

November 2025







BEN WEBB

Another year has flown by us, it's hard to believe thanksgiving has passed and we're a few days from Christmas! 2025 seen us begin many projects, end some projects and shift gears several times. Nevertheless, we've had a very productive year within the NHPA!

Returning in 2026 will be new member initiatives, partnered with membership retention initiatives of similar variety. We've been working with different vendors to get the pricing to where we can introduce sustainable programs for these, as the previous model was impossible to retain. Entering the Christmas season, I'd like to remind everyone of our Amazon Shop as you search for gifts for those horseshoe pitchers in your

life. You'll find shirts, hoodies, phone cases, throw pillows, bags and more on our shop front to get your loved ones loaded up with NHPA branded merch going into the new year. They may need a new pair of shoes as well and I'm noticing several manufacturers running holiday specials throughout the season. Better yet, gift a 2026 membership this Christmas! Once someone has that membership they're one step closer to getting out on the courts and enjoying the sport for the years to come.

The past month has seen us hold the first of the quarterly officer/directors meetings, run another membership survey, negotiate agreements with both the NHPF and our insurance carriers and iron out 2026 budget. 2025 saw a heavy investment paired with a loss from our inflated insurance. Luckily, we've made changes to the policy headed into the new year and enacted a plan to repay the NHPA general fund for the investments we made to upgrade our WT equipment in 2025. We've also worked heavily with both our website redesign team and Iva over at Moritz to bring you all new patch designs for your 2026 season! While 2026 will undoubtedly bring challenges just like any other year, I'm excited to see what the new year has in store for the NHPA's direction.

On the topic of Christmas, it'd be good if we could all take a few moments to reflect on the year this season. Let's slow down, think back on the year we've had and all the good things that came our way. Most of all, let's try to remember the true reason for the Christmas holiday this year. May the Christmas spirit fill your homes, and you have safe travels wherever you go this year to celebrate with your families. From our family to yours, Merry Christmas!

We attempted to begin a secondary publication in the spirit of the old publications with more horseshoe pitching news and asked for anyone with stories to submit for an all new publication to be independent of this digest. In the months we asked for those stories, we received exactly 0 submissions. When the interest shifts, so do we, and thus due to lack of interest we're scrapping the second publication concept. However, we're excited to bring you the first ever NHPA podcast in 2026 to replace the style of content people were asking for! On the show you'll hear interviews, tournament results, stories and more! Look for more information on this as we enter 2026!



December 2025



I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. I look forward to the holidays every year. It is a great time to enjoy time with family and friends. Watching my kids grow up and enjoy the holidays makes me a very happy person.

With everyone for the most part pitching indoors in my area I hope that everyone is pitching well and attending tournaments at indoor venues around you. It is great to support local venues that you can pitch in during the winter and if you have a venue in a neighboring state please be sure to support those as well. I am a big advocate for keeping winter venues going during the year.



With the Holidays approaching if you are interested in giving or sponsoring the NHPA please feel free to reach out to me and I will get the Sponsorship form sent to you. I want to wish everyone a very happy holiday coming up and I look to see you all in the court soon.



DALTON RAKESTRAW

Happy Holidays NHPA! I hope each one of you are having a fabulous holiday season and I am wishing you all a warm and cheerful New Year! I guess I spoke too soon in my last article, here in Southern California it has been... WET! It has rained and rained, we finally got some better weather, however we needed the rain for sure. A few tournament cancellations however we are on track to continue our normal posted season of tournaments. Since having gone to Columbus, Ohio, for the TEAMS Conference, I have been busy meeting with Destinations across NHPA 2ND VICE PRESIDENT well... the WORLD! That's right the NHPA is gaining some international exposure for the world tournaments. So, I am curious, would an international world tournament deter participation? One location you

would need a passport to enter: Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, the other you would not: San Juan, Puerto Rico. Both locations are expressing much gained interest in our event. And we might see a bid submitted from them in the future.

