

NEW ENGLAND HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION

Constitution and By-Laws

Revised September 5th, 2021

PREAMBLE

Knowing that the sport of horseshoe pitching provides a healthy, enjoyable, and competitive recreation, and recognizing that there is a need for more coordination of activities throughout the New England area, we the horseshoe pitchers of New England do hereby establish the following Constitution and By-Laws.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. (Name)

Section 1. The name of this association shall be the New England Horseshoe pitchers' Association, hereafter called NEHPA.

ARTICLE II. (Purpose)

Section 1. The purpose of the NEHPA shall be to further the sport of horseshoe pitching in the New England area by coordinating the activities of the several state associations, and other organizations, as they may desire, and by promoting the sport regionally. It is not the intent of the NEHPA to contravene the rights and prerogatives of the various organizations, but to foster a spirit of cooperation among them.

Section 2. Activities generally regarded as regional in scope, such as the New England Tournament, shall be governed by this Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE III. (Membership)

Section 1. The requirements for membership shall be set forth in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV. (Officers)

Section 1. The officers of the NEHPA shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The officers shall be elected bi-annually by a majority vote of all members in good standing present at the annual meeting. The term of office and the duties of the officers shall be as set forth in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE V. (Executive Board)

Section 1. The Executive Board shall be composed of the officers, plus two representatives from each of the six state associations, said representatives to be selected as the state associations may wish. In addition, the Director of the New England Tournament for that calendar year as well as the New England NHPA Regional Director and all NEHPA Standing Committee chairpersons.

Section 2. The purpose of the Executive Board is to handle those administrative functions that can best be dealt with by a small group of individuals and to assist the officers in the performance of their duties. The specific duties of the Executive Board shall be set forth in the By-Laws.

Section 3. Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at such times and places as the President may decide, or by petition of one-third of the members of the Board. At least one meeting shall be held during each term, no later than thirty days prior to the date of the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VI. (By-Laws)

Section 1. The NEHPA may adopt such By-Laws as it shall deem necessary. By-Laws shall be adopted or amended when approved by a majority vote of the members in good standing present at any lawful meeting.

ARTICLE VII. (General Membership Meeting)

Section 1. The annual meeting shall be held on Sunday of the scheduled New England Tournament or at any other time approved by the members present at the previous meeting. Special meetings will be held upon petitions of one-third of the membership.

Section 2. All NEHPA members shall be notified of the annual or special upcoming meeting fifteen days prior to the date of that meeting. Notification of a special meeting shall contain the agenda for the meeting.

Section 3. A minimum of forty members in good standing, representing a minimum of three states shall constitute a quorum for all general membership meetings.

ARTICLE VIII. (Amendments)

Section 1. This constitution may be amended by a two-third affirmative vote of the members in good standing present at the annual meeting. Proposed constitutional amendments cannot be considered or voted upon unless the notice of the annual meeting contains a statement of the specific changes to be proposed.

ARTICLE IX. (Removal)

Section 1. Elected officers may be removed by a majority vote of the members present at any annual or special meeting, or by a four-fifths vote of the entire Executive Board. The election of new officer(s) would take place at that meeting. If removal is by Executive Board action, the President will appoint replacement(s) to serve until the next annual meeting.

Section 2. Executive Board representatives may be removed at any time by the appropriate state association.

Section 3. Removal of NEHPA members will be in accordance with NHPA By-Laws (NHPA, 2001-2002 Edition, Article V, Section 9).

ARTICLE X. (Order of Business)

Section 1. Roberts Rules of Order, revised and reading as follows, shall govern the order for conducting all annual meetings.

- A. Call to order by the President
- B. Opening prayer and flag salute
- C. Moment of silence, when appropriate
- D. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting
- E. Approval, addition, or corrections of the minutes
- F. Reading of the financial report
- G. Reading of communications
- H. Reading of minutes of any special meetings held since previous annual meeting
- I. Reports of officers and Executive Board
- J. Reports of standing and special committees
- K. Old Business
- L. Bids and selection of next year's New England Tournament
- M. New Business
- N. Election of officers
- O. Adjournment

Section 2. Minutes of Special meetings and Executive Board meetings may be abbreviated at the discretion of the President.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. (General)

Section 1. The rules of the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association (NHPA) shall govern in all cases not specifically stated in these by-laws.

ARTICLE II. (Membership)

Section 1. All NHPA members whose legal residence is in the New England States are members of the NEHPA.

ARTICLE III. (Duties of Officers)

Section 1. President. The President shall preside at all meetings, be ex-officio member of all committees, approve all warrants upon the treasury, appoint such committees he feels is necessary, and perform other duties as designated by the NEHPA.

Section 2. Vice President. The Vice President shall perform all duties of the President in the event of death, disability, or absence of the President. He shall keep tournament percentage records of all members and provide up-to-date records to the host club of the New England Tournament no later than the deadline for entries. He shall act as a Tournament Director Advisor. In this capacity he shall keep abreast of innovations in tournament procedures and provide his expertise and assistance as other tournament directors may request. During the preparation and conduct of the annual New England Tournament, he will insure that the terms of the bid are being adhered to and provide necessary assistance. Should circumstances indicate that the tournament should be postponed, moved to a different location, etc., he shall make necessary recommendations to the Executive Board.

Section 3. Secretary. The secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings, take care of all correspondence, keep these minutes in a permanent bound volume and purchase the necessary supplies for the office, for which he/she shall be reimbursed. He/she shall maintain up-to-date mailing lists of all members by state and disseminate same to the New England Tournament Director. He/she shall be responsible for the mailing of notices and other information, as the President and the Executive Board may direct.

