

Constitution and By-Laws

Revised 11/13/2012

GEORGIA STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION

Adopted 1979, Alpharetta Georgia

PREAMBLE

In order to promote and develop the game of horseshoe pitching as a competitive sport and recreational pastime, and desiring to encourage the development of clubs, leagues, and other horseshoe pitching throughout the state of Georgia, we do hereby establish the CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS of the Georgia Horseshoe Pitchers' Association, a division of the National Horseshoe Pitcher's Association.

ARTICLE 1 (Name and Purpose)

Section 1

The Name of this association shall be the Georgia State Horseshoe Pitcher's Association, herein after referred to as the association.

Section 2

The purpose of this association is to further the sport of horseshoe pitching in the State of Georgia.

ARTICLE 2 (Officers)

Section 1

The officers shall consist of a President, 1st Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and 2nd Vice President. They shall be elected for a term of two years. The President and Vice-President shall be elected on odd number years; the Secretary-Treasurer and 2nd Vice President on even numbered years.

Section 2

The President shall appoint a nominating committee of three members. Prior to the annual meeting, this committee will seek out one qualified candidate for each office to be filled, and present their selections at the membership meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

Section 3

Elections shall be by majority vote. If there is no majority on the first ballot, the top 2 candidates will be the only ones on the second ballot.

Section 4

The term of office shall start on the first of November of the election year.

Section 5

Duties of the officers are set forth in the By-laws.

ARTICLE III (Executive Board)

Section 1

The Executive Board will be composed of the elected officers plus one member from each organized club within the state and the Georgia Regional Director. A club must be recognized as organized in order to have voting representation on the Board (see ARTICLE V, Section 3 for club eligibility requirements). No one member shall have more than one vote on the Executive Board

Section 2

Each club must submit to the GHPA President and Secretary-Treasurer the name of its representative and the name of one alternate prior to the 31 January of each year.

Section 3

The Executive Board shall have the authority to act upon all matters pertaining to the association. Any action by the Board will normally be held in conjunction with the annual membership meeting. The President may, on matters of great importance, call a special meeting, or obtain votes via phone or mail from the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IV (Meeting)

Section 1

“Roberts Rules of Order” shall govern all meetings.

Section 2

The annual membership meeting shall be held during the State Tournament. Time of meeting will be set by the tournament manager in conjunction with the President.

Section 3

The order of business at the annual meeting shall be:

1. Call to order by the President.
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Prayer.
4. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
5. Approval, addition or correction of the minutes.
6. Reading of the Financial Report
7. Reports of Officers, Boards, or special Committees.
8. Bids for next State Tournament. (Optional)
9. Old Business.
10. New Business.
11. Election of Officers.
12. Adjournment.

Section 4

Only lawful meetings shall be recognized. A lawful meeting is:

1. Called by the President.
2. The annual meeting.
3. One called by a majority of the members of the Executive Board.
4. One called by a petition of at least 25% of the members.

Section 5

A notice of all special meetings with the agenda will be sent to each club president a minimum of one week prior to the date of the meeting. The president of each club will notify his members.

Section 6

Valid Ballots for the Election of Officers and Changes to the Constitution may be given to the Secretary/Treasurer by 12:00 noon on the final day of the State Singles Tournament. The Secretary/Treasurer shall make sure that only valid ballots are counted. All ballots for the election of Officers and Changes to the Constitution shall be paper ballots.

ARTICLE V (Membership)

Section 1

Any resident of Georgia is entitled to membership in this association upon payment of dues as set by the Executive Board. Each member will be issued a combined State-national card by the Sec-Treas. Present dues are as follows:

	NHPA	GHPA	TOTAL
Men	\$17.00	\$8.00	\$25.00*
Women	\$17.00	\$8.00	\$25.00*
Junior	\$ 5.00	\$2.00	\$ 7.00*

- A \$2.00 insurance charge is required by the NHPA for all registered members
(Adult Members Total = \$20.00 and Junior Members Total = \$7.00)

Section 2

A member is considered in good standing and entitled to vote only if he/she is a paid up member. Juniors are not authorized to vote unless they are no longer pitching as a junior and have paid adult dues.

