

# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE	<i>CONSTITUTION</i>	PAGE
	PREAMBLE	2
I	NAME AND BOUNDARIES	2
II	PURPOSE	2
III	AFFILIATION	2
IV	MEMBERSHIP	2
V	OFFICERS	2
VI	DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS	2 - 4
VII	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	4
VIII	COMMITTEES	5
IX	PERMANENT POSITIONS	5
X	BY-LAWS	5
XI	MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS	5
XII	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS	5
XIII	AMENDMENTS	5
XIV	OFFICER VACANCIES	6
XV	REMOVAL OF AN OFFICER	6
XVI	REMOVAL OF HALL OF FAME MEMBER	6
XVII	ORDER OF BUSINESS	6
XVIII	NO LONGER FUNCTION	6
SECTION	<i>BY-LAWS</i>	
1.	DUES	7
2.	SALARIES	7
3.	STATE TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS	7 -11
	1. Tournament Bids	7
	2. Qualifications	7 - 8
	3. Divisions	8
	4. Division (Men)	8
	5. Division (Ladies)	8
	6. Division (Elder)	9
	7. Division (Junior – Boys & Girls)	9
	8. Division (Cadet – Boys & Girls)	9
	9. Division (Senior – Men & Women) Optional	9
	10. Division (Special Needs)	9
	11. Trophies and awards	10
	12. Game Rules	10 - 11
4.	STATE DOUBLES TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS	11 -12
ITEM	<i>GUIDELINES</i>	
1.	ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTORS DUTIES	14 -16
2.	PERMANENT POSITION DUTIES	16 -19
3.	SANCTIONED LEAGUE & TOURNAMENT RULES	19 -20
4-5.	STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES – INDEX	21
4.	STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES – HOST CLUB	22 -24
5.	STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES – EXECUTIVE BOARD	25 -27
6.	MGSHPA SCHOLARSHIP POGRAM	27 -28
7.	MGSHPA HALL OF FAME	28 -30
8.	MGSHPA TEAM WORLD SELECTION	30
	APPLICATION FORM FOR MGSHPA SCHOLARSHIP	31
	HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM	32

# **MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION**

## **PREAMBLE**

We, the horseshoe pitchers of Minnesota, in order to promote, foster and develop the game of horseshoe pitching both as a competitive sport and recreational pastime, provide the proper facilities, and ensure the continued growth and existence of the game do hereby establish this Constitution for the Minnesota Gopher Horseshoe Pitchers' Association (MGSHPA).

## **ARTICLE I (NAME AND BOUNDARIES)**

The name of this Association shall be the Minnesota Gopher State Horseshoe Pitchers' Association and shall consist of and have jurisdiction within the territory established under our Charter of the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association (NHPA).

## **ARTICLE II (PURPOSE)**

The purpose of this Association shall be to provide an orderly means for its members and prospective members to participate in and enjoy the game of horseshoe pitching. To assist each city, county and district to organize local, county and district horseshoe clubs, to set up courts, league teams and schedules of play. Assist and coordinate schedules of tournament play and recruit pitchers to our sport.

## **ARTICLE III (AFFILIATION)**

This Association recommends that all local, county and district horseshoe clubs within the state encourage their membership to become members of this Association and the NHPA.

## **ARTICLE IV (MEMBERSHIP)**

**Sec. 1.** Any person may become a member of this Association who is a bona fide resident of Minnesota and by the payment of dues fixed by the Association and the NHPA.

**Sec. 2.** A member may be suspended for:

- a. Willfully violating the Constitution and By-Laws
- b. Found guilty of fraud, or other conduct unbecoming a member

**Sec. 3.** No member shall be suspended until given a fair review before the members of the Executive Board. For the above violations in Section 2, a member may be suspended from all official playing activities for up to one (1) year.

## **ARTICLE V (OFFICERS)**

The elected officers of this Association shall consist of a President. Two (2) District Vice Presidents, (including the First Vice President), and a Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Director. These officers, including the NHPA Regional Director, shall constitute the EXECUTIVE BOARD. The Executive Board is responsible for providing and updating the MGSHPA Guidelines along with performing the duties required under ARTICLE II.

## **ARTICLE VI (DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS)**

**Sec. 1.** The duties of the President shall be to preside at all meetings including Executive Board meetings. To administer the business of this Association, and to pass on any obligations the Association may wish to incur in compliance with our Constitution and By-Laws, including but not limited to the State Tournament Guidelines, Sanctioned League and Tournament Rules, MGSHPA Scholarship Program, NHPA Charter, and handle whatever other duties which may come to the President's attention in promoting the best interests of the Association.

# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE VI (DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS) continued

### Sec. 1. (continued)

- a. Meetings
  1. Conduct at least 2 (two) Executive Board meetings annually.
  2. Provide and conduct a Spring membership meeting.
  3. Conduct the regular annual membership meeting.
  4. Appoint the NHPA delegate chairperson.
  5. Publicize complete and detailed minutes of the above meetings.
  
- b. Supervise officer activities
  1. Provide an annual plan of objectives/goals to the Executive Board on a timely basis
  2. Oversee audit requirements, such as review of cash receipts and disbursements, bank accounts, officer salary and expenses
  3. Coordinate the activities of all committees
  
- c. Monitor promotional activities
  1. Provide and/or gather reports of membership and club levels of activity
  2. Provide efforts to gain new sanctioned clubs
  3. Provide methods for the promotion and sponsorship of our sport

**Sec. 2.** The First Vice President, selected by the Executive Board from the current elected District Vice Presidents, shall have the same duties as the President, but will assume them only in the absence of the President.

**Sec. 3.** The District Vice Presidents (including the First Vice President), in addition to the following duties, shall carry out any specific duties assigned by the President of the Association and serve as Assistant Regional Directors of the NHPA.

- a. Representation of District membership
  1. Attend Executive Board and State meetings
  2. Provide District reports at annual meetings
  
- b. League promotion and development
  1. Promote junior involvement
  2. Promote national sanctioning
  3. Promote news media coverage
  
- c. Tournament promotion and development
  1. Promote junior involvement
  2. Coordinate tournament scheduling
  3. Promote news media announcements and publication of results
  4. Promote national sanctioning of tournaments
  
- d. MGSHPA and NHPA representation
  1. Promote membership and subscription to publications
  2. Provide periodic input and articles for publication

# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE VI (DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS) continued

**Sec. 4.** The Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Director shall act as custodian of all funds of the Association, sign all warrants for the Association expenditures, and keep accurate financial records for the Association. The Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Director shall meet annually with the Auditing Committee to ensure the financial records are in order. The Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Director shall receive club rosters and payment for state and national membership dues. Upon payment, membership cards must be promptly distributed to appropriate club contacts. Updated rosters must be forwarded to the President, NHPA Regional Director and the Editor identifying new members, current regular members, junior members, and NHPA card numbers distributed.

- a. Reporting and monitoring
  1. Work directly with the President providing the minutes of all meetings and provide accurate accounting and membership records
  2. Provide a monthly record of cash receipts, and cash disbursements (all disbursements should be supported by an invoice and filed by date) and the checkbook reconciled monthly
  3. Provide itemized quarterly financial statements to all Executive Board members, including statement of officer salaries and expenses paid
  4. Provide membership statistics for publication
  5. Provide club statistics for publication
  6. Comply with all Association, NHPA and governmental reporting on a timely basis
  7. Prepare annual budget of forecasted revenues and expenditures
  8. Reply to all correspondence in a professional manner, pay bills, and deposit all funds on a timely basis

**Sec. 5.** The Executive Board will formulate the policy of the Association between the annual meetings; keeping in mind that the development of future plans and activities is the primary function. Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at such time and place deemed necessary. At least 3 (three) members of the Executive Board must be present to constitute a quorum. . When required, the Executive Board shall define and interpret the C&BL's document, and its rulings shall be official unless overruled by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the membership assembled for such purpose. All Executive Board proposals for changes to the MGSHPA Guidelines must be published in the Ringer Digest.

## ARTICLE VII (ELECTION OF OFFICERS)

Candidates for MGSHPA office must announce their candidacy in writing and received by the President and the Ringer Digest Editor no later than June 1st. The officers elected by a majority vote of the regular members present and entitled to vote at the annual meeting of the Association shall hold office for three-year terms (no maximum of consecutive terms). The election of officers, to be installed at the conclusion of the regular annual meeting, shall be held on alternating years as follows:

- a. President
- b. Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Director
- c. North & South Vice President

## ARTICLE VIII (COMMITTEES)

# **MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION**

The President shall appoint such committees as deemed necessary. The President shall be ex-officio member of all committees. These committees may be dissolved and individual members replaced whenever the President deems it necessary.

