In as much as the sport of horseshoe pitching affords a healthy, scientific, pleasant and competitive sport suitable to all persons, at a cost comparable to other sports and with a desire to unify its adherents, standardize its rules, authorize and conduct State Tournament play, promote the establishment of leagues and associations and encourage development of the sport, we the horseshoe pitchers of Vermont do hereby establish the following Constitution and By-Laws for the association which hence forth shall be known as the Vermont Horseshoe Pitchers Association, hereafter referred to as the VTHPA.

CONSTITUTION

(Established 1983)

ARTICLE I (Name)

The name of this association shall be the Vermont Horseshoe Pitchers Association.

ARTICLE II (Administration)

Section 1

The officers of the VTHPA shall consist of a President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer.

Section 2.

The officers in Section 1 in addition to representatives of each of the NHPA affiliated charters with the state shall constitute the Executive Board of the VTHPA and shall oversee its affairs. They shall be empowered to transact such business in the interest of the sport and the VTHPA as they deem advisable, providing such action is not contrary to the Constitution and the By-Laws of the VTHPA and /or NHPA in specific instances, they may waive any By-Law or rule to better promote the sport.

Section 3.

The officers shall be elected at the annual VTHPA meeting of its members in good standing of the current year and the length of their terms and their duties shall be defined in Article III, Section 2-6.

Section 4.

Robert’s Rule of Order, revised and reading as follows shall govern the order of conducting all meetings

1. Call to order by the President
2. Opening prayer and/or flag salute
3. Moment of silence, when appropriate
4. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting
5. Approval, addition, or corrections of the minutes
6. Reading of the financial report
7. Reading of communications
8. Reading of minutes of any special meeting held since previous annual meeting
9. Report of officers and Executive Board
10. Report of standing and special committees
11. Disbursement of Awards
12. Unfinished Business\*
13. Bids and selection of next year’s State Tournament
14. New Business\*
15. Election of officers
16. Adjournment

\* No member will be permitted to speak on any subject (pro or con) more than twice, and the first time no longer than five (5) minutes and the second time no longer than three (3) minutes, with the exception of a committee report and recommendations and visiting guests who have a message to impart.

Section 5.

In the event of death, resignation or removal of an officer or committee person, the President is empowered to make appointments to fill the unexpired terms, of said appointments to be subject to a majority vote of the Executive Board within thirty (30) days.

Should the office of presidency become vacant for any of the above reasons, the First Vice President shall become the President for the remainder of the term. Normally, the Second Vice President would move up in sequence. In the event any or all decline, the President is empowered to fill the vacant VP office by appointment as defined above.

Section 6.

Any officer may be removed from his/her position upon failure to perform the duties of that office, or for any reason or action that tends to reduce or bring discredit to the efficiency of the VTHPA. Said removal shall be affected only by a majority vote of the Executive Board remaining. Voting may be by registered mail, or e-mail.

Section 7.

The President may appoint any committee and/or chairperson he/she deems advisable for the good of the VTHPA. These committee people, normally from the VTHPA membership shall be under the direction of the President or the appointed chairperson. Their work will normally be accomplished through correspondence. On those occasions of priority or circumstances, the phone may be used or a special meeting, approved by the President, may be called. Issues requiring a vote shall be decided by a simple majority of committee people present if a meeting is called or by majority of all committee members if voting by mail, e-mail or phone.

It shall be the duty of all committee members to serve willingly and in the best interest of the VTHPA. Any committee person may be removed by the President with the majority approval of the Executive Board. Any committee that has be inactive for more than one year or whose specific project has been completed, may be dissolved by the President.

ARTICLE III (Judiciary)

Section 1.

The Annual meeting of the general assembly shall be conducted in conjunction with the State Championship Tournament. The Executive Board shall determine the exact day and time. Special meetings may be held upon petition of one third 1/3 of the membership. The newly elected officers shall take office effective upon completion of the annual meeting.

All VTHPA members shall be notified of the annual meeting or special upcoming meetings no less than (15) days prior to the date of the meeting, annual or special. Notification of special meetings shall contain the agenda for the meeting.

Section 2.

The President shall be the chief executive of the VTHPA, elected for a term of two (2) years, said election to be held on the even numbered years. He/She shall preside at all meetings, when able. He/She has the power to assign specific duties to the other members of the Executive Board. **He/She shall approve all warrants upon the treasury.**

Section 3.

The First Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the event of the absence or disability of the President. He/she shall be elected for a term of two (2) years, said election to be held on odd numbered years. He/she shall be the chairperson of the Awards Committee and the Junior Program.

Section 4.

The Second Vice President shall perform the duties of Publicity and Fund-Raising Coordinator. He/she shall be elected for a term of two (2) years, said election to be held on even numbered years.

Section 5.

The First and Second Vice Presidents shall always perform whatever duties their offices imply and shall be ready and willing to cooperate with the other members of the Executive Board on any matter which may arise. All working together, shall continuously strive to encourage, promote and advance the sport of horseshoes, the NHPA and the harmony of the members and fulfill any duties assigned by the President.

