

## Entering Tournaments

It is never a question of “am I good enough?” There is a place for all pitchers at tournaments and once you have decided that you wish to play, the process is painless.

Join the MHPA by filling out the application. The current MHPA tournament schedule and other goodies will be sent to you after your application has been processed. Participating in a tournament can be an addictive experience. You will meet a lot of new friends (horseshoe pitchers are like your next door neighbors), and they will always make you feel welcome.

Now that you have left your back yard and your local league and decided to take on a new venture, have fun. After arriving at the tournament site, you will need to purchase your NHPA card from the Tournament Director at the site ( if you didn't send in the application prior).

Now the hardest part of the whole day. They will ask you to warm up for a few minutes and then qualify (no, it isn't just to get into the tournament): they want you to pitch 100 shoes to see how many ringers you pitch. This will let them place you in among pitchers of similar skills.

The most commonly used type of tournament play is based upon a round robin schedule for each skill level, usually in a 6, 7 or 8 person group. You are seeded within a group based upon your ringer average and then will play one game against each of the other pitchers within your group or class. The round robin card will show you which courts to play on and which seed you play.

Games are usually played to a given number of points or to a pre-determined number of shoes. In most cases this is a cancellation game, meaning that like ringers cancel each other out and only the closest shoe to the stake (within 6 inches) would receive a point. There is a recognized score calling language with which you will be familiar. The other pitchers will be very helpful in explaining this language

The key to horseshoe pitching is to play your own game, not worry about winning or losing, but enjoy the competition.

### WEB SITES TO GET YOU STARTED

Michigan Horseshoe Pitchers Association  
<http://www.pitchwithus.com/mhpa>

National Horseshoe Pitchers Association  
<http://www.horseshoepitching.com/>

*When you “log-in” to these sites you will find everything you’ll need to know about Horseshoe Pitching*

### Good Things to Know...

1. Young and old alike can participate in and benefit from this outdoor family game. Fresh air and moderate exercise are indeed a combination difficult to surpass. There can be no doubt that bending over to pick up horseshoes is beneficial to the health of Middle America. Or, to spell it out, the middle of Americans.
2. Unlike many games, horseshoes requires little in the way of equipment. A couple of metal stakes, a set of horseshoes and you're ready to play. And with that play comes camaraderie, competition, minimal cost, and exercise as well, making horseshoe pitching one of the greatest sports-dollar bargains available.
3. According to NHPA rules, women, juniors (18 years or less, for the entire calendar year in which tournaments are played), and elders (70 and over) can pitch at 30 feet.
4. We are in good company. Some 40 million Americans pitch horseshoes, and most of them pitch less than 30 percent ringers. Only a small percentage of them compete regularly in league or tournament play. Of the 900+ pitchers that competed in the 1998 world tournament, 40% of them pitched 30% or less ringers.
5. The World Tournament moves around the country to different cities and states as well as in Canada. To qualify to play in the tournament you must have competed in 4 or more tournaments within the last 12 months prior to the deadline.
6. Proper “dress” is considered good etiquette at sanctioned tournaments. Wear comfortable walking shoes, slacks / trousers/ shorts that are not too loose and later on, you will probably want to purchase a tournament shirt. Any pitching shoe approved by the NHPA is legal.

## What is the MHPA?

The purpose of the Michigan Horseshoe Pitchers Association is to promote the great game of horseshoes in this way: “Since the sport of horseshoe pitching affords a healthy, scientific, pleasant and competitive sport suitable to all persons, at a cost comparable to other sports with a desire to unify horseshoe adherents, standardize horseshoe pitching rules, authorize and conduct tournaments of local, state and national scope, promote the establishments of league and clubs, we the horseshoe pitchers of Michigan, by convention establish the Michigan Division of the NHPA.”



### Joining the MHPA is Easy

To join the MHPA, just fill out the application and send it in. You will meet some great people who love the game of horseshoes. A small fee is charged (\$30) annually, which includes membership in the NHPA and insurance for all sanctioned events.

### Why Join the MHPA?

Horseshoe pitching is at its finest when played with some competition, especially those that love the game. One can practice endless hours on a home court, but joining the MHPA gives you a chance to improve your game and have camaraderie with other players in the Wolverine State Horseshoe Pitchers Association. The exercise and competition is great.