Section 3

A club may become member of this association by having a minimum of 6 members and 2 courts. A club is eligible to have members elected as officers of the association to be represented on the Executive Board.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I (General)

Section 1

The Georgia Horseshoe Pitchers' Association may adopt BY-LAWS as deemed necessary for the promotion and betterment of horseshoe pitching in Georgia. The rules of the NHPA shall govern in all cases unless specifically stated otherwise in these By-Laws. In case of conflict the Executive Board will decide.

Section 2

This constitution and these By-Laws may be amended only at the annual meeting by a vote of **Two Thirds Majority of Valid Ballots cast**. Any changes must be submitted in writing to the President or the Secretary-Treasurer prior to July 31st each year. Proposed changes will be printed and mailed with the State Championship Tournament schedule. Members not entering the State Championships may request a copy of proposed changes.

Section 3

A member may be suspended for any of the reasons listed in the BY-LAWS, ARTICLE II of the NHPA constitution. A member may not be suspended until given a fair trial by the Executive Board.

A member may have his pitching privileges revoked for the remainder of the pitching season for withdrawing from a tournament during tournament play without just cause two times in a season.

ARTICLE II (Duties of the Officers)

Section 1

President: The President shall be the chief executive officer. He may assign specific duties to the members of the Executive Board, shall preside at all meetings, be an ex-officio member of all committees, approve all expenditures beyond normal operating expenses, appoint delegates to the national convention by letter, and perform any other duties as necessary to promote the interests of the association.

Section 2

Vice- President: The 1st Vice President shall perform all duties of the President in the event of death, disability, resignation, or absence of the President.

Section 3

Secretary-Treasurer: The Secretary-Treasurer is the fiduciary agent of the association. The law defines "fiduciary" as a person who is in a position of trust in regards to another. These duties are to:

1. Be the custodian of all associations' funds.
2. Deposit said funds in a checking account in the name of the association. Checks must be serially numbered.
3. Furnish a complete and accurate financial statement at the annual meeting and at other times if requested by the President.
4. Be a repository for all statistics on State Championships, association tournaments etc.
5. Keep an accurate record of minutes of all meetings.

6. Work closely with the NHPA to assure NHPA rules are being adhered to in the state.
7. Use "Award Program" of the NHPA to insure Georgia association members receive awards due them.
8. Perform any other duties deemed necessary to promote the well-being of the association.
9. Receive all entries to the Georgia State Tournament and determine the class in which each entrant will pitch based upon the entrant's average for the past year, said year beginning with the State Tournament.
10. Publish the schedule for each class to include the amount of prize money, the pitchers, and their ringer averages. This schedule shall be mailed to each participant to arrive at least 3 days prior to the State Tournament date.
11. Entry blanks for the State Tournament must be printed on a separate sheet of paper and be distributed a minimum of 30 days before the tournament..
12. the Sec-Treas. will see that a State Tournament program is published each year

Section 4

2nd Vice President The 2nd Vice President shall perform such duties as will foster a public awareness of association activities. He will:

1. Work closely with the President and the Publicity Director of each club.
2. Contact radio, TV, and newspaper for release of horseshoe pitching news.
3. Supply data to local news media of site of State Tournament.
4. Keep club president informed of special news on horseshoe pitching.
5. Work closely with Secretary-Treasurer to assure statistics and data released are accurate.
6. Publish the records of state club's League Records and maintain on the internet website.

Section 5

All officers shall have their books, records, and any other property belonging to the association at the annual meetings. They shall turn over to their successors the records and property of the association that they may have in their possession by November 1st of said year to the new officer.

ARTICLE III (Salaries)

Section 1

Salaries will not be paid to the officers of the association with the exception of the Secretary-Treasurer. Salary for the Secretary-Treasurer will be \$200 per year.

Section 2

Officers may apply to the Secretary-Treasurer for administrative expense such as stamps, envelopes, etc. Travel expenses will normally not be approved. Secretary-Treasurer must receive Executive Board approval to pay any travel expenses.