Section 6.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected for a term of two (2) years, said election to be held on the odd numbered years. This staggering of election dates of the officers is for the purpose of enabling each of these officers to have a year’s help by the other officers upon assuming office for the first time.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall be custodian of the records, property, correspondence, books, accounts, printing materials and other documents belonging to the Association, and shall make available, on demand of the Executive Board, all books and records of the Association in his/her possession. **He/she shall prepare and transmit to the President warrants for payment of VTHPA funds.** He/she shall always endeavor to promote harmony and good will within the VTHPA.

The Secretary/Treasurer, in his/her capacity as Treasurer, shall be the custodian of the funds of the VTHPA. He/she shall furnish a complete statement of monies received and paid out at each annual meeting and/or anytime the Executive Board demands.

Section 7.

Upon completion of the annual meeting, all outgoing officers shall relinquish to their successors, all records and property of VTHPA which are in their possession. Liability for missing property shall be determined by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IV (Membership)

Any reputable person may become a member of the NHPA and VTHPA upon payment of annual dues, as designated by the By-Laws, to the State Secretary/Treasurer or his officially approved agent or agents. This fee entitles membership in the NHPA and VTHPA **for one year as per the NHPA membership rules.**

Juniors may join the NHPA and VTHPA by payment of a reduced fee, as so designated by the By-Laws. If the fee is lower, those Juniors who pay the lower fee will not be counted when computing a Charter’s delegate strength.

It is mandatory that all VTHPA Executive Board members, officers of the VTHPA organization and officers of individual charters be member of the NHPA and VTHPA.

ARTICLE V (Amendments)

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members in good standing present at the annual meeting. Proposed constitutional amendments cannot be considered or voted upon unless the notice of the annual meeting contains a statement of the specific changes to be proposed.

**BY-LAWS**

ARTICLE VI (By-Laws)

Section 1.

The rules of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA) shall govern in all cases not specially states in these By-Laws.

Section 2.

1. A member may be suspended for:
2. Non-payment of dues or fees;
3. Willfully violating the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules of Regulations;
4. Participating in a tournament under an assumed name, or being found guilty of a fraud, fixing games or other conduct unbecoming a member;
5. Directly or indirectly betting on a contestant, or self, when an entry in the competition;
6. Using unsanctioned shoes in a tournament.

**For all but the first of the above violations, a member may be suspended for a period of one year,** and the Secretary of the VTHPA shall notify all state charters as well as the Executive Board, of said suspension.

1. Members suspended for non-payment of dues or fees shall be reinstated upon payment of back dues or fees. Those members guilty of the other violations listed in Article VI, Section 2, shall be suspended for one year, and may be reinstated any time after that, at the discretion of the Executive Board, the majority vote of which is required.
2. No member shall be suspended until given a fair hearing before the Executive Board or by a committee appointed by same.

Section 3.

In tournament competition the wins and losses and all statistics accumulated shall remain in the books for a pitcher who must forfeit one or more games due to illness or any other reason. A pitcher may miss any number of games due to illness or other legitimate reasons and still be permitted to return to competition. Illness must be verified by doctor and if a pitcher forfeits for an unapproved reason, the pitcher will not be allowed to return to competition and will forfeit all prize money. The VTHPA officers may suspend a pitcher for forfeiting without good reason. Any person who forfeits games shall finish wherever his/her record puts him/her in the standing unless he/her forfeits for unapproved reasons; then he/she finishes last.

Section 4.

A membership card is a combined State-National card. To be entitled to this card and enjoy its privileges a member must pay the State dues, **as set forth by the membership at the annual meetings, in addition to the amount set forth by the NHPA for the New England Newsletter** and the amount set forth by the NHPA.

Junior members shall not be subjected to any State dues but must pay any fees set forth by the NHPA, **unless voted by the membership that VTHPA pay the NHPA fees.**

Section 5.

The Executive Board is composed of the elected VTHPA officers and representatives elected from each local club. There will be two representatives from each of the local clubs recognized by the State Association. No club will have more than three votes on the board. The duties of the Board, in addition to those in Article II, Section 2, are as follows.

1. State Tournament. Accept bids for the site of the tournament. Present summary of bids to the general membership, at the annual meeting, for their selection. The Board may, at its discretion, make recommendations as to the choice of site. Should selected host club default on its bid, the Board is empowered to select an alternate site. Discuss and take appropriate action on grievances and suggestions of VTHPA members, Notify the person(s) concerned as to the action taken and decision rendered.
2. The board may, at its discretion, have the President appoint other VTHPA members to assist the officers in the performance of their duties.
3. The Board shall distribute a calendar of tournament being held throughout New England.
4. The Board will be responsible for the conduct of the State Tournament. It will determine methods of play in all classes and divisions, with the concurrence and advice of the