

PROPOSALS FOR NHPA BYLAWS CHANGES – 2017 CONVENTION

Proposal A: **PASSED**

Current Wording:

ARTICLE III: Membership

SECTION 3. Dues for adult members are the National dues of seventeen dollars (\$17.00) plus the amount set for State dues within their Charter. Three dollar (\$3.00) of every adult membership will be set aside for the World Tournament prize fund, for the next year.

Proposed Changes to Wording: (see underlined)

ARTICLE III: Membership

SECTION 3. Dues for adult members are the National dues of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) plus the amount set for State dues within their Charter. Three dollar (\$3.00) of every adult membership will be set aside for the World Tournament prize fund, for the next year. Convention delegates may also authorize the NHPA to make an annual donation to the NHPF. This amount will be determined at the NHPA annual winter meeting and will be voted on by delegates at the NHPA Convention, later that year.

Reasons for Changes:

A dues increase is now necessary for several reasons, including an increase in our annual expenses, combined with a loss of revenue due to our steadily decreasing membership. These and other reasons will be explained and discussed in a power-point presentation before the delegate vote on this proposal. The amount of the annual NHPF donation will be based on the current/annual specified needs and comparative bank balances of each organization, but shall not exceed \$1.00 per member. (amended to delete verbiage regarding NHPF donation)

Proposal B: **FAILED**

Current Wording:

SECTION 7. A membership card must be issued by the Charter in which the member maintains legal residence as determined by the filing of federal and state tax returns, voting, and/or driver license laws. Charters collecting NHPA dues for a non-resident member should give only a receipt, and then forward the dues and address information to the NHPA Secretary-Treasurer who will advise the Charter of record. Residents of a State having no active Charter may become an NHPA member by sending their dues directly to the NHPA Secretary-Treasurer.

Proposed Additions: (Of the two presented here, those that may pass the Council and Delegate vote would be added to the end of Section 7, above)

1. Exception for 'Snow Bird' members **FAILED**

Pitchers who reside in the Northern United States, but who spend their Winter months living in the Southern or other states, may purchase their membership cards from that state, providing they meet the following criteria, based on NatStats results from the previous 12 months:

- a. Seventy percent (70%) of their sanctioned events must have been pitched in that state during the previous twelve (12) months, with a minimum of three (3) events pitched in that state.
- b. The qualifying pitcher must also have approval of the non-resident State Officers before their Secretary can issue this membership card. This State Secretary will also be responsible for verifying the requirements indicated in section a. (above).
- c. This State Secretary must also promptly notify the Secretary of the pitcher's resident state that they have issued a membership card to this individual. If there is any question or concern (within one month of the issue

date) from members of either of the states involved, the NHPA Officers will make any final decisions, upon request.

d. This member may pitch in only one of these State Tournaments (by rule), but must meet all of the requirements for participating in that State Tournament.

Reasons for this Addition:

Many of our pitchers who live in the Northern US spend some or all of their Winter months in the Southern tier states of Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, etc, and enter the sanctioned leagues and tournaments of those states during these Winter months. The Officers and TD's of these states spend a great deal of time promoting their leagues/tournaments, and getting new pitchers interested in joining their Association. Currently, all of these pitchers are required to purchase their NHPA cards from the states where they reside. Many of them, who may not return to their residences in the North until early May, would like to pitch in the State Tournaments there in late April, but are not eligible based on our current Rule which requires members to pitch in the State Tournament of their legal residence. Upon returning to their home states, some of these pitchers may have no intention of pitching there due to various factors, including required long driving distances to the scheduled tournaments there, or to their State Tournament. Not only would this 'exception' allow these pitchers to pitch in the State Tournament while there, it would also help to increase the membership of those State Associations who have worked to encourage and provide pitching facilities for these members. This exception, if passed, would not result in the loss of any of our NHPA members, and might even help to increase our membership!