## **ARTICLE IX (PERMANENT POSITIONS)**

The President shall appoint such positions as deemed necessary with the approval of the Executive Board. These positions may be dissolved and individual members replaced whenever the Executive Board deems it necessary. Individuals holding permanent positions shall be regarded as officers of this Association. (See Guidelines – pages 16-18)

## **ARTICLE X (BY-LAWS)**

This Association may adopt such by-laws, as it deems necessary. By-laws shall be adopted when approved by a majority vote of the members in good standing present at the annual meeting, or at a special membership meeting (see ARTICLE XI Sec. 3 below).

## **ARTICLE XI (MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS)**

**Sec. 1.** The regular annual meeting for this Association shall be held in conjunction with the State Tournament during “Labor Day” weekend. Any major proposals affecting this association, such as name changes, logos, colors, etc. or any decisions that requires using association funds exceeding \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) shall be published in the Ringer Digest and voted on as stated in ARTICLE XIII (AMENDMENTS). (See below)

**Sec. 2.** All officers shall have their books, records and any other property belonging to the Association at the annual meeting, or if unable to be present, they must forward these to the President before the first day of the state tournament. All officers shall turn over to their successors of office all records and property of the Association that they may have in their possession. These records must be up-to-date.

**Sec. 3.** In the event that a special membership meeting is required, the Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Director shall notify all members in good standing of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting at least one week in advance.

## **ARTICLE XII (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS)**

**Sec. 1.** With a quorum, Executive Board meetings may be called by any officer of the Executive Board, or by the President when deemed necessary.

**Sec. 2.** When required, the Executive Board shall convene immediately following the regular annual meeting or as soon thereafter as possible to elect one of the District Vice Presidents as First Vice President.

**Sec. 3.** The Executive Board may conduct business by mail, e-mail and/or telephone when necessary.

## **ARTICLE XIII (AMENDMENTS)**

This Constitution may only be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members in good standing present at the annual meeting provided all proposed changes shall have a written announcement printed in the MGSHPA Ringer Digest thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting.

## **ARTICLE XIV (OFFICER VACANCIES)**

# **MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION**

Any vacancy on the Executive Board, caused by the death, serious illness, resignation or other events, of a member, shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining Executive Board members; the person selected shall serve for the duration of the unexpired term of office.

## **ARTICLE XV (REMOVAL OF AN OFFICER)**

An elected officer can be removed from office only for criminal conduct or flagrant misuse or neglect of duties. This must be accomplished only after due deliberation by a 2/3 (two-thirds) vote of the members present in a special meeting called for that purpose. A member receiving a majority vote of the members present will fill any vacancy caused by such action at the same meeting.

## **ARTICLE XVI (REMOVAL OF HALL OF FAME MEMBER)**

The MGSHPA Membership reserves the right to remove a member from the HALL OF FAME based on a 75% (seventy-five percent) vote of the members assembled to review such action. Removal is a serious action and should only be considered as a last resort in cases of conviction for a felony crime or other appalling conduct reflecting poorly on the NHPA and/or MGSHPA.

## **ARTICLE XVII (ORDER OF BUSINESS)**

Roberts Rules of Order, revised and reading as follows, shall govern the order of conducting the meetings.

1. Call the meeting to order and welcome by the President and appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms.
2. Reading and/or discussion of the minutes of the previous meeting.
3. Approval, additions or corrections of the minutes.
4. Reading of the financial report.
5. Reports of officers, committees, and permanent positions.
6. Selection of a host club for upcoming state tournaments.
7. Unfinished business.
8. New business.
9. Election and installation of officers.
10. Adjournment.

## **ARTICLE XVIII (NO LONGER FUNCTION)**

In the event this organization should take action to no longer function, the assets of the organization shall be awarded to the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association (NHPA) to be used for the promotion of Junior Horseshoe Pitching.

### **Sec. 1. DUES**

# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

The annual dues of this Association for the fiscal year January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> inclusive are:

1. Current NHPA dues \$25.00 (twenty five dollars)
2. Head of household \$13.00 (thirteen dollars)
3. Junior members no cost
4. The Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Director is authorized to collect dues and issue membership cards.

## Sec. 2. SALARIES

1. The PRESIDENT shall receive \$300.00 (three hundred dollars) per annum for duties performed for this Association.
2. The NHPA REGIONAL DIRECTOR and NEWS MEDIA DIRECTOR shall receive \$50.00 (fifty dollars) per annum for duties performed for this Association.
3. The DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS (including the FIRST VICE PRESIDENT) shall receive \$200.00 (two hundred dollars) per annum for duties performed for this Association.
4. The SECRETARY/TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR shall receive \$1.00 (one-dollar) per member per annum for duties performed for this Association.
5. The EDITOR (S) shall receive \$600.00 (six hundred dollars) per annum for duties performed for this Association, plus 10% (ten percent) of all additional advertising funds initiated by the Editor (s) to offset publishing costs.
6. The Statistician shall receive \$1.00 (one-dollar) per member per annum for duties performed for this Association
7. The above salaries (without exception) are subject to change by a majority vote of the members in good standing at the regular annual meeting.
8. All Executive Board officers shall receive Newsline and remuneration for minor expenses, such as postage, phone calls, etc., subject to approval by the Executive Board.

## Sec. 3. STATE TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS

### 1. TOURNAMENT BIDS

- a. Host club bids for the State Tournament site must be submitted to the President by July 1<sup>st</sup>. In the event no State Tournament bid is received by July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Executive Board has the authority to award the tournament site for that next open year only. (See STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES – pages 21-24)
- b. Bids will be approved by the membership for succeeding tournaments. If approved by the membership, a club may hold a state tournament for more than one year.
- c. Host club bids for the state doubles tournament will be approved by the membership for two successive years.

### 2. QUALIFICATIONS

- a. To be eligible to play, a player must be a bona fide resident of Minnesota and a member in good standing with the Association and the NHPA. Any person residing full time in the State at least 90 (ninety) days prior to the State Tournament shall be considered a bona fide resident.
- b. Entry fees must be submitted to reach the Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Director no later than the first Thursday in August, entries received after the deadline may be returned.

## Sec. 3. STATE TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS (continued)

### 2. QUALIFICATIONS (continued)

# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

c. To qualify for the State Tournament, adult pitchers (except Special Needs pitchers) must have competed in at least 1 (one) sanctioned tournament held within Minnesota in the 12 (twelve) months proceeding August 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition, adult pitchers (except Special Needs pitchers) must either have competed in at least 2 (two) or more NHPA sanctioned tournaments in the 12 (twelve) months preceding August 1<sup>st</sup>, or pitch a minimum of 200 (two hundred) shoes in a sanctioned league in the current year through July 25<sup>th</sup>. Qualifying averages for adults pitching 2 (two) or more NHPA sanctioned tournaments shall be based on current NATSTATS records exclusively. Qualifying averages for adults pitching in one sanctioned tournament held within Minnesota plus a qualifying sanctioned league will be the average of these events. To qualify, Junior and Special Needs pitchers may pitch 100 (one hundred) shoes using 2 (two) shoes and walking back and forth while observed by a MGSHPA member or pitch in a sanctioned tournament held within Minnesota in the 12 (twelve) months preceding August 1<sup>st</sup>, or pitch in a sanctioned league in the current year. Qualifying averages for Junior or Special Needs entrants who pitch only in a sanctioned league or only pitch 100 (one hundred) shoes shall be determined by these events. Qualifying averages for Juniors or Special Needs entrants who pitch in one or more sanctioned tournaments will be based on current NATSTATS records exclusively. In the event of tournaments not recorded in NATSTATS, it is the responsibility of the person pitching to provide bona fide tournament results (sanction number, ringer average, date and location) to the Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Director.

d. An exception could be made to the qualifications for entering if a legitimate reason is submitted in writing to the Association President or the State Tournament Director at least 6 (six) weeks prior to the state tournament. The applicant must have pitched in a previous state tournament. Consideration will be given to students enrolled in any secondary school, military personnel, and established pitchers with a legitimate reason. Each application will be considered on its own merit. The Association President and the State Tournament Director will make the decision.