The Marketing Team last met and discussed the future of the new member programs and bags. We are looking into something that would be a "guarantee" other than a "chance" at a prize. Lucy Strong and Michelle Foard and the committee have brainstormed several ideas, and we are hoping to execute on them come January 1 st. If anyone has any ideas for marketing and promotions, please don't hesitate to reach out to any committee member or myself.

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DALTON RAKESTRAW, CONTINUED

The Regional Tournaments are starting to come to fruition. We had three bidders for 2026 come the deadline. Now begins the preparations for dates, tournament format, and timeline. Standby for more information to be released as the new year progresses. There is not much more to report for this issue of the Admin Digest. I wish you all health, wellness, ringers, and a prosperous New Year!

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

2025 Q4 survey results are in! Responses were down around 14% over our first survey with 537 responses. Please be sure to fill these out when they come out as these are valuable to us as we make decisions going forward. Missouri was the most represented state with 7% of the total responses, followed by Illinois.

- Only 35% of the total respondents attended one of the world championships this season.
- Around 59% pitched in their state championships
- Less than 50% said they knew how to nominate someone for an NHPA award
- 82% responded that their charter communication did or may have improved this season
- Only 4% of respondents didn't feel the NHPA communication changes would help keep members more informed
- Our Net Promoter Score rose this quarter to a 63, this is based off of a system for the ranking question "how likely are you to recommend organized horseshoe pitching", nice improvement!
- Only 11% felt strongly about not liking music at events
- 75% of members would travel more than 200 miles to pitch in a tournament
- Only 20% of respondents stated they'd be interested in possibly joining a committee, while 28% may be interested in getting involved on a charter level
- Only 12% felt the NHPA may need more divisions
- Only 59% accurately stated the runner-up for the Men's world championship class, the same percentage that knew the NHPF's full name.
- Over 50% stated their charter had raised dues in some form over the last 5 years
- Only 27% felt an NHPA dues increase to offset inflation would further harm membership



The Referral Prize Pack Drawing came to a close! Current NHPA members had the opportunity to enter into a drawing for a prize with a \$350 value by bringing in new members. Shout out to our winners Lynn Platero and Henry Charley II! Thank you so much for participating and promoting the sport of horseshoes!

PROMOTIONS DIRECTOR LUCY STRONG

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I first want to wish everyone a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season. Remember, the deadline for accepting proposed rules and bylaw changes is February 1. If you are planning to submit a proposal, please be sure it's in the proper format. If you have any questions about that, contact me If you are fortunate enough to be able to pitch indoors this winter like we are in Minnesota, that's a great way to get your qualifying events in for next year's world tournament. It's also a great way to stay in touch with your horseshoe family andfriends.



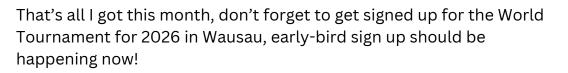
JERRY LABROSSE

GET INVOLVED - JOIN A COMMITTEE!

We've rewritten the playbook, put in new coaches and we need your help! Our marketing and sponsorship teams have several holes on their committees that need to be filled. Anyone with the skillset or simple desire to get in and help push the sport forward would be a valuable asset to our teams. Contact Austin Bailey for interest in the sponsorship committee or Dalton Rakestraw for interest in the marketing committee!

Protecting your online accounts starts with using strong, unique passwords for each one. Avoid repeating the same password across different sites to reduce your risk.

Consider using a password manager to generate and securely store complex passwords, making it much more difficult for hackers to break in. These simple habits are key to safeguarding your digital life. Password generators are useful tools for creating strong, complex passwords that are hard to guess. A password manager can also help you keep track of all your credentials in one secure location. Since so much of our lives are managed on mobile devices, it's wise to keep your phone protected with a password, biometric authentication, or facial recognition. Make sure any passcodes you use are difficult to guess for added security.





NHPA 5TH VICE PRESIDENT IOSH OLSON

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me! More on this in future articles.