2. Exception for 'State Border' members FAILED

Pitchers who reside very near to the state borders of an adjacent state may purchase their membership cards from that adjacent state, providing they meet the following criteria, based on NatStats results from the previous twelve months:

a. Seventy percent (70%) of their sanctioned events must have been pitched in that state during the previous twelve (12) months, with a minimum of three (3) events pitched in that state.

b. This exception applies only to the larger US states of the Midwest, Southern, and Western states, where distances from border-to-border are at least 200 miles.

c. Generally, this pitcher must reside within 20 miles or so of the adjacent state, and the pitching facilities and league/tournament opportunities are much closer than league/tournament opportunities within their state.

d. The qualifying pitcher must also have approval of the non-resident State Officers before their Secretary can issue this membership card. This State Secretary will also be responsible for verifying the requirements indicated in section a. (above).

e. This State Secretary must also promptly notify the Secretary of the pitcher's resident state that they have issued a membership card to this individual. If there is any question or concern (within one month of the issue date) from members of either of the states involved, the NHPA Officers will make any final decisions, upon request.

f. This member may pitch in only one of these State Tournaments (by rule), but must meet all of the requirements for participating in that State Tournament.

Reasons for this Addition:

This exception has been a frequent member request of the NHPA for several years now. This is especially problematic for states where second Charters have not/cannot be created, such as the upper peninsula of Michigan, in Texas, and many other of our larger states, where it makes more sense for some pitchers to join and pitch with clubs and in tournaments of their nearby State, that are much closer to where they live. And most often, they do not pitch in their State Tournament because of the much greater required travel distances.

Not only would this 'exception' allow these pitchers to pitch in a State Tournament closer to where they live, it would also help to increase the membership of those State Associations who have worked to encourage and provide pitching facilities for these neighboring members. This exception, if passed, would not result in the loss of any of our NHPA members, and might even help to increase our membership!

Proposal C: PASSED

Current Wording:

Article V: Officers

Section 2(c)(1)

The Secretary-Treasurer shall: (1) Be custodian of all funds, property, records, and other NHPA-owned assets,
except for those of the game-related sales program, which are under the direction of the Game-Related Sales Buyer.

Proposed Changes:

Article V: Officers

Section 2(c)(1)

The Secretary-Treasurer shall: (1) Be custodian of all funds, property, records, and other NHPA-owned assets.

Reason for Change:

The NHPA is no longer involved in game-related sales upon completion of the 2017 World Tournament

Proposal D: PASSED

Current Wording:

ARTICLE V: Officers

SECTION 6. Eligibility of Officers

- a. All officers shall be NHPA members in good standing (dues paid and not under suspension).
- b. At least one officer shall be a woman, and, similarly, at least one officer shall be a man. No Junior may be an officer.

Proposed Changes: (change to a. is underlined, and section b is eliminated)

- a. All officers shall be NHPA adult members in good standing (dues paid and not under suspension).

Reasons for Change:

Although it is desirable to have both men and women members represented on this Council, it should not be a requirement. It is more important to elect a person who is best qualified for this position, regardless of their gender. The current rule could potentially prevent some very qualified members from running for this position. This person should also have a great deal of experience with various aspects of our sport and therefore be an adult member, at least 18 years of age.

Proposal E: **PASSED**

Current Wording:

ARTICLE VII: Charters

SECTION 1. Charters shall be organized under the NHPA and shall be known as (name of state, territory or country) Division of the NHPA. It is the responsibility of Charters to follow NHPA Bylaws and if necessary, to enact separate but non-conflicting Charter Bylaws that are in compliance with their applicable State Governmental codes. Each Charter shall have a functional Executive Council, duly-elected by the Charter membership, for minimum two-year terms, and with the President being recognized as the ranking officer.

Proposed Addition: (see underlined)

ARTICLE VII: Charters

SECTION 1. Charters shall be organized under the NHPA and shall be known as (name of state, territory or country) Division of the NHPA. It is the responsibility of Charters to follow NHPA Bylaws and if necessary, to enact separate but non-conflicting Charter Bylaws that are in compliance with their applicable State Governmental codes. Each Charter shall have a functional Executive Council, duly-elected by the Charter membership, for minimum two-year terms, and with the President being recognized as the ranking officer. Any person holding a Charter Executive Council position, or any associated Council position, must be an NHPA member in good standing (dues paid and not under suspension).