### 3. DIVISIONS

Class "A" shall be the "Championship" class in all divisions. The defending champion shall be seeded #1 (number one). It's recommended that all divisions consist of 8 (eight) person classes, except the two lowest classes in each division may consist of fewer players in order to establish a class for all eligible players. The make-up of all Divisions is at the discretion of the State Tournament Director.

- a. The 4 (four) players with the top NATSTAT averages, including the defending champion shall be placed into the championship class. The 4 (four) remaining positions shall be filled with the highest average players in class play, and seeded in that order.
- b. The elders division may include any age man with a verified physical handicap that prevents them from pitching the full distance, provided an NHPA Medical Exemption form has been completed and approved by the Executive Board.
- c. Elder Men become eligible to pitch in the Elders Division upon purchase of an NHPA card dated for the calendar year that they become 70 (seventy) years old.
- d. Once a member declares himself a short distance pitcher, he must remain in that Division until the next year's membership card is purchased. At that time he may switch back to the Open Men's Division, but must remain in that Division until the next year's membership card is purchased.
- e. Entry fees will be the same as the men's divisions.

### 7. DIVISION (Junior – Boys and Girls)

- a. A player will be considered a junior who will be 18 (eighteen) years old, or younger, for the entire calendar year in which the tournament is played.



# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

b. If a junior competes in the Boys or Girls State Tournament, he/she cannot enter the respective Men's or Ladies State Tournament. A Junior may enter the respective Men's or Ladies State Tournament if desired, but will not be eligible to also enter the respective Junior State Tournament, and gives up future Junior status.

c. There will be no entry fee, but juniors are subject to admission fees charged by the host facility.

## 8. DIVISION (Junior Cadet – Boys and Girls)

c. Any pitcher, who is twelve (12) years old, or younger, for the entire calendar year in which the tournament is played, will be considered a Junior Cadet.

d. Junior Cadets may choose to move into the Junior Boys or Junior Girls division prior to the age guidelines, but cannot return to the Junior Cadet division, once this declaration has been made.

e. There will be no entry fee, but Juniors Cadets are subject to admission fees charged by the host facility.

## 9. DIVISION (Senior – Men and Women) Optional

a. A player becomes eligible to pitch in a Senior Division at any time during the calendar year that they become 60 (sixty) years old.

b. A senior may compete in their respective men's or ladies division and pitch under the rules of that division, but cannot also pitch in the senior division.

c. Senior Divisions may be established with a minimum of 6 (six) contestants in a division, providing the span of their NATSTATS averages in each division does not exceed 10%.

## 10. DIVISION (Special Needs)

Special Needs players may or may not be scheduled to pitch in mixed classes.

### Sec. 3. STATE TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS (continued)

#### 11. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

a. A trophy or award shall be presented to the top 4 (four) players in classes consisting of 12 (twelve) players.

b. A trophy or award shall be presented to the top 3 (three) players in classes consisting of 8 (eight) or more players.

c. A trophy or award shall be presented to the top 2 (two) players in classes consisting of less than 8 (eight) players, except in junior classes of 6 (six) players, 3 (three) places will be awarded. **NOTE:** All junior players shall receive a recognition award

d. An Appreciation Award shall be presented each year to the most deserving person selected by the Executive Board for the individuals' contribution to the sport of horseshoe pitching.

e. Additional Recognition Awards may be presented, as the Executive Board deems appropriate.

f. Rookie of the Year Awards may be considered for qualified individuals in all divisions.

g. A souvenir patch will be presented to all participants.

h. All State Class Champions are awarded an NHPA Class Champion patch.

# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

## 12. GAME RULES

- a. NHPA rules shall prevail (see page 20 for NHPA – RGS RULES index).
- b. A normal game for Class “A” in all divisions (except Special Needs) shall consist of 40 (forty) points. All other classes (except Special Needs) shall play 50 (fifty) shoe games. All games may consist of fewer shoes as established by the Host Club Tournament Director, with the approval of the State Tournament Director, when conditions dictate a change.
- c. The regulations for covered and indoor courts are exactly the same as permanent ground level courts with the additional stipulation that they shall have a minimum 12’ (twelve foot) vertical clearance to the lowest possible obstruction.
- d. The regulations for temporary and/or raised courts are the same as permanent ground level courts with the exception that for any raised court, the top of the pit shall be no more than 7” (seven inches) above the level of the pitching platforms. In addition, the 4” (four inch) pit substance requirement is recommended, but not mandatory.
- e. It is customary for contestants to find out their court assignments and warm up on the court for their first game with the proper opponent. The court should be prepared for play during this time. When the tournament official announces the start of play, the contestants shall flip a shoe or coin with the winner having the choice of first or second pitch. After a game is completed, a contestant shall go to the next assigned court and prepare one pit for play. When the other contestant arrives, the same procedure shall be followed. When both contestants have arrived and prepared the pits, they may pitch 4 (four) warm-up shoes each and then must start their game, using the same method to decide first pitch. It is legal for a contestant to practice alone if the second contestant is late in arriving.
- f. A judge appointed by the State Tournament Director shall decide points when contestants are in doubt. He/she shall also see that the rules are complied with.
- g. The computer score shall be the official record of the game.

Contestants are encouraged to pay close attention to the score at all times. If a question or discrepancy occurs regarding the correct score, the contestants may approach the scorekeeper between innings or during their half inning to rectify the situation. If the discrepancy cannot be corrected to the satisfaction of both contestants, a tournament judge shall be called to make the final decision.

### Sec. 3. STATE TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS (continued)

#### 12. GAME RULES (continued)

h. All position ties, except for the championship in Class “A”, are to be settled by ringer percentage. If still tied, “who beat who”, and then “ringer % vs. entry %” will be used. A two-way tie for the Class “A” championship must be played off in a one game play-off. In case of a three-way tie, the top percentage player sits out the first round, while the second and third percentage player’s play-off, the winner of the play-off to meet the top percentage player for the championship play-off. Subject to the discretion of the Tournament Director, each contestant shall receive ½ (one half) win and ½ (one half) loss for a tied game. Otherwise, 4 (four) additional shoes shall be pitched in the event of tie scores at the end of a game, if the score is still tied, an additional 4 (four) shoes shall be pitched, continuing this method until the tie score is broken.

i. Any player who enters the State Tournament and drops out before the tournament is completed is automatically barred from future State Tournaments for one year, unless the player left the tournament due to sickness or other causes beyond his/her control. The Executive Board will make the final decision after evaluating the facts.

j. The Executive Board may suspend members for just cause. However, any member suspended by the Executive Board may appeal his/her case to the membership at the next annual meeting and the membership ruling will be final.

k. In the event of unforeseen conditions or problems 6 (six) games played in a 12 (twelve) person or 4 (four) games in an 8 (eight) person class may constitute a tournament; otherwise, the State Tournament Director will work out an agreeable program.

# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

1. In keeping score, it is recommended that NHPA standard scoring symbols and methods are used

## Sec. 4. STATE DOUBLES TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS

In addition to, and/or the exception to, the rules stated in **Sec. 3. STATE TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS**, the following applies:

1. TOURNAMENT BIDS (See Sec. 3.1. c. page 7)
2. QUALIFICATIONS
  - a. To be eligible to play in the State Doubles Tournament, the players must be bona fide residents of Minnesota and members in good standing with the MGSHPA and the NHPA. Any person residing full time in the state at least 90 (ninety) days prior to the State Doubles Tournament shall be considered a bona fide resident.
  - b. The State Doubles Tournament shall be scheduled at a separate time, thereby allowing eligible players to pitch in both the State Tournament and the State Doubles Tournament.
  - c. To be eligible to play in the State Doubles Tournament each team (two players) must have qualified averages. A player may pitch on one team only.
  - d. Entrants shall be seeded according to Rule 11, Section D of the NHPA RGS Booklet.
  - e. Entry fees must be submitted to reach the Host Club Tournament Director no later than 30 (thirty) days before the State Doubles Tournament. Entries received after the deadline may be returned.
  - f. Once the tournament roster has been printed for the State Doubles Tournament individuals cannot change partners. If one pitcher drops out, both pitchers are considered ineligible.