New Patch Designs for 2026!



2026 patches have been sent to production! 2026 will see a complete overhaul of the tournament patch designs and some modifications to the league patches. The new tournament patch style uses our logo to gain it's shape while the league patch incorporates elements of the logo and has some slight color changes on each patch. We expect to receive the patches towards the 3rd week of December and should have these out just in time for early 2026 events! Will you be one of the first pitchers to win one of these new patches?

A gift for the ages! This extra big pick-up stick was a gift given from the beautiful heart of Black River Falls native Kailee Grob. Some gifts eventually make their way to the 'circular file', but I can emphatically tell you; THIS ONE WILL NOT! This precious gift for me will be treasured forever! And it truly came from heart. She made it. She took the time effort to design, cut, and even add the lettering & color. This is not something done quickly. And the craftsmanship is truly quality level & appreciated even more when the receiver is one who works with metal. Notice the very creative & meaningful messages: GET HOOKED ON JESUS on one side & <code>BLESSED</code> <code>BEYOND</code> <code>MEASURE</code> on the other. Perfect gift for $\overline{ ext{KEN}}$ $\overline{ ext{HEINRITZ}}$

NHPA CHAPLAIN

Let me close by stating that I didn't do anything to deserve Kailee's kindness. I didn't earn it or work for it. But yet, I received it. It's mine. This is the definition of grace. This beautiful young lady's example reminds me of the love & kindness of our great Creator. In His grace, we are offered a free gift, it's eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. It cannot be earned or worked for. This gift is free & offered by the beautiful heart of our loving Father!

Yes, get 'hooked on Jesus" & you'll be 'blessed beyond measure'.

Kailee, you will always be a champion in my book! Thank you from the bottom of my heart! May God bless you!

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23

"For by grace are you saved through faith ... not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

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We just started the 2026 card year on the first of October. Everyone has the option of contacting their Charter Secretary/Membership Director or go thru www.horseshoepitching.com to RENEW (For existing members) or JOIN (For new members). In the case of accidentally creating a new membership number when renewing contact Jim Kinney Jr or your charter Secretary/Membership Director. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Poole (sec.treas@horseshoepitching.com) or Jim Kinney Jr (eshoe@horseshoepitching.com).

JOIN (new NHPA members)

RENEW (existing NHPA members)

ESHOE ADMINISTRATOR IIM KINNEY IR

There are a lot of charters who have started using the new eShoe program to run tournaments. There has been a program written to run single tournaments and doubles tournaments for sanctioned events. The Tournament Director listed on the events must have a login for eShoe to be able to access this program. You can contact Jim Kinney Jr at eshoe@horseshoepitching.com to obtain login access. We are working on a step by step how to video that will be posted on the NHPA website when completed. I hope everyone has a great 2026 season.



NHPA STATISTICIAN
STAN GRIGGS

All of the World Tournament (Singles) Stats have been completed, another year of historical records have been inscribed into our record books. With the new World Doubles Tournament that was just completed, all files are being created to capture those records as well.

The 10 Year and 10 Years-In-A Row world tournament patches have all been mailed out to each of therecipients. 20 Years and plus will be presented at the Hall of Fame Banquet at next year's World Tournament in Wisconsin.

I wanted to put out another reminder that we have just a couple months left for accepting nominations for the NHPA Hall of Fame, they must be received no later that January 31, 2026. The nomination form is on our web page and can be emailed to me.

https://www.horseshoepitching.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/HOFNominationForm.pdf If you have any questions regarding the World Tournament Stats or the NHPA Hall of Fame, you may email me at moshoe63@gmail.com .