ARTICLE IV (Clubs of the Association)

Section 1

As required by the Constitution a "CLUB" must have a minimum of 6 members and a facility of 2 courts. Courts should be clay but a club may be admitted to the association if it has sand courts.

Section 2

Clubs shall be organized similar to this organization.

Section 3

The President of each club is responsible for:

1. Appointing or electing a Secretary-Treasurer and Publicity Director.
2. Seeing ringer averages are kept on all members and forwarding these averages to the State Secretary-Treasurer no later than 30 September each year.
3. Seeing that local news media (radio, TV, and newspapers) are made aware of horseshoe events in their community.
4. Insure that his 2nd Vice President works closely with the State 2nd Vice President.

ARTICLE V (Tournaments)

Section 1

STATE SINGLES TOURNAMENT

1. Must be sanctioned by the NHPA.
2. All contestants must have a combined NHPA and Georgia State Association membership card for the current year.
3. Military personnel whose home of record is Georgia are eligible to compete.
4. The tournament site must have a minimum of 12 sanctioned courts and an established sanctioned club.
5. To be held on one of the first three Saturdays of October. The State Singles Tournament held each year will be the first tournament of record for next year's qualifying for the State Singles Tournament.
6. Will be scheduled for one day only if at all possible.
7. Shall not be played in the rain. The tournament manager, President and Secretary-Treasurer shall decide when to stop play and when to start it again. All games shall be resumed at the same point as when stopped.
8. Will be conducted by classes of 8 or more if feasible. If not feasible (due to a small number in a class), then double or even triple round robins shall be pitched in order that no championship will be won on less than 6 games.
9. To qualify for the State Singles Tournament, a player must establish an average ringer percentage by the following requirement:
 - a. Pitching in any **3 GHPA/NHPA** sanctioned tournaments throughout the year.
 - b. Sanctioned league play under the NHPA and GHPA rulings may count as one of the Qualifying event averages as it is recorded as a tournament by Natstats.
 - c. Juniors may qualify to pitch in the State tournament with pitching in only 1 sanctioned tournament.
10. All Pitchers' averages shall be based on the three highest NHPA/GHPA sanctioned tournaments pitched in the preceding 12 months or the last 10 tournaments during the same period, whichever occurs first. Sanctioned league play may count as an average for one of the required tournaments.

11. All entries must arrive at the Secretary-Treasurer's office a minimum of 21 days before the State Tournament date.
12. Entry Fees.

Men	-	\$30.00
Women	-	\$30.00
Juniors	-	\$ 5.00
13. Ties
 - a. First place ties in every class will be played off as follows: if two tie, a one game playoff. If more than two tie, first place shall be decided by a ladder type playoff based upon ringer percentage.
 - b. All other ties in all classes will be decided by ringer percentage.
14. Dress. All players should have their name and city on the back of their shirts.
15. Types of games. The championship class in all divisions shall pitch 40 point cancellation games. All remaining classes will pitch 40 shoe cancellation games. Game Ties will be half win/half loss for each player
16. Trophies. Each class will be awarded 3 trophies if it has 8 players or more. If less than 8 players, 2 trophies will be awarded.
17. The State tournament will be held in one central location. The location for the next year will be voted on at the annual meeting each year.
18. The Executive Board will appoint the Tournament Manager for the State Singles Tournament and that person shall complete his duties in co-operation with the Secretary/ Treasurer and, as noted elsewhere in these By-Laws. He shall also be responsible for obtaining score keepers for the tournament if possible.
19. Prize money shall be awarded to all classes in proportion to the average ringer percentage in those classes. The amount for each 8 man class shall be distributed as follows: 1st place, 40%; 2nd place, 30%; 3rd place, 20%; 4th place, 10%. Prize money for classes with less than 8 pitchers shall be determined by the President and the Sec-Treas.

