered, but the sooner the better. To verify your entry go to NHPA-eshoe.com. When the page opens you will see “Featured and Favorite Events” in a blue banner. Click on the banner. A list of tournaments will appear, find 2026 WT Prelims and click the blue icon on the left. A new page will open with 4 blue buttons. Click on “View Entries” and use the boxes listed to sort entries and find your name and Division. If it is correct then all is well, but if you are not in the correct Division call me and let's get it fixed. It is harder to fix and move pitchers around once the schedule is created. We are on a good pace to hit 1000 pitchers for this tournament.

Also please verify that you have updated your membership in eShoe and are current for 2026. You can contact your Charter sec/treasurer and they can help you or give me a call.

You need 4 tournaments to qualify for the World Tournament from May 2025 to May 18, 2026. You can view this in eShoe by entering your name in the search box. Type your name and a list will appear that is a match of what you have typed in the search box. Find your name and click on it. At the bottom of the box that opens it will show you your total tournaments from the past 12 months. You can click on “Details” and a list of your tournaments will appear.

Keep looking for ways to share this great sport with everyone you come in contact with so we can get our membership back to over 10,000 members! See you on the Courts.



NHPA SECRETARY/TREASURER
BRIAN POOLE



National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

2026 World Horseshoe Pitching Championship

July 13 - 25, 2026

Wausau, Wisconsin



NAME:	First	(Please Print Legibly)	Last	NHPA Card # (or Canadian #)					
Address:									
City:	State/Prov:		Zip/Postal Code:						
Telephone:	Cell:		Birth Date:						
Email:									
Circle One >>>>>	I will Print My schedule	Email my schedule	Mail my schedule						
Circle the Division you are Entering:		(You may enter only one Division)							
(See notes at bottom on page)									
Open Men 40 ft	Sr Men 40 ft	Elder Men 30 ft	Open Women 30 ft	Sr Women 30 ft	Elder Women 20 ft	Jr Boys 30 ft	Jr Girls 30 ft	Cadet Boys 20 ft	Cadet Girls 20 ft
Note #2		Note #1		Note #2		Note #3			

All application information above is required. Form will be returned if not signed below or is incomplete.

ENTRY DEADLINE MAY 18, 2026

NO REFUNDS will be made after June 1, 2026.

NOTE: A processing fee of \$15 will be deducted from all refunds.

PARTICIPANTS LIABILITY RELEASE: In consideration of participating in such activity, I hereby waive, release and forever discharge the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA), all officers, employee's, agents and the servants of the NHPA, and all fellow participants of this event, for any and all action, cause of action, damage, loss or injury, which I may suffer as a consequence of participating in the World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament. The NHPA and its legal representatives (NHPA Officers) assigns, and retains the right and permissions to publish, without charge, photographs taken during the 2026 World Tournament. These photos or videos may be used in any publication, or in audio-visual presentations including "Live" interviews, promotional literature, advertising, sponsorships, or in other similar ways that the NHPA sees fit to use on behalf to represent and promote the NHPA World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament and the sport.

Signed:

Date:

*** Mail top half only ***

Entry Fees Adults -- \$150 before Jan 1, 2026 - \$170 Jan 1 to May 18, 2026
All Juniors/Cadets -- \$25 All Fund must be USD Currency

Canadian Entries must use a Money Order if mailing payment

Entry Fee includes Scorekeeping Fee

Mail to: NHPA
2660 S Fairway Drive
Pocatello, ID 83201
Telephone & Email inquires to:
Phone: 208 201-3326
Email: sec.treas@horseshoepitching.com

All Entries must be on this signed form and mailed with a postmark no later than May 18, 2026. You may enter anytime prior to May 18, 2026 using this form or on our website link. Entries received with a postmark after May 18, 2026 shall be put on a waiting list and entered into the World Tournament only as spaces are available. All Adults must have pitched in a minimum of four (4) US/Canadian sanctioned events in the twelve (12) months prior to May 18, 2026 in the same division you are entering. Only one (1) event is required for Juniors/Cadets. Exceptions for US Armed Forces members and family and Foreign competitors (other than Canadians) are outlined in Rule 11, Sec D.1 of the RGS Book. Contact NHPA for more information regarding qualifying exceptions. All Averages used will be the average on record in NHPA-eShoe as of May 18, 2026. Anyone qualifying under an exception must have those scores recorded by the same date. All NHPA and any special tournament rules apply. Please see note regarding refunds.

READ CAREFULLY: Any Adult male pitching from the full distance platform may enter the OPEN Men's Division regardless of age, just as any Adult Female may enter the OPEN Women's Division. To enter the Senior Division, you must be 60 years of age or older before the end of 2026. Any Man/Women that turns 65 years of age in 2026, or has an approved Medical exemption may enter the Elders Division. Entrants in the Jr Boys and Jr Girls Division eighteen (18) years old or younger for the entire calendar year OR through September 30th of the year of completing high School - not to exceed 19 years of age. Cadet Boys & Cadet Girls Division entrants must be 12 years old or younger for the entire 2026 calendar year.

NOTE #1: 30 ft Men with a Medical Exemption must be in NHPA eShoe as "Exempt" to pitch in this Division. A copy of the Exemption Form must be sent with this application.

NOTE #2: For Prelim Class play, a minimum of 48 pitchers must enter Sr Division's or it may be canceled. All entrants will then pitch in the Open Division if canceled.

NOTE #3: Junior Boys & Junior Girls Divisions will be mixed for preliminary class play. Cadet Boys & Cadet Girls Divisions will be mixed for preliminary class play.

The pitching schedule will be finalized by May 31, 2026 and published on the NHPA website www.horseshoepitching.com. If you indicate above to receive the schedule by mail, it will be mailed to the address you have listed above during the 2nd week in June. Please write address clearly & readable.

Please note: The NHPA reserves the right to disallow your participation for any of the following reasons: Any errors on this form, if your records don't appear in NHPA eShoe or any false or misleading information on this form, cannot validate Medical Exemption, or for any other reason by majority vote of the NHPA Council. The NHPA also reserves the right to add qualified entrants and to make class participant changes after the above deadline. No pitcher will be moved from a class or pitching time, without notification, after the final schedule has been published.

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FOR A FULL LIST OF NHPA CONTACTS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS VISIT
[HORSESHOEPITCHING.COM!](http://HORSESHOEPITCHING.COM)