**Michigan Horseshoe  
Pitchers Association  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: MI

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (mandatory for juniors) \_\_\_\_\_

**Category:**

Select the category to which you belong.

Men's 40 ft.  Elders 30 ft

Women  Junior

If renewal, enter number of years here \_\_\_\_\_

Make Payable to MHPA

**Mail to:** MHPA Secretary/Treasurer

Roger Higgins

16440 Ridgeview Ct

Holly, MI 48442-8392

Membership cards will be issued upon receipt of check or money order.

**Cards Cost:**

\$35.00 for adults,

\$28.00 for 2<sup>nd</sup> adult card in same household.

\$0.00 for Juniors

\$8.00 for "Ringer Report" Subscription only.

**NOTE:**

Annual membership fee includes NHPA and MHPA dues. Full price membership card includes "Ringer Report" subscription, which is the official newsletter of the WSHPA.

MHPA tournaments are NHPA sanctioned.  
Sign-in deadline is 9:30 a.m.

**Tournament DIRECTORS info.**

- ADRIAN** – River Raisin Horseshoe Club  
Dave Loop.....(517) 263-5211
- AUBURN** – Auburn Horseshoe Club  
Ron Kohn.....(989) 662-6553
- BERKLEY** – Berkley Horseshoe Club  
Mark Lankin.....(248) 542-3251
- BRIGHTON** – Brighton Horseshoe Pitchers Club  
Steve Summerlin.....(517) 521-1262
- HARRISON** – Harrison Horseshoe Club  
Jack Alexander.....(989) 246-1082
- JACKSON** – Jackson County Horseshoe Club  
Tom Mitchell.....(517) 768-8347
- KALAMAZOO** – Kalamazoo Horseshoe Club  
Josh Lull ..... (269) 672-4020
- LAKE ORION** – Lake Orion Horseshoe Club  
Mike Ardelean.....(248) 334-7021
- LANSING** – Greater Lansing Horseshoe Club  
Dewey Howard.....(517) 694-8348
- LAPEER** – Lapeer Horseshoe Club  
Judy Dennis.....(810) 346-2945
- LINCOLN PARK** – Lincoln Park Horseshoe Club  
Mark Wolfradt.....(313) 562-3272
- MOUNT MORRIS** – Auto City Horseshoe Club  
Marty Quillen.....(810) 686-8372
- MANTON** – Manton Horseshoe Club  
Brent Kadwell.....(231) 920-0479
- ROMULUS** – Romulus Horseshoe Club  
Mark Wolfradt.....(313) 562-3272
- ST CLAIR SHORES** – St Clair Shores Horseshoe Club  
Dean Schmitz.....(586) 463-7488
- TAYLOR** – Taylor Horseshoe Club  
Guy Hall.....(313) 928-5813
- UNION CITY** – Union Lake Area Horseshoe Club  
Clayton Bonhan.....(517) 278-5909

**Charter Officers**

- Ron Kohn – President (989) 662-6553
- Judy Dennis – 1<sup>st</sup> VP (810) 346-2945
- Doug Bailey – 2<sup>nd</sup> VP (586) 628-2417
- Roger Higgins- Secretary/Treasurer (248) 634-1948

Steve Summerlin – NHPA Regional Director (517) 521-1262

*Michigan Division of the NHPA.  
Celebrating over 70 years of commitment to Horseshoes  
Established in 1935*

**When you join the MHPA**, a current tournament schedule will be sent to you along with a packet of information containing the MHPA constitution and bylaws, history of the game, how to call score, Michigan State Champions dating back to 1923. And the official rules of horseshoe pitching, updated maps to each tournament site, and the newsletter, "The Ringer Report" and much, much more!

**MHPA tournaments** are scheduled for most every weekend. The MHPA has one of the finest indoor facilities in the country. Located in Jackson, it has six courts and is maintained by the Jackson Horseshoe Club. **The Indoor season** begins in January and goes through the middle of April. In the fall the indoor season starts in October and goes through part of December. Each indoor tournament is limited to 30 pitchers, so the host club director must be called to schedule your name. .

**The MHPA state tournament** is held during Labor Day weekend each year and is currently held at the Kalamazoo or Taylor sites. (to be a state host a club must have 18 regulation, lighted, clay courts) **To qualify** for the state tournament, a member must have completed four sanctioned events within Michigan since the previous State Tournament