

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION**

(Revised February 18. 2002)

PREAMBLE

KNOWING THAT THE SPORT OF HORSESHOE PITCHING AFFORDS A HEALTHFUL, RECREATIONAL AND COMPETITIVE GAME SUITABLE TO ALL PERSONS, YOUNG AND OLD, MALE AND FEMALE, AND DESIRING TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLUBS, LEAGUES AND OTHER HORSESHOE PITCHING ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS, WE DO HEREBY ESTABLISH THE FOLLOWING CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I (NAME)

Section I - The name of this association shall be the Massachusetts Horseshoe Pitchers Association, hereafter referred to as the Association.

ARTICLE II (PURPOSE)

Section I - The purpose of this Association shall be to further the sport of horseshoe pitching by a proper means in the state of Massachusetts. This Association is affiliated with the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA) for the purpose of mutual encouragement and welfare.

ARTICLE III (Membership)

Section 1 - Any resident of Massachusetts is entitled to membership in this Association.

Section 2 - The Executive Board shall set individual membership dues.

Section 3 - To be a member in good standing and entitled to vote, the member must be a paid up member.

ARTICLE IV (Officers)

Section 1 - The officers of this association shall consist of a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Section 2 - The officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years. The president and treasurer shall be elected on the even numbered years. The vice president and secretary shall be elected on the odd numbered years.

Section 3 - The president shall appoint a nominating committee of three or more association members to the annual meeting. This committee will seek out qualified candidates for each office to be filled and will present its selections at the membership meeting. Other nominations may be made from the floor.

Section 4 - Election shall be by majority vote. If there is more than one candidate for an office, voting shall be by secret ballot. If a majority is not obtained on the first ballot, the top two candidates will be the only ones on the second ballot.

Section 5 - The term of office shall start on the first of October of the election year.

Section 6 - The duties of the officers shall be set forth in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE V (Executive Board)

Section 1 - The Executive Board shall be composed of elected officers and two Association members from each organized club or League within the state. The Association must recognize a club or league as being organized in order to have voting representation on the Board. In the absence of organized clubs in the area, the president may appoint an Association member to represent that area.

Section 2 - The members of the respective clubs or leagues shall elect their representatives and their alternates. Newly elected members shall start their term on the first of October. It is the responsibility of the club or league secretary to submit, in writing, the names of their representatives and alternates to the state secretary before the end of the current year.

Section 3 - The duties of the Executive Board shall be to discuss and take action on suggestions and grievances submitted by Association members. This Board shall have the authority to deal with all matters that they consider being in the best interest of the Association. Any action by the Board can be voted on or acted on by a majority of the Association members present at any lawful meeting.

Section 4 - Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at such times and place as the president may decide, or by petition of one third of the members of the Board.

ARTICLE VI (Meetings)

Section 1. "Robert's Rule of Order" shall govern the conduct of all meetings.

Section 2. The Annual General Membership meeting shall be held at the most desirable time during the State Singles Tournament set by the Executive Board, or at any other date approved by a majority of the members present at the annual meeting, I.E. Odd years on Saturday, even years on Sunday or at an annual banquet if one is held.

Section 3. The order of business at the annual meeting shall be as follows:

1. Call to order by the president.
2. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
3. Additions, corrections and approval of the minutes.
4. Reading of the Financial report.
5. Acceptance of/questions concerning the Financial report.
6. Reports of Officers and Executive Board.
7. Reports of the Special Committees
8. Bids for tournaments.
9. Old Business
10. New Business (note: Ex. Board meeting includes financial items voted on each year).
11. Election of officers
12. Adjournment

Section 4. A Lawful meeting, other than the annual meeting, shall be:

1. One called by the president.
2. One called by one third of the Executive Board members.

3. One called by petition of twenty five (25) associate members.

Section 5. A Quorum for General membership meetings shall be twenty five (25) members.

Section 6. A notice of the annual meeting shall be sent to all members via the spring newsletter to the members. A notice of any special meeting shall be sent to all members a minimum of one week prior to the scheduled date of the meeting. The notice of the special meeting must contain the agenda for the meeting.

ARTICLE VII (Constitution and By Law Amendments)

Section 1. The constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any lawful meeting.

Section 2. The association may adopt such ByLaws as it shall deem necessary. ByLaws shall be adopted or amended when approved by a majority of the members present and voting at a lawful meeting.

Section 3. Amendments to the Constitution and ByLaws cannot be considered or voted upon unless the notice of the meeting contains a statement that amendments are to be proposed.