## Sec. 4. STATE DOUBLES TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS (continued)

### 3. CLASSES

- a. Class "A" shall be the "Championship" class.
- b. Classes may consist of (men, ladies, juniors, seniors, elders and special needs or a combination thereof) qualifying under the above rules.
- c. All classes shall consist of 8 (eight) teams, except classes may consist of fewer teams in order to develop a manageable schedule. If conditions permit, the Host Club Tournament Director, with the approval of the State Tournament Director, may choose to establish a greater number of teams in Class "A", following a format similar to Sec. 3.3. and/or Sec. 3.4. (page 8) in the State Tournament Requirements.

### 4. TROPHIES and AWARDS

- a. A trophy or an award shall be presented to the top 3 (three) teams in classes consisting of 8 (eight) teams.
- b. A trophy or an award shall be presented to the top 2 (two) teams in classes consisting of less than 8 (eight) teams.

### 5. GAME RULES

**MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION  
BY-LAWS**

- a. The State Doubles Tournament game shall consist of 40 (forty) shoes per player per game. All games may consist of fewer shoes as established by the Host Club Tournament Director, with the approval of the State Tournament Director, when conditions dictate a change.
- b. Subject to the discretion of the Tournament Director, each team shall receive ½ (one half) win and ½ (one half) loss for a tied game. Otherwise, 8 (eight) additional shoes (four shoes per player) shall be pitched in the event of tie scores at the end of a game. If the score is still tied, and additional 8 (eight) shoes shall be pitched, continuing this method until the tie score is broken.
- c. All position ties, except for the championship in Class "A", are to be settled by ringers, then by who-beat-whom. A two-way tie for the championship shall be played off in a 1 (one) game play-off. In a three-way tie for the championship, the second and third percentage teams play-off; the winner of the play-off will then play-off the top percentage team for the championship. In the event of a four-way tie for the championship, the first and fourth percentage teams shall pitch a play-off game, while the second and third percentage teams pitch a play-off game. The winners of the play-offs will then play-off for the championship, and the losers of the play-offs will then play-off for the third and fourth place positions.
- d. In doubles play, two contestants are partners against another team of two contestants. One contestant from each team shall be matched by the tournament officials so that the highest rated contestant (by percentage) from each team shall be at the same end. The tournament committee shall determine the length of game and type of play and the scoring shall be done on one score sheet, just as singles play. When contestants are pitching their shoes, the contestants at the other end shall be well behind and to the side of the pitcher's box (for their own safety) and in a stationary position so as not to disturb the contestants on their own and adjacent courts. Otherwise, all rules for singles play shall apply.
- e. In regular doubles, each team uses one pair of shoes and the contestants stay at the same end of the court for the entire game. To begin the game, the highest rated contestants shall decide first pitch and pitch their shoes, just as in singles competition. Their partners at the other end shall decide and call the score, retrieve the shoes and pitch them back following the same procedure. The decision on who pitches first in each inning is contingent upon the scoring system being used that applies in the rules of singles play.

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Revised and rewritten February 1997

- **Wayzata, Mn.**
- Wayzata, Mn.
- Duluth, Mn.
- Apple Valley, Mn.
- Apple Valley, Mn
- Mendota Hts., Mn.
- Mendota Hts., Mn.
- Rosemount, Mn.
- Eden Prairie, Mn.
- Eden Prairie, Mn.
- Eden Prairie, Mn.
- Eden Prairie, Mn.
- Hastings, Mn.
- St. Cloud, Mn.
- Hastings, Mn.
- Wadena, Mn.
- Hastings, Mn.
- Hastings, Mn.

**MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION  
BY-LAWS**

Revised and rewritten	March 1999	- Hastings, Mn.
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Revised and rewritten	February 2001	- Hastings, Mn.
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**Item 1. ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR DUTIES**

1. HORSESHOE CLUBS/LEAGUES:

a. Make every effort to attend spring and/or fall meetings. It is important that as NHPA representatives we communicate with Minnesota horseshoe clubs. Be prepared to answer questions and address issues involving the state and national association.

## MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

b. Be prepared to assist clubs in becoming NHPA sanctioned. Keep in mind a league within a club can be NHPA sanctioned without the club being sanctioned, however, every pitcher participating in the sanctioned league must have a current NHPA card, Provisional card or be a trial member (this requirement includes substitutes). Your goal should be to promote the full sanctioning of clubs in your region.

c. Remind clubs that a sanctioned league can hold one sanctioned league tournament per year. This tournament is for sanctioned league members only and can be scheduled any time during the league season. This tournament offers an opportunity for league members to obtain a qualifying tournament for the state and world tournaments. Contact the NHPA Regional Director for a sanction number in the same manner as for other sanctioned tournaments. The results of all sanctioned tournaments must be forwarded directly to the NHPA Regional Director as soon as possible for further handling with NATSTATS.

d. NHPA sanctioned league ringer percentages for league play of 200 (two hundred) or more shoes pitched can be used as one qualifying event for the World Tournament. Statistics of sanctioned league results are to be submitted to the NHPA 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President – Sanction Club/League Director:

Jerry Smith  
2850 S. Benecia Way  
Nampa, Idaho 83686

From these statistics, patches, certificates and awards earned will be issued. Encourage league statisticians to submit league results as soon as possible after the season ends to insure that the items earned are received in time for presentation at the club awards banquet.

e. Remind clubs they are required to contribute \$1.00 (one dollar) per member to the MGSHPA junior program. This is an important program, one that needs total support if horseshoe pitching in Minnesota is to grow. Suggest to clubs who sponsor tournaments to consider designating \$1.00 (one dollar) of each entry fee to this program. Furthermore, encourage clubs to aggressively recruit junior members.

f. Horseshoe clubs are the backbone of organized horseshoe pitching in Minnesota and as such require our support and assistance. The “Red Book” (Sanctioned Club/League Program) and the NHPA By-Laws are available from the NHPA Regional Director.

### 2. TOURNAMENTS:

a. The NHPA Regional Director has a list available of sanctioned tournaments held in your region. Keep contact with the Tournament Directors in your region and offer assistance as they plan their next event. Encourage them to set the date of tournaments as far in advance as possible. Inquiries from out of state pitchers are received early, thus it is advantageous to tournament directors to have tournaments listed as promptly as possible.

### **Item 1. ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR DUTIES (continued)**

#### 2. TOURNAMENTS: (continued)

b. Provide Tournament Directors with suggestions and assistance in promoting their event. Some suggestions for increasing tournament interest and enjoyment are: reduce entry fee for pitchers sponsoring a first time tournament player; first shoe of the tournament prize \$1.00 (one

## MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

dollar) for ringer and \$3.00 (three dollars) for a double; have an awards ceremony and take pictures of winners; designate a portion of tournament proceeds to a local charity; awards for high game over entering average and for most consecutive ringers; try a different tournament format such as team play or count-all scoring with class standings determined by total points.

c. Determine which horseshoe courts in your district are sanctioned, and as you attend tournaments at non-sanctioned courts, ask if the club would like their courts sanctioned. Remember whether courts are sanctioned or not the pitching area and the spectator area must be clearly delineated during tournament play. This requirement is to prevent injuries to spectators and validate the NHPA liability insurance.

d. Provide TOURNAMENT RESULTS REPORT FORM to all tournament directors. This form must be completely filled in when used to report tournament results. Remind Tournament Directors the results of all sanctioned tournaments must be forwarded directly the NHPA Regional Director as soon as possible for further handling with NATSTATS.

- e. The information needed by NATSTATS is as follows:
1. Tournament sanction number
  2. Last name, first name for every player
  3. Each player's name should be listed as it is given on their NHPA card
  4. NHPA card number
  5. Date the player pitched
  6. Total ringers
  7. Total shoes pitched
  8. Category of the player ("M" men, "W" women, "30" 30 foot elder men, "B" junior boy, and "G" junior girl)

### 3. NATSTATS:

a. NATSTATS are listed by state on the NHPA web site [www.horseshoepitching.com](http://www.horseshoepitching.com). The following is a partial description of the information listed by the NATSTATS Director.

1. The number of tournaments listed by a person's name is the number of tournaments that the person has pitched in the last 12 (twelve) months. It could read anywhere from 1 (one) to 60 (sixty) tournaments, depending on how often the person pitches. An average is figured the same for everybody, no matter how many tournaments they have pitched. The 3 (three) highest in the last 10 (ten) tournaments, or the last 12 (twelve) months whichever comes first.
2. We post the Internet with current averages every Wednesday.
3. A person can get a copy of their printout by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope, or can be sent a copy by email by contacting:

Rob Hagman – NATSTATS Director

652 Cross St.

Anoka, MN 55303

And/or 612-600-3777, [Natstas@horseshoepitching.com](mailto:Natstas@horseshoepitching.com)

### Item 1. ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR DUTIES (continued)

4. NEWSLINE SUBSCRIPTION:
  - a. Remember every Assistant Regional Director is required to subscribe to the NHPA Newsline newsletter.
5. National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation (NHPF)
  - a. Encourage members in your region to support the NHPF

# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

6. RINGER DIGEST:
  - a. Inform non-sanctioned players that the Ringer Digest is included when they join the NHPA/MGSHPA.