Section 2

Association Tournaments (other than the State Tournament)

1. All players must be association members.
2. Tournament manger decides the format.
3. If two tie, the tie will be broken with a one game sudden death. If more than two ties, the tie will be broken by a ladder playoff based on ringer percentages.
4. A Master Sheet will be used to record all tournaments. A copy, or the original, will be forwarded with the ringer averages and results to the Secretary-Treasurer within one week after the tournament.
5. One dollar from each entry from all Regular tournaments will be sent to the Secretary/Treasurer to be added to the State Singles prize fund with the exception of the State Doubles Tournament All other entry fee monies will be paid out at each of the association tournaments.
6. Tournament averages shall be the average of the player's three highest tournaments in the past year for all tournaments. (Natstats)
7. Players shall pay their scorekeepers 50 cents per game for all tournaments.
8. Any Tournament held after the State Singles Tournament and before the end of the current year will count as a Tournament for the following year

Section 3

State Doubles Tournament

1. All contestants must have a combined NHPA and Georgia State Association membership card for the current year.
2. The tournament must be sanctioned by the NHPA.
3. Military personnel whose home of record is Georgia are eligible to compete.
4. The tournament will be held at the same site as the State Singles.
5. The tournament will be held on the weekend preceding or following the Memorial Day weekend, whichever is suitable for scheduling.
6. The tournament will be conducted on a high-low draw basis for teams with a minimum of six teams in each group. The two best teams, based on wins and losses, from each group will advance to the finals. Play will be round robin and will be walking doubles.
7. To qualify for the State Doubles Tournament, a player must have an established ringer percentage. A player may establish qualification for the State Doubles Tournament if that player has only 1 sanctioned tournament average and/or a sanctioned league average which is based on completion of 300 shoes to establish that average. The tournament shall be mixed play which includes 40' and 30' pitchers (women, juniors & elders included).
8. The State Doubles Tournament shall be conducted by the Secretary-Treasurer acting as the tournament director under the format of item 6 above, unless changed by the vote of the members at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VI (Financing)

1. The GHPA treasury will be supported by membership dues, Donations and fund raising approved by the Executive Board.
2. Money will be used as determined by the Executive Board at the annual meeting. The amount of salary for the Secretary.-Treasurer must be the first item considered.

ARTICLE VII (Georgia Horseshoe Pitcher of the Year)

The award of "Georgia Horseshoe Player of the Year" shall be established and presented annually to the member of the association with the highest number of points based on the number of points accrued while pitching in Georgia Sanctioned Tournaments excluding the Interleague Tournament with points awarded as follows.

1st place- 10 Points

2nd Place-9 Points

3rd Place-8 Points

4th Place-7 Points

5th Place-6 Points

6th Place and Lower -5 Points

The award shall include a Trophy and a Patch for the Winner and a Trophy for the Runner Up.

Inter-League Team Tournament

1. The Georgia Inter-League Team Tournament will not count toward any Georgia Player of the Year Points and will be a fully sanctioned NHPA tournament.
2. Every Georgia Inter-League Team will consist of only regularly attending league members of their respective clubs and in good standing with the Georgia Horseshoe Pitcher's Association.
3. Each Georgia Horseshoe Pitcher's Club participating will be allowed one team consisting of their clubs league members not to exceed three and an additional two alternates on their respective roster. Each roster will consist of the top 3 finishers in the leagues competed in on a regular basis when possible. In the event one or more of the top 3 can't compete the next respective place will be given the option of playing on that club's team.
4. Each Georgia Horseshoe Pitching Club participating will submit rosters to the Inter-League Tournament Director ten days prior to the date of the tournament in order to determine pitching order.
5. The Georgia Inter-League Team Tournament winners will receive the Georgia Inter-League Team Trophy with their club's name and year the trophy was won. It is the responsibility of each winning club to bear the expense of this personalization.
6. The Georgia Inter-League Team Tournament winners will host the next Georgia Inter-League Team Tournament at their respective clubs location.
7. The Georgia Inter-League Team Tournament host will procure prior to the tournament all individual trophies for three competing members of each of the top three teams in competition. Three first place, three second place, and three third place trophies. In the event only three teams or less are in competition trophies will be awarded to the top two positions. The expense of these trophies will be extracted from the tournament entry fees collected. All residual monies will be the sole property of the host club.
8. The Georgia Inter-League Team Tournament games will be forty-shoe (40) count-all format with a 90% handicap.
9. Each team in competition will have its team members listed in either Class A, Class B, or Class C. Class A will be each team's highest point average pitcher, Class B will be each team's middle point average pitcher, and Class C will be each teams lowest point average pitcher. Every team's Class A pitchers will pitch each other, Class B & C pitchers will follow suit. In the event three or less teams enter the competition all team members will be pitching all of the other team members.
10. A win is worth one (1) point and if there is a tie in the game score then ½ point will be awarded toward the win total for each team.
11. The Georgia Inter-League Team Tournament winner will be determined by the highest number of wins for the respective team. In the event of a tie in the total number of wins every team member will be pitching in their respective class against the other teams they are tied with. If there are more than two teams tied, the lowest two point total teams will pitch first and the winner moves up in ladder format. Second Place and below ties will be determined by highest point total.