MASSACHUSETTS HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

ARTICLE I (General)

Section 1. The rules of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association shall govern in all cases unless specifically stated as otherwise in these By Laws. Should a subsequent NHPA Rule change conflict with these By Laws, the Executive Board will decide which rule to follow until the next General Meeting, when appropriate change will be submitted to the membership for approval.

ARTICLE II (Duties of the Officers)

Section 1. The president shall be the chief executive officer and shall have the authority to assign specific duties to members of the Executive Board. The president shall preside at all meetings, be Ex-Officio member of all committees and approve all expenditures beyond normal administrative expenses. The president shall appoint committees and perform such duties as designated by the Association or the NHPA Constitution and By Laws. The president shall be responsible for informing the general membership of important happenings in the annual newsletter with assistance, as required, from the other officers. The president shall have the option to audit all Association records.

Section 2. The vice president shall perform all the duties of the president in the event of death, disability, resignation or absence of the president and shall serve as general chairman of the Awards Banquet.

Section 3. The treasurer shall be the custodian of all Association funds and shall deposit such funds in an interest earning checking account in the name of the Association. The treasurer, subject to the approval of the Executive Board, shall select the banking establishment. A complete and accurate financial statement shall be furnished at the annual membership meeting and at other times when requested by the president. The treasurer shall also verify all secretary's NHPA reports, write check for same, and mail to the NHPA Secretary/Treasurer. A copy of all bank statements will be mailed to the secretary along with a list of checks outstanding, for verification, in writing, by the secretary.

Section 4. The secretary shall receive membership applications and will prepare NHPA reports to be sent to the state treasurer and will transmit all monies to the treasurer. The secretary shall prepare and process newsletters to be sent to members and will maintain an index file listing names and addresses of all members. The secretary will also verify the treasurer's bank statements monthly. In addition to state duties the secretary shall be the state representative for the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association and shall cooperate with

the requests of the national officers, and assure that the rules of the N.H.P.A. are being adhered to within the state.

Section 5. The recording secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings.

Section 6. The publicity director shall perform such duties as will foster a public awareness of Association activities.

ARTICLE III. (Fiscal Year)

Section 1. The fiscal year for this association shall coincide with the calendar year.

ARTICLE IV. (Elected officers expenses and fees)

Section 1. The secretary and treasurer shall receive a fee for their services set by the membership at the annual meeting. Currently the secretary is to receive 50 cents per adult member and the treasurer will receive 20 cents per adult member.

Section 2. All officers shall be reimbursed for normal expenses incurred during the performance of their duties. The president and vice president shall have an account of up to \$200.00 for use and betterment of the Association. Any expenditure of \$200.00 and over shall require a majority vote of the officers.

Section 3. The treasurer and secretary shall be bonded. The executive board shall determine the amount of the bond and bonding - fee is to be paid by the association.

ARTICLE V. (Sanctioned Tournaments)

Section 1. A sanctioned tournament shall be one in which association membership is mandatory for all classes. The tournament director is required to post the entering percentages of all pitchers.

Section 2. The State Singles tournament and the State Doubles tournament shall be sanctioned and will be run by the host club with its own tournament director and input from two state executive board members.

Section 3. The State Doubles shall be a maximum of 100% combined percentage pitching 40 'shoes per team (20 'shoes per player) per game. All classes will be mixed and percentages shall be from the Natstat High 3. Eight teams recommended for Championship class. There will be no handicapping in the Championship class. All other classes will be set up at the discretion of the T.D. and the MA HPA executive board. There shall be 3 awards/prizes in each class of 8 teams and at least 2 awards/prizes in classes of 6 or less.

Section 4. In the State Singles tournament, it is recommended that Class A men will be the top 8 men as determined by the Natstat High 3. They shall play 40 point games with no shoe limit. No handicapping in the championship class. Method of play for all other classes will be at the discretion of the Tournament Director and the Ex. Board.

Section 6. Playoff methods for state tournaments:

1. Two way tie - one game playoff.
2. Three way playoff - High average has bye, then plays winner of the first game between the players with the 2nd & 3rd averages. Loser of first game is awarded third place.
3. Four way tie - # 1 percentage plays # 3 percentage player, # 2 plays # 4. Losers of first game are awarded third and fourth places by percentage in regulation play. The winners of the first game play off for 1st and 2nd place.
4. Five or more tied - 50 'shoe qualifying, top 2 scores playoff. Other positions are determined by percentage in regulation play.
5. Playing conditions permitting, playoff should be played on the same day as the class was pitched and played as soon as practical.

Section 7. Players 70 years and older and handicapped players who meet the NHPA criteria can pitch in all Massachusetts tournaments, including the State Tournament, at the shorter pitching distance, even though there is no special class set up.