Section 4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all NEHPA funds, expend its funds on necessary approval, and keep accurate record of the income and expenditures. He/she shall deposit all monies received in a banking institution approved by the Executive Board and all moneys distributed shall be by check from said bank. Because the treasurer or other official from the New England Tournament host club, will be handling much of the NEHPA funds, particularly entry fees, the NEHPA Treasurer will work closely with that official in the proper distribution of affected funds. The Treasurer will be bonded, if and when the NEHPA treasury amount exceeds \$30,000.00.

ARTICLE IV. (Executive Board)

Section 1. The Executive Board shall be composed of the officers plus two representatives from each of the six state associations, said representatives to be selected as the state associations may wish. In addition, the Director of the New England Tournament for that calendar year as well as the New England NHPA Regional Director, and the NEHPA Standing Committee chairpersons shall be members of the board.

Should any state association fail to select representatives, the NEHPA President may appoint representatives from said state. The states should select alternate representatives. No state will have more than three votes on the Board.

Section 2. The duties of the Board are as follows:

A. New England Tournament. Accept bids for the site of the following year's tournament. Present summary of bids to the general membership at the meeting for their selection. The Board may, at its discretion, make recommendations as to the choice of site. Should selected host club default on its bid, the Board is empowered to select an alternate site.

B. Discuss and take appropriate action on grievances and suggestions of NEHPA members. Notify the person(s) concerned as to the action taken or decision rendered.

C. The Board may, at its discretion, have the president appoint other NEHPA members to assist the Officers in the performance of their duties.

D. Publish an annual, or more frequent newsletter, including a calendar of next year's tournaments being held throughout New England.

E. The Board will be responsible for the conduct of the New England Tournament. It will determine method of play in all classes and divisions, with the concurrence and advice of the host club. It will be empowered to change method of play if conditions warrant.

Section 3. A quorum for Board meetings shall be seven members, representing at least three states. Should a problem arise requiring Board action and a meeting cannot be held, the President may communicate with all Board members in a suitable manner, state the problem, and poll the members on their choice of action. Upon completion of the poll, he will inform all members of the result.

Section 4. The Board shall determine how additional funds shall be raised.

ARTICLE V. (Term of Office)

Section 1. The President and Treasurer shall be elected on even numbered years.

Section 2. The Secretary and Vice President shall be elected on odd numbered years.

Section 3. Executive Board representatives shall be selected annually.

Section 4. Elected officers and Executive Board representatives shall serve from November 1 to October 31.

ARTICLE VI. (New England Tournament)

Section 1. The New England Tournament will be held annually on Labor-Day weekend. It will be open to all NEHPA members. Adult players must have competed in a minimum of 2 sanctioned events since (but not including) the previous year's New England Tournament. A sanctioned league of at least 400 shoes is considered an event.

Section 2. The site of the tournament will be selected one year in advance at the annual meeting by a simple majority vote of members in good standing present at the annual meeting. There shall be a run-off election between the top two choices if no majority occurs on the first ballot. The President will decide on method of voting.

Section 3. Bids for the New England Tournament.

A. Bids for the New England Tournament shall be orally or in writing and presented to the Executive Board at the annual meeting.

B. The entry fee for all adults shall be determined by the host club tournament director subject to the approval by the NEHPA executive board. The fee must include (1) local club expenses, (2) NEHPA expenses, and (3) pay for scorekeepers

C. A raffle shall be held in conjunction with the New England Tournament. Said raffle shall be managed by the Executive Board. Profit from the raffle shall accrue to the NEHPA.

Section 4. Awards. There will be three or more suitable awards in each class of at least eight players.

Section 5. Classes. All "A" classes will be 8 players maximum. All other classes will be 8 players where possible.

Section 6. The tournament will be NHPA sanctioned.

Section 7. Pending available funds, the NEHPA will defray part of the expenses for the Men's and/or Women's New England Champion to attend and compete in the following years' World Tournament when the tournament is held outside of New England. The Executive Board will determine amount(s) to be provided and to whom.

ARTICLE VII. (Standing Committees and appointed positions)

Section 1. The President shall appoint a Chairperson to the following standing committees: The number of committee members to be set by the Executive Board. The committees and their duties are listed as follows:

A. Nominating Committee: Prepare a slate of officers for the next annual meeting.

B. Constitution and By-Law committee: Evaluate and make recommendations on changes and invite suggestions from membership and other interested parties.

C. Hall of Fame Committee: Establish a formal procedure and select Players and/or Organizers to be inducted into the NEHPA Hall of Fame.

D. Special Awards Committee: Establish a formal procedure and select players to receive special awards as directed by the NEHPA Executive Board.

E. Public Relations Officer: Advertise and disseminate information relative to the New England Tournament to all interested parties for the purpose of increasing attendance at the New England Tournament and to promote the awareness of the Sport of Horseshoes.

ARTICLE VIII. (National and State Emergencies)

Section 1. If a National Emergency is declared by the President of the United States of America and it effects decisions pertaining to the operation or execution of the New England Tournament that would require a vote of the membership to make such decisions, the authority given to the membership by this document will be transferred to the Executive Board to make said decisions. This will be in effect until such National Emergency is declared over by the President of the United States of America.

Section 2. When a National or State emergency occurs during any given year, and that emergency does not permit the host club of the NEC Tournament in that said year the ability to host the NEC Tournament, that club will be automatically given first right of refusal to host the next years New England Tournament. This will supersede Article VI Section 3 in the By-laws of the NEHPA.