## Item 2. PERMANENT POSITIONS

1. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS DIRECTOR

The Constitution and By-Laws Director shall keep the Constitution and By-Laws accurately updated, announcing all changes in the Ringer Digest, and distribute copies to all Executive Board members.
2. EDITOR (s)

The Editor (s) shall publish 4 (four) issues of the Minnesota Gopher State Horseshoe Pitchers' Association Ringer Digest annually. The Editor (s) shall keep an accurate record of all financial transactions and submit a financial and business report to the membership at the annual meeting. The Ringer Digest shall be the official on line publication of the Association.

  - a. The Editor (s) responsibilities also include:
    1. Complying with proper editing and reporting
    2. Pursuing advertisers to offset costs
    3. Collecting advertising fees and submitting a quarterly report to the Executive Board
    4. Providing an annual budget of forecasted revenues/expenditures to the Executive Board
      - a. Funds collected in excess of publishing costs shall be reviewed for possible forwarding to the Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Director
      - b. Publishing costs in excess of funds collected shall be provided as directed by the Executive Board
3. NOMINATIONS DIRECTOR

Duties of the Nominations Director shall include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Hall of Fame Nominees

The Director shall publish annually in the Ringer Digest announcements regarding Hall of Fame candidates. The announcements must contain the following information: present members in the Hall of Fame, who is eligible as a candidate, who may submit a nomination, the closing date of nominations for the current year, where to send the nominations, what is considered a nomination and how to select a candidate. (See the Hall of Fame Guidelines – pages 28-30, and nomination form page 32).

## Item 2. PERMANENT POSITIONS (continued)

3. NOMINATIONS DIRECTOR (continued)
  - b. Officer Nominees

Actively seek qualified candidates to run for offices that are up for election in the current year, and publicizing in the Ringer Digest candidates for MGSHPA Executive Board officer positions.
  - c. Achievement Awards nominees



# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

The Director shall seek out deserving candidates for this honor and present nominations to the Executive Board for approval. The Director is also responsible for presenting this award at the MGSHPA annual banquet, and shall publish in the Ringer Digest the name(s) and details related to the award.

- d. Rookie of the year nominees  
The Director shall seek out deserving candidates for this honor and present nominations to the Executive Board for approval. The Director is also responsible for presenting this award at the MGSHPA annual banquet, and shall publish in the Ringer Digest the name(s) and details related to the award.
- e. Scholarship nominees  
The Director shall prepare and send out announcements regarding eligibility and guidelines for applications for the Minnesota Gopher State Horseshoe Pitchers' Association scholarship. Upon receiving scholarship applications the Scholarship Committee may select one individual to receive scholarship funds for post secondary training/education. (See MGSHPA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – pages 27 & 28)

## 4. JUNIOR PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The Junior Program Director shall be responsible for promoting the recruitment of junior pitchers by all state clubs, promoting activities through tournament schedules, and the establishment of NHPA Sanctioned Junior Leagues. The Junior Program Director must announce in the Ringer Digest, the name(s) and details related to all award presentations.

## 5. WEBMASTER

The webmaster is responsible for upgrading and maintaining the website in a timely manner.

## 6. PROMOTION/CLUB ADVISOR

The Promotion/Club Advisor is obligated to work directly with Local Clubs and the NHPA in the promotion and growth of our Association, and keeping our membership informed via the Ringer Digest.

## 7. NEWS MEDIA DIRECTOR

The News Media Director is responsible for news media coverage of sanctioned tournaments and related newsworthy events. This means working directly with Tournament Directors and local club officials to acquire information for publication, radio and television announcements, web site reporting, etc. Noteworthy publicity from the media should be announced in the Ringer Digest.

## 8. NHPA REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The NHPA Regional Director shall carry out specific duties assigned by the NHPA, and in addition to the following duties shall carry out any specific duties assigned by the President of the Association.

- a. Assignment of sanction certificate numbers
- b. The distribution of NHPA champion patches
- c. Assuring that sanctioned tournament pitching facilities meet NHPA requirements

## Item 2. PERMANENT POSITIONS (continued)

### 8. NHPA REGIONAL DIRECTOR (continued)

- d. Maintaining a schedule of sanctioned tournaments, thereby attempting to eliminate conflicting tournament dates
- e. Promoting NHPA membership enrollment
- f. Assisting clubs and Tournament Directors in discovering ways to publicize their activities
- g. Coordinating and working with the Assistant Regional Directors

# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

## 9. STATE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR (s)

The State Tournament Director is responsible for the enforcement of all game rules, and coordinating all activities with the Host Club Tournament Director, including but not limited to establishing committees to handle the administrative functions of the state tournament such as qualifying flyers, the tournament program, score keeping, game results, judges, court keepers, and other activities involving the state tournament. (See STATE TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS – pages 7 -11)

## 10. STATISTICIAN

The statistician shall be responsible for the posting and maintenance of MGSHPA player statistics from all sources and for coordinating the data with NHPA personnel. He/She shall provide the MGSHPA Webmaster, Ringer Digest editor, officers, tournament directors, and other member's accurate and current updates of all statistical data e.g. NATSTATS, records, tournament results, schedules, special events, and other items of interest. Additional duties include but are not limited to the following:

### a. State Tournament Duties:

1. Assist the Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Director with developing the tournament schedule.
2. Provide MGSHPA State Tournament stats and records for the tournament program book.
3. Develop, schedule, and manage administrative support for all state tournament events not otherwise assigned.

### b. Additional Responsibilities:

1. Support the president, as required, in the organization and conduct of the annual membership meeting and state awards banquet.
2. Store and maintain important state lists, such as: Past State Champions, Hall of Fame members, Frank Stinson Award winners, past State officers.
3. Prepare the MGSHPA Team World sponsored entry based on the guidelines established.
4. Manage the Pitcher of the Year award program. The duties include the promotion and participation in NHPA sanctioned tournaments, by providing a fair recognition program to pitchers of all skill levels. Pitcher of the year awards shall be given to NHPA/MGSHPA sanctioned horseshoe pitchers that participate in NHPA sanctioned tournaments and accumulate points for placing in the top 3 (three) spots of their class for each tournament (only the top 2 (two) spots in less than 8 (eight) person classes). Points shall be accumulated for one year, beginning on August 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on July 31<sup>st</sup> for each year, in the following manner:
  - 1 point awarded to each tournament participant, plus
  - 3 points awarded for a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish
  - 5 points awarded for a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish
  - 7 points awarded to the class champion

## Item 2. PERMANENT POSITIONS (continued)

### 10. STATISTICIAN (continued)

The top point pitcher in the state will receive the "FRANK STINSON MEMORIAL AWARD". The top 10 (ten) point pitchers in the state are eligible for a "Pitcher of the Year" award. If a region of the state does not have a member in the top 10 (ten), the highest point pitcher in that region is eligible for a "Pitcher of the Year" award. Awards will be presented to the pitchers at the MGSHPA awards banquet. League play, league

## MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

class tournaments and club only tournaments are not included in this program. The current top 25 (twenty-five) standings will be printed regularly in the Ringer Digest. It should be noted that an impartial member must review all Pitcher Of The Year Awards Director stats for accuracy before publishing the standings in the Ringer Digest.

### 11. STATE DOUBLES TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR (s)

The State Doubles Tournament Director is responsible for the enforcement of all game rules, and coordinating all activities with the Host Club Tournament Director, including but not limited to establishing committees to handle the administrative functions of the state doubles tournament such as entry forms, the tournament program, score keeping, game results, judges, court keepers, and other activities involving the state doubles tournament. (See STATE DOUBLES TOUR'Y REQUIREMENTS – pages 11 -12)

### 12. HISTORIAN

The duties of the Historian include but are not limited to gathering records and data pertaining to the history of MGSHPA, and submitting historical articles of interest in the Ringer Digest.