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NHPA SECRETARY/TREASURER BRIAN POOLE

Hello fellow horseshoe pitchers. I hope you all had a wonderful time with your family for Thanksgiving. I was able to spend it with my older Brother and younger Sister. It is time to start thinking about your tournaments for next year and getting all your club members renewed. I am finding pitchers that pitched in 2025 that didn't have an updated membership. So they forgot to renew or they paid it to someone and they didn't get the information to those that can update in eShoe. This does affect our membership numbers and hurts our organization if we keep losing members. It is also required for them to be covered under our insurance that they are a paid member. So if they are participating and get hurt they are not covered if they don't have a current membership.

Here is the link to enter the 2026 World Tournament in Wausau, Wisconsin. https://forms.gle/kx9H85w784cZVSgj8

You can fill this out and pay with a Credit Card on PayPal or you can mail me a check or money order. Here is a link to the online entry form. Please fill out and send to the address on the form. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ODdsiyqGRwybeXq2kgwQZt5SygRZgag_/view?usp=sharing Have a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

NHPA AND NHPF OPERATING AGREEMENT STILL UNDER REVIEW

NHPA, NHPF and the QRHC share an operating agreement for the operation of the Hall of Fame building in Wentzville. The previous agreement had expired and a new one was required to document the three entities responsibilities for maintaining the building. A new agreement has been drafted and approved by the majority of the responsible parties and with just a couple signatures outstanding we believe we've reached updated terms that're mutually beneficial to everyone. Agreements like these are often formalities in our style of organization but are necessary to make sure things are passed down properly between administrations and to ensure everyone is on the same page. One thing that everyone can agree on is the vital importance of the club at Quail Ridge. If it weren't for the local club in Wentzville the building would be impossible to maintain. We appreciate the countless hours of dedication by the club and always want to support them however we can.

As previously reported, at the end of this month, Dave Sidle will be stepping off of the NHPF Board, at that time we'll make an appointment to the board. Anyone interested in joining the NHPF board may contact NHPA President, Ben Webb, to apply. Applicants will be taken until December 31, 2025, which is the end of Dave's current term. After this date, the NHPA council will review all applicants and make an appointment to the board.



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The purpose statement of the NHPF outlines six primary goals. The first goal pertains directly to that former NHPF President Dave Loucks speaks to in the video on the Foundations website. "To construct, maintain, and operate a museum, library, and hall of fame devoted to the game of horseshoes, which will provide the public with an opportunity to better understand the history and development of the game of horseshoes and the people associated with it." In his video he also outlines the reason the Foundation was established and the importance of it having non-profit charitable status with the IRS. Donations made to the NHPF are tax deductible.thing new.



dave sidles NHPF PRESIDENT

Today, the NHPA, in association with the NHPF proudly operates the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association Hall of Fame and Museum dedicated to preserving the history of the sport we all enjoy. Many changes are currently taking place with one being a makeover of both of our websites. Soon, you will be able to take a virtual tour of the museum on the NHPF's new and improved website. This new site is also where you will now be able to access much of the NHPA's historical information and World Tournament records. Contributions to support the museum can be made several ways. There will soon be multiple locations throughout the new website that will take you to the donations page. We use PayPal to facilitate credit card payments but you don't need an account with them. Simply fill in an amount and use the "Donate with Debit or Credit Card" option. You can also write a check or purchase a brick on the plaza in front of the museum.

The Foundation's sole member is the NHPA. The Foundation's Board of Directors are nominated and elected by the NHPA's Executive Council. Directors serve four-year terms with three Directors appointed (or reappointed) every other year. The NHPA President also serves on this Board. If you are interested in serving on the NHPF board or just want to learn more, contact the NHPA. The Foundation is always grateful for the support it receives. And in partnership with the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club, we are pleased to report that the Hall of Fame Museum is alive and well. If you have never been there, we encourage you to plan a visit soon. If you have been there, stop by again. You might see something new.

NHPA ON AMAZON!



National Horseshoe Pitchers NHPA

\$34⁹⁹

✓prime

FREE delivery Wed, Dec 10

See options

+14 other colors/patterns

Head over to Amazon and search for the NHPA official shopfront to stock up this season. Various models bearing the new NHPA logo are available, with fast prime shipping these can be to you in time to have them under the tree before next weekend!