Reasons For Addition:

It just seems logical that anyone acting in this capacity should belong to the organization that they are representing or working for.

Proposal F: **PASSED**

Current Wording:

SECTION 6. A Charter will be entitled to NHPA convention delegates, based upon the previous year's adult membership as follows:

Proposed Change: (see underlined)

SECTION 6. A Charter will be entitled to NHPA convention delegates, based upon the previous year's total membership as follows:

Reasons For Change:

Several Charters now have significant numbers of Juniors. With more and more emphasis being placed on Juniors, it seems that they should also be represented in the governance of the NHPA. By including them as a part of the total Charter membership numbers, this will perhaps qualify another Charter delegate to vote on their behalf.

NHPA Standing Rules – Proposed Changes **PASSED**

Current Wording: (introduction)

Standing Rules are for the guidance of the Executive Council. They may be adopted, changed, or suspended by a majority vote at any meeting, without notice. Between meetings, the Executive Council may adopt, change, or suspend a Standing Rule, but to continue, it must be ratified at the next Council meeting. Standing Rules take effect immediately and are as follows:

Proposed Change to Wording: (underlined)

Standing Rules are solely for the guidance of the Executive Council. They may be adopted, changed, or suspended by a majority vote at any official Council meeting, without notice. Between meetings, the Executive Council may adopt, change, or suspend a Standing Rule via e-mail/phone discussion and voting. These actions shall continue to be official unless overturned by delegates assembled at the next Convention by a two-thirds majority vote. Council-approved changes to Standing Rules take effect immediately and are as follows:

Reasons for Change:

Although this policy has been followed in the past, the change of wording makes this information more clear and consistent with Article IV, Section 2 b.

Current Wording:

10. Regional Directors are appointed, removed, replaced, and will serve in accordance with the published RD Guidelines, developed by the NHPA Vice President who oversees the RD program. All Regional Directors must be subscribers to the *Horseshoe Pitching Newslines* magazine. **PASSED**

Proposed Change to Wording: (underlined)

10. Regional Directors are appointed, removed, replaced, and will serve in accordance with the published RD Guidelines, developed by the NHPA Vice President who oversees the RD program. (the last sentence has been deleted.)

Reasons for Change: A subscription is no longer required for receiving the *Horseshoe Pitching Newslines* magazine.

Current Wording:

11. All member-proposed changes to the NHPA Bylaws and RGS Book shall be submitted in writing to the respective Committee Chairperson and shall be postmarked no later than December 31st of the year preceding the appropriate Convention. **PASSED**

Proposed Change to Wording: (underlined)

11. All member-proposed changes to the NHPA Bylaws and RGS Book shall be submitted in writing to the respective Committee Chairperson and shall be postmarked no later than November 30th of the year preceding the appropriate Convention.

Reasons for Change:

This will allow additional time for the processing of these proposed changes.

Current Wording:

14. The NHPA shall donate to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation (NHPF) the amount of one dollar (\$1.00) per adult member, per year. **FAILED**

Proposed Change to Wording: (underlined)

14. The NHPA may donate to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation (NHPF) an amount not to exceed one dollar (\$1.00) per adult member, per year as decided by the delegates at the annual Convention.

Reasons for Change: *(to be made if Bylaws Proposal A is not approved).*

NOTE: This Standing Rule will be eliminated if Bylaws Proposal A is approved. If the Proposal does not pass, the word shall will be changed to may if approved by the delegates at the annual Convention.

Current Wording:

Standing Rules last amended December 15, 2014 **PASSED**

Change of Wording: (see underlined)

Standing Rules last amended/ratified on July 23, 2017

Reason for Change:

To provide for the current change of date.