### Item 3. SANCTIONED LEAGUE AND TOURNAMENT RULES

1. By sanctioned, it is meant all players participating:
  - a. In leagues, all participants must have a NHPA membership card following their Provisional or trial membership year. (See NHPA By-Laws for additional information on membership).
  - b. In tournaments all participants must have a NHPA membership card for the current year.
2. The Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Director shall make NHPA membership cards available to the appropriate club officers and Tournament Directors.
3. Sanctioned tournaments may also include Cadet, Junior, Ladies, Senior, Elder and Special Needs divisions if sufficient entries. Cadets, juniors, ladies, elders and special needs pitchers may choose to pitch from less than 40 (forty feet).
4. Sanctioned tournaments must be publicized in the Ringer Digest to qualify for sanctioning.
5. NHPA Official Rules for horseshoe pitching are the established rules used for sanctioned leagues and tournaments.
6. Club officers duties and responsibilities:
  - a. Work directly with the News Media Director to promote league and tournament play.
  - b. Membership rosters and dues collected must be sent to the MGSHPA Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Director by the second week of league play.
  - c. Highlights of the concluded season should be submitted to the Editor for publishing in the Ringer Digest.
  - d. Club officer responsibilities include promoting our sport, enforcing the playing rules, recruiting new members, encouraging subscriptions to the Ringer Digest and the NHPA Newslines, and securing and/or submitting nominee names for various awards, especially candidates for the MGSHPA Hall of Fame.
  - e. Provide funds as set by the MGSHPA Executive Board to defray costs of the junior programs.

### Item 3. SANCTIONED LEAGUE AND TOURNAMENT RULES (continued)

7. Tournament Directors duties and responsibilities:
  - a. Work directly with the News Media Director to promote the tournament.
  - b. Announce Open Tournaments with appropriate advance notice in the Ringer Digest. Announcements should include the tournament dates, location, entry fee (including \$1.00 donation from paid entries to State Prize Fund) and deadline, the tournament

# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

format and Tournament Director's name, address and phone number. Tournament dates must be coordinated with the NHPA Regional Director.

- c. Work directly with the MGSHPA Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Director to ensure that all tournament entries have current state membership cards.
- d. Obtain verifiable ringer percentages from NATSTATS for all entrants.
- e. Tournament pitching schedules should be mailed to the MGSHPA President, District Vice President and the Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Director.
- f. Tournament results, including the pitcher's **NHPA CARD NUMBER** must be provided to the MGSHPA Statistician within 7 (seven) days.
- g. Highlights and tournament results should be provided to the Editor for publication in the Ringer Digest.

## MGSHPA OFFICIAL RULES FOR HORSESHOE PITCHING

See THE OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES, GUIDELINES, AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE SPORT OF HORSESHOE PITCHING, (THE RGS BOOK) published by THE NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (NHPA)

- RULE 1 – PITCHING DIVISIONS
- RULE 2 – GAME PREPARATION
- RULE 3 – PLAY OF THE GAME AND VALUE OF THE SHOE
- RULE 4 – FLOW OF THE GAME
- RULE 5 – FOUL SHOES
- RULE 6 – SCORING THE GAME, CALLING THE SCORE
- RULE 7 – PITCHING ROTATION DURING THE GAME
- RULE 8 – LENGTH OF THE GAME, BREAKING OF TIE GAMES
- RULE 9 – BROKEN OR CRACKED SHOES
- RULE 10 – LOOSE OR BROKEN STAKES
- RULE 11 – TOURNAMENT/LEAGUE PLAY
- RULE 12 – APPROPRIATE NHPA MEMBER CONDUCT

## INDEX

### Item 4. STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES – (HOST CLUB)

Item

1. Sanctioned Clubs

22

# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

2.	Bids for State Tournament	22
3.	Host Club Tournament Director	22
4.	Committees	
	a. Sponsor	22
	b. State Tournament Book	22
	c. Record Keeping	23
	d. Scorekeeping	23
	e. Court Maintenance	23
	f. Hospitality	24
	g. Annual Awards Banquet	24
5.	General Notes	
	a. Constitution and By-Laws	24
	b. Annual Awards Banquet	24
	c. Insurance	24
	d. MGSHPA Equipment	24

## **Item 5. STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES – (EXECUTIVE BOARD)**

### Item

1.	Executive Board Responsibilities	25
3.	Committees	
	a. Announcement	25
	b. Tournament Play	25
	c. Trophy Acquisition and Presentation	26
	d. Judge	26
	e. Annual Awards Banquet	26
	f. Traveling Trophy Award	26
4.	General Notes	
	a. Tournament Date	27
	b. Entry Deadline	27
	c. Tournament Schedule	27
	d. Annual Awards Banquet	27
	e. Membership Cards	27

## **Item 4. STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES – (HOST CLUB)**

### 1. SANCTIONED CLUBS

Sanctioned clubs interested in hosting the State Tournament must designate a Tournament Director to coordinate, preferably 2 (two) years in advance, the bid for the State Tournament.

# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

## 2. STATE TOURNAMENT BIDS (See Tournament Bids – page 7)

Sanctioned Clubs interested in hosting the State Tournament must submit their bid in writing to the President of the MGSHPA and present their bid to the membership at the MGSHPA annual meeting. Bids shall include:

- a. Name of Host Club and Tournament Director
- b. Name of indoor facility and type of courts
- c. Geographic location, including major highways
- d. Local address of indoor facility
- e. Food, lodging, camping and recreational facilities
- f. Churches
- g. Banquet facilities

## 3. HOST CLUB TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

The Host Club Tournament Director is responsible for:

- a. State Tournament bid
- b. Coordinating the State Tournament program with the State Tournament Director
- c. Appointing committees for:
  1. Sponsors
  2. State Tournament Book
  3. Record Keeping
  4. Scorekeeping
  5. Court Maintenance
  6. Hospitality
  7. Annual Awards Banquet
- d. Securing current statistics from NATSTATS
- e. Coordinating the State Tournament annual meeting with the MGSHPA President
- f. An NHPA sanctioned tournament provides insurance, however, the Host Club Tournament Director is responsible for ascertaining that adequate insurance has been secured for the event
- g. Coordinating with the MGSHPA Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Director to ascertain that all pitchers have current NHPA membership cards, and have membership cards available.

## 4. COMMITTEES

### a. SPONSOR

The Sponsor Committee Chairperson shall be responsible for soliciting funds, and/or gifts and trophies to offset the costs of hosting the State Tournament.

### b. STATE TOURNAMENT BOOK

The State Tournament Book Committee Chairperson shall work directly with the Sponsor Committee Chairperson and other Committee Chairpersons as required, and be responsible for the compilation of the State Tournament Book.

## Item 4. STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES – (HOST CLUB) continued

### 4. COMMITTEES (continued)

# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

## c. RECORD KEEPING

The Record Keeping Committee Chairperson shall be responsible to ensure that minutes of all Host Club tournament meetings are kept, along with financial records and any other matters brought to his/her attention. Upon conclusion of the tournament, a financial statement must be presented to the MGSHPA Executive Board for its review. Results of the tournament must be presented for publication in the Ringer Digest and the Newsliner.

## d. SCOREKEEPING

The Scorekeeping Committee Chairperson shall be responsible for proper scorekeeping, including:

6. Preparing a signup sheet for scorekeepers to ensure an adequate number of scorekeepers are available for each round of play:

## e. COURT MAINTENANCE

The Court Maintenance Committee Chairperson shall be responsible for the installation and maintenance of the courts, including:

1. All courts must be uniform, either clay or clay like substance
2. A minimum of 10' (ten feet) between courts, 12' (twelve feet) is preferable
3. All foul lines properly marked
4. Periodic painting of the stakes
5. Proper placement of scoreboards and nametags
6. Proper seating for the scorekeepers
7. Proper lighting
8. Proper ventilation
9. Having an attendant available in case of an emergency
10. Having adequate supply of parts, tools and supplies
11. Periodic verification that portable courts are properly placed

## Item 4. STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES – (HOST CLUB) continued

### 4. COMMITTEES (continued)

#### f. HOSPITALITY

The Hospitality Committee Chairperson shall be responsible for providing information and required services, including:

1. Name, address, approximate costs, and telephone numbers of food, lodging, camping and recreational facilities
2. Providing a hospitality booth at the tournament site
3. Providing a refreshment stand at the tournament site
4. Having sufficient lavatory facilities at the site, properly patrolled and serviced
5. Having adequate seating for spectators during competition
6. Providing a suitable area for the MGSHPA annual meeting, including adequate seating for the membership
7. Having a proper P.A. system at the courts and meeting area
8. Displaying of State and National flags

#### g. ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The Banquet Committee Chairperson shall be responsible for providing a suitable banquet site, including:

# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

1. The name and location of the facility
2. The time and date of banquet
3. The cost of banquet
4. Having refreshments available
5. Announcement of any dancing after the banquet and type of music
6. Coordinating publication with the Hospitality Committee Chairperson

## 5. GENERAL NOTES

### a. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

The Host Club Tournament Director shall be familiar with, and abide by, the MGSHPA and NHPA Constitution and By-Laws. Current Constitution and By-Laws are available upon request from the State Tournament Director.

### b. ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

One evening during the tournament should be set aside for having a social hour, buffet dinner and music available for dancing. Hall of Fame inductees, along with other awards will be honored at this time. Sunday night is suggested in order to accommodate as many as possible. The banquet should be located relatively near the tournament site with ample room to accommodate as many individuals as feasible.

### c. INSURANCE

Many community centers have adequate insurance coverage in effect, however, if additional insurance is required, it is the responsibility of the Host Club Tournament Director to secure accordingly. The MGSHPA does not have insurance to cover the event. A certificate of insurance for NHPA sanctioned events is available from the NHPA Regional Director.

### d. MGSHPA EQUIPMENT

The MGSHPA has portable courts available for use at sanctioned tournaments with the following provisions:

1. The courts are available for indoor use only
2. Major repairs are Host Club responsibilities
3. Pickup, delivery and storage of the courts are Host Club responsibilities

## Item 5. STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES – (EXECUTIVE BOARD)

1. The Executive Board is responsible for coordinating the State Tournament program with the Host Club Tournament Director and appointing committees for:

- a. Announcements
- b. Tournament Play
- c. Trophy Acquisitions and Presentations
- d. Judges
- e. Conducting Annual Awards Program
- e. Traveling Trophy Award

## 2. COMMITTEES

### a. ANNOUNCEMENT

The Announcement Committee Chairperson shall be responsible for the announcement of the State Tournament in the MGSHPA Ringer Digest and the preparation and distribution of the State Tournament flyers and pitching schedules.

1. The flyer shall include:
  - a. State Tournament date and site
  - b. Site and geographic location, including major highways



# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

- c. Type of courts
- d. Divisions for men, ladies, senior men, elder men, senior ladies, juniors and special needs
- e. Entry fee and deadline
- f. Admission fee (for non-pitchers)
- g. Notice to pitchers that they must have their name and city location printed with at least 2" (two inch) letters on the back of their shirt during competition
- h. Awards banquet accommodations
- i. Entry forms
- j. Names, addresses and telephone numbers of Host Club Tournament Director and Banquet Director

2. The pitching schedule shall include:
  - a. Date and time of pitching for all classes
  - b. Notice to pitchers that they must have their name and city location printed with at least 2" (two inch) letters on the back of their shirt during competition
  - c. Current Class "A" defending champions
  - d. Mailing to all contestants on a timely basis
  - e. Awards banquet accommodations
  - f. Names, addresses and telephone numbers of Host Club Tournament Director and Banquet Director

## b. TOURNAMENT PLAY

The Tournament Play Committee Chairperson shall be responsible for round robin cards, score sheets, posted summary sheets and submission of the final tournament results to the News Media Director. Also submit results for publication in the MGSHPA Ringer Digest, the NHPA Newslines, and to the Statistician for his/her records.

1. All pitchers must be furnished a round robin card properly marked with their name, class and courts they will be competing on.
  - a. The type and format of round robin cards must be approved by the MGSHPA Tournament Director.

## Item 5. STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES – (EXECUTIVE BOARD) continued

2. COMMITTEES (continued)  
TOURNAMENT PLAY (continued)

2. Summary sheets must be properly posted before tournament play. As each game is completed, the data from the score sheets must be entered as soon as possible on the posted summary sheets or display monitor.

## c. TROPHY ACQUISITION AND PRESENTATION

The Trophy Committee Chairperson shall work directly with the Host Club Tournament Director, the Awards Banquet Chairperson and the Executive Board. With Executive Board approval, the Trophy Committee Chairperson shall select and acquire trophies as required. The President shall determine appropriate presentation of trophies and awards.

## d. JUDGE

The Judge Committee Chairperson shall be responsible for the assignment of judges to cover a maximum of 8 (eight) courts.

1. Judges must be familiar with NHPA rules and their enforcement
2. Judges shall decide ringers and/or points when the contestants are in doubt
3. Judges should remain at their designated station until they are relieved, or no longer required

## MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

4. If necessary, final decisions in all disputes will be made by the State Tournament Director

e. ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The Banquet Committee Chairperson shall be responsible for coordinating the awards banquet program with the Host Club Tournament Director, the Nominations Director and the MGSHPA President to ensure proper scheduling of honorees.

f. TRAVELING TROPHY AWARD

The Traveling Trophy Award Chairperson shall be responsible for recording points earned by pitchers for each club of which the pitcher is a regular and full time member. Substitute pitchers do not qualify for recording points. It is the responsibility of the Traveling Trophy Award Chairperson to contact the club that currently has the trophy to ensure the trophy is delivered to the State Tournament site on a timely basis. Record keeping shall be kept current in order to present the trophy to the winning club at the conclusion of the tournament.

1. "Attendance points" will be awarded at the start of the tournament. The percentage of members from each club will be equal to the number of "attendance points" awarded. Example: If a club has 50% of their members playing in the tournament, they start with 50 (fifty) "attendance points". Math fractions of 0.5% or more shall be rounded up to the next whole number.
2. Points to be earned shall be:
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> (first) place earns . . . . 5 (five) points
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> (second) place earns . . 3 (three) points
  - c. 3<sup>rd</sup> (third) place earns . . . . 1 (one) point
3. Points shall be awarded for the top 3 (three) places in 8 (eight) player classes, and the top 2 (two) places in classes with less than 8 (eight) players.

### Item 5. STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES – (EXECUTIVE BOARD) continued

3. GENERAL NOTES

a. TOURNAMENT DATE

The State Tournament must be scheduled during the Labor Day weekend, terminating by or before 4:00 P.M. on Monday, the final day of competition.

b. ENTRY DEADLINE

Entry fees must be submitted by contestants to reach the Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Director no later than the first Thursday in August. Entries received after the deadline may be returned.

c. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

The tournament schedule shall include classes for all qualified pitchers, in accordance with the MGSHPA By-Laws. Competition starts with the lower classes and culminates with the top classes, however the schedule must be coordinated with and approved by the State Tournament Director.

1. Pitchers who have a physical condition that restricts them from pitching the 40' (forty-foot) regulation length can move up to the 30' (thirty-foot) distance in the Elders Division. As with all pitchers, they must have the physical abilities to control their shoes so they do not injure themselves or others. Club officers are the only ones authorized to evaluate a pitcher's skill level and approve moving them up to the 30' (thirty-foot) distance. For sanctioned tournaments, pitchers must provide Tournament Directors verification from their club that they received authorization to pitch from the 30' (thirty-foot) distance.

d. ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

One evening during the tournament should be set aside for have a social hour, buffet dinner and music available for dancing. Hall of Fame inductees, along with other awards will be honored at this time. Sunday night is suggested in order to accommodate as many as possible. The banquet should be located relatively near the tournament site with ample room to accommodate as many individuals as feasible.

e. MEMBERSHIP CARDS

A current NHPA membership card is required in order to compete in the State Tournament.

f. STATE TOURNAMENT PRIZE FUND

The State Tournament Committee will determine the number and amount of the cash payouts at the time the state tournament pitching schedule is created.

## Item 6. MGSHPA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

### 1. SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Many individuals have difficulty in financing their education beyond high school. Consequently the MGSHPA offers a \$200.00 (two hundred dollar) scholarship for post high school education to members active in the sport of horseshoe. Each applicant will be asked to fill out an application that includes a statement of need, previous education, intended courses, as well as goals and objectives in terms of certificates or degrees they hope to attain. Recipients shall receive one scholarship award only. The funds will be held in trust until the individual graduates, and/or shall be awarded upon receipt of post high school admission (college, vo-tech, etc.).

### 2. SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (See Nominations Director – page 17)

- a. The Scholarship Committee, including the Director appointed by the MGSHPA President, shall consist of the Executive Board. The terms will then be non-concurrent or staggered to maintain continuity.

## Item 6. MGSHPA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (continued)

### 3. COMMITTEE DUTIES

- a. The Scholarship Director is responsible for placing a notice in the Ringer Digest indicating that scholarships are available and how applications can be obtained.
- b. The Scholarship Committee will review the applications using general established guidelines and criteria to recommend the successful applicant.
- c. The scholarship award shall be presented at the annual awards banquet. In the event no worthy candidate applies, the scholarship may be carried over to the following year.
- d. The Scholarship Director shall notify the successful applicant by August 1<sup>st</sup> and publish in the Ringer Digest the name and details related to the award.

### 4. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- a. Review statement of need thoroughly
- b. Consider grade point average (“C” or higher is expected)
- c. Committee members should abstain from voting on applications from family members
- d. Applications will be received each year until June 15th
- e. Applicants will not be limited to any particular age

### 5. APPLICATION FORM FOR MGSHPA SCHOLARSHIP (See page 31)

# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

## Item 7. HALL OF FAME (See Nominations Director – page 16)

### 1. CANDIDATES

- a. A maximum of 3 (three) candidates, with appropriate nominations and achievements, can be elected annually into the MGSHPA Hall of Fame, (but only one candidate can be inducted into each category). These candidates shall be elected from nominees on the ballot prepared by the Hall of Fame Director. (Husband and wife selected as promoters will be considered as one elected candidate, with one or the other fulfilling all nominee requirements and both meeting the minimum membership requirement).
- b. To be considered eligible as a candidate, nominees (except in the Junior Honor Roll Category) must have been a member of the MGSHPA for a minimum of 15 (fifteen) years.
- c. Other **Requirements** shall be:
  1. Pitcher Category
    - a. Qualified for Championship class in the State Tournament for a minimum of 3 (three) years and must have maintained a minimum of 60% (sixty-percent) average for those years
    - b. Must have been a member in good standing, with unblemished character, integrity and sportsmanship.
  2. Promoter Category
    - a. Held a position on the MGSHPA board of directors, for a minimum 3 (three) years
    - b. Directed sanctioned tournaments for a minimum 5 (five) years
    - c. Directed sanctioned leagues for a minimum 5 (five) years
    - d. Must have been a member in good standing, with unblemished character, integrity and sportsmanship.

## Item 7. HALL OF FAME (continued)

### 1. CANDIDATES (continued)

- d. **Other nominee factors for the committee to consider are:**
  1. Pitcher Category
    - a. Well known among MGSHPA members throughout the state
    - b. A regular State and local Tournament pitcher
  2. Promoter Category
    - a. Well known among MGSHPA members throughout the state
    - b. Assisted in providing facilities and equipment for pitchers
    - c. Mentored and/or taught classes
    - d. Active in all types of promotion, i.e. news media, charitable activities, and membership recruitment, etc.

### 2. HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE

- a. The Hall of Fame Committee shall consist of the Nominations Director and the MGSHPA District Vice Presidents.

### 3. COMMITTEE DUTIES

# MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

- a. The Nominations Director shall invite the membership to submit names of individuals to be considered by the duly constituted electors for commemoration in the Hall of Fame. Such names may be presented from October 1<sup>st</sup>, preceding the election, to May 1<sup>st</sup> of the election year. Each nomination from the membership must be submitted on forms obtainable from the Nominations Director. (See page 32)
- b. The Nominations Director is responsible for placing a notice in the Ringer Digest indicating the Hall of Fame Committee is seeking candidates and how the nominations of worthy individuals should be submitted.
- c. The Nominations Director shall notify the President of recommended candidates by June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- d. If possible, Hall of Fame inductees will be introduced at the Annual Awards Banquet. Therefore, the Nominations Director must notify the selected inductees by August 1<sup>st</sup>, to provide ample notification.

## 4. BALLOTING

- a. All first time **eligible** candidates not elected are automatically entitled for consideration in the following 2 (two) years of committee deliberation.
- b. All committee members (unless a committee member is unable to vote, due to conflict of interest) must be polled in the selection of all qualified nominees. Conflict of interest is defined as a committee member who is on the ballot.
- c. Balloting method will be as follows:
  1. The Director will provide a primary ballot of pre-qualified candidates to the committee, and they **shall** vote for only one from each category. In the event of a tie on the first ballot, a second ballot including only the two candidates who tied will be voted on by the committee. In the event of a tie on the second ballot, or if there were only two candidates on the first ballot that tied, the 3 MGSHPA board members not on the committee will be the tie-breaking votes

## Item 7. HALL OF FAME (continued)

### 4. BALLOTING (continued)

2. The top vote getters in each category are then placed on the final ballot and must receive a  $\frac{3}{4}$  (three fourth) majority approval of the committee to be inducted.
3. The Hall of Fame Committee, acting by a majority of its members, shall have the power to disapprove the choice of any candidate. In order to receive committee approval, candidates must meet the requirement described in Item 7.1.a, b. & c. above.

### 5. FOUNDERS CATEGORY

- a. Occasionally, historical records reveal data on individuals who meet Hall of Fame candidate eligibility. With proper documentation, these individuals may qualify in the Founders Category for committee consideration as outlined in Item 7.4 above.

### 6. JUNIOR HONOR ROLL

- a. Many Juniors within the MGSHPA have displayed outstanding horseshoe pitching abilities along with dedication for the development of our sport. With proper documentation, these individuals may qualify in the Junior Honor Roll Category for committee consideration as outlined in Item 7.4 above.

### 7. HALL OF FAME DISPLAY UNIT

**MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION  
GUIDELINES**

a. Mission Statement – “The purpose of this display shall be to recognize and honor the members herein and to promote, develop interest, expand participation and advance the sport of horseshoe pitching.”

**8. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF DISPLAY UNIT**

- a. The MGSHPA shall be responsible for all authorized maintenance costs including insurance and general upkeep.
- b. Transportation and storage of the display unit must be authorized by the Nominations Director
- c. The Nominations Director shall appoint a person or group in charge of maintaining and updating items with the display unit.
- d. Monetary donations for the display unit must be separately recorded by the Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Director. Non-monetary donations such as memorabilia, labor, etc., shall be recognized by the Nominations Director in the Ringer Digest.

**Item 8. MGSHPA TEAM WORLD SELECTION**

**1. SELECTION OF TEAM MEMBERS**

- a. Adult team members will be selected by using NATSTATS averages as of February 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the tournament.
- b. Selection will be the highest ringer percentage player first, then in descending sequence until one team consisting of 4 (four) players are selected.
- c. The team captain will be the highest average player on the team.
- d. Should the team win the TEAM WORLD Tournament, they will be allowed to defend their title the following year. If for any reason one or more of the members on the winning team are unable to defend their title, selection of a new team will begin as stated in Item 8.1.a. & b. above.
- e. The MGSHPA will sponsor \$190.00 (one hundred ninety dollars) of the entry fee for one team; additional costs and expenses are the responsibility of the team members.

APPLICATION FORM FOR MGSHPA SCHOLARSHIP

I hereby apply for the MGSHPA post high school scholarship.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

NHPA/MGSHPA Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of need: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION  
GUIDELINES**

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Last grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade point average: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended course of study: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Previous education (List Certificates or Degrees received) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

To the best of my knowledge the above information is true and accurate, and intended to give the selection committee the necessary information to grant the scholarship to the most worthy applicant. I understand that falsification or omission of information will disqualify me for this scholarship and future scholarships offered by the MGSHPA.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Names \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ (Deadline June 15<sup>th</sup>)

**HALL OF FAME Nomination Form**  
(Deadline may 1)

Nomination for: Pitcher \_\_\_\_\_ Promoter \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print; if additional space required, use attachments)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ if deceased, date of death \_\_\_\_\_

Years \_\_\_\_\_ member of MGSHPA (minimum of 15 years required), please include

Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Pitching achievements (include History):

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**MINNESOTA GOPHER STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION  
GUIDELINES**

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Official positions held (league, state, national), include  
Dates \_\_\_\_\_

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Other contributions to the sport:

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Nomination submitted by:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Forward to:  
Mr. Joe Mueller – Nominations Director  
MGSHPA Hall of Fame  
2057 152<sup>nd</sup> Lane NE  
Ham Lake MN, 55304