Georgia Horseshoe Pitchers' Association

HALL OF FAME

NAME: The name of the organization shall be the Georgia Horseshoe Pitcher's Hall of Fame.

PURPOSE: To perpetuate the names of horseshoe pitchers who have displayed outstanding ability in the game of horseshoes or who have contributed through meritorious service, to the general welfare and progress of the game as members of the Georgia Horseshoe Pitchers' Association.

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE: The President shall appoint the Hall of Fame Committee which shall consist of a Chairman and all members of the Executive Board with the exception of the President of the association. All nominations for the Hall of Fame must be submitted to the Chairman.

NOMINATIONS: Any Member of the Georgia Association may submit one or more names of those he/she wishes to nominate. Nominations must be typewritten, submitted in 12 copies, and give in detail the candidates' qualifications and achievements. Newspaper clippings, original score sheets, tournament records, scrapbook data, testimony, and other sources may be used for substantiation.

Deadline for submission: 1 July each year.

If a nominee is not selected the first time around, he/she shall be considered the following two years before needing to be re-submitted.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTION: The member nominated must be a credit to the game and to the association – dependable and loyal to his/her club and the association- and must have conducted himself/herself at all times in the best interest of the sport.

HORSESHOE PITCHING EXCELLENCE. Those who, with outstanding or consistent performances on the courts, have brought prestige to the art of horseshoe pitching. One person is chosen in this category.

SERVICE TO HORSESHOE PITCHING. Those who have made significant and beneficial contributions to the game in an administrative capacity, such as a promoter, an organizer, or an officer of the GHPA. One person is chosen in this category.

HORSESHOE PITCHING EXCELLENCE/ SERVICE TO HORSESHOE PITCHING. Those who, with outstanding or consistent performances on the courts, have brought prestige to the art of horseshoe pitching and also have made significant and beneficial contributions to the fame in an administrative capacity, such as a promoter, an organizer, or an officer of the GHPA. One person is chosen in this category.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS. 7 years minimum service as a GHPA member is required to be eligible for selection in any category.

ELECTION PROCEDURE: The Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee shall mail to each committee member not later than 15 July copies of all nominations received plus a ballot for recording each members vote. Committee members shall return their ballots by 31 July.

The Chairman shall compile the votes, report to the President the members selected for the Hall of Fame, and send a copy of the compiled report to each committee member.

All voting must be kept completely CONFIDENTIAL and remain so even after the Hall of Fame selectees are announced. Committee members must retain their copies of nominations each year for future consideration.

As many as three members may be elected each year. If no qualified candidates are available, no one will be elected.

ACTION BY THE PRESIDENT: It is the duty of the President to personally notify each selectee. No other committee member shall divulge nomination information.

AWARDS: Suitable awards as designated by the State officers shall be presented to those selected to the Hall of Fame. Awards shall be presented at a fitting ceremony during the State Tournament, the State Association banquet, or a similar function.

A large plaque big enough to inscribe the names of all those selected to the Hall of Fame shall be maintained in the GHPA headquarters, or in another location approved by the State officers.

Posthumous awards shall be made to the next of kin.

EXPENSES: The expenses of operating the GHPA Hall of Fame shall be borne by the Association.