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Youth horseshoe pitching is more than a sport—it's a foundation for lifelong growth. Every time young pitcher steps onto the court, they are building skills that extend far beyond competition. Patience, resilience, focus, sportsmanship, and confidence are just a few of the qualities strengthened through pitching. These skills influence school performance, relationships, future careers, and personal development long after the last shoe is thrown. The people youth pitchers meet have impactions on them for life. They create meaningful relationships and lasting memories. Use this holiday season to reflect on the impact you made for

youth pitchers, or the impact you could make going forward.

One of the most rewarding parts of working with youth in the NHPA is watching them grow not just as athletes, but as individuals. They learn how to handle pressure, how to be gracious in both victory and defeat, and how to support their peers. The horseshoe community gives young people a place where they feel included, valued, and capable. It is a safe and encouraging environment where they can thrive.

As we look ahead to the upcoming World Tournament in Wisconsin, I'm thrilled to share that we have two incredible youth-focused events planned to make this years' experience unforgettable:

�� Wednesday: Onsite Carnival Party

This fun-filled carnival will feature games, prizes, treats, and activities for pitchers of all ages. It's the perfect chance for youth to relax, make new friends, and celebrate being part of this amazing community.

�� Sunday: Waterpark Party

To close out the tournament, we'll gather at a local waterpark for an afternoon of splashing, sliding, and celebrating the end of another exciting world competition. It's a great opportunity for families and youth pitchers to unwind and enjoy time together outside the courts.

These events aren't just parties, they're ways to build friendships, strengthen our community, and create memories young pitchers will carry for years. I'm incredibly proud of our youth program and the ongoing efforts to make horseshoe pitching accessible, fun, and meaningful for the next generation. Whether they continue in the sport as adults or move into other paths, the lessons learned in the pits will stay with them for life.

I wish you all a blessed holiday season and I look forward to seeing all our youth pitchers in Wisconsin—ready to compete, connect, and celebrate another wonderful year of horseshoes!



National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

2026 World Horseshoe Pitching Championship



Wausau, Wisconsin



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NAME:		First	(Pk	ase Print Legi	ibly)	Last		2026 NHPA Card # (or Canadian #)			
Address:											
City:					State/Prov:			Zip/Postal Code			
Telephone				Cell:				Birth Date:			
Email:											
Circle One	One >>>>> I will Print My schedule				Em	dule	Mail my schedule				
Circle the	Division you are Entering: (You m				ay 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	on information	above is requ	iired. Form wi	ill be returned	if not signed bel	ow or is incon	nplete.	ENT	RY DEAD	DLINE MAY	18, 2026
NO REFU	NDS will b	e made afte	er June 1, 20	026.	NOTE: Ap	rocessing fo	ee of \$15 w	rill be deducted fi	om all refi	unds.	
Association (loss or injury assigns, and publication, o use on behalt	NHPA), all of , which I may retains the rig or in audio-vis	fficers, employ suffer as a co tht and permis sual presentati	yee's, agents an nsequence of p sions to publis ons including	nd the servants sarticipating in th, without cha 'Live' intervie	of the NHPA, a the World Hors arge, photograph	nd all fellow p eshoe Pitching s taken during literature, adv	participants or g Tournament the 2026 Wo vertising, spor	se and forever dischar f this event, for any a f. The NHPA and it's rld Tournament. The asseships, or in other	nd all action, legal represe se photos or	cause of action, ntatives (NHPA videos may be u	damage, Officers) used in any
Signed:								Date:			
				* M	ail top half o	nly *					
Entry Fees	All Juniors/		\$150 befor \$25 use a Money		All Fund must be USD Co						
Mail to:	NHPA 2660 S Fairway Drive				Telephone & Email inquires to: Phone: 208 201-3326						

Pocatello, ID 83201 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.

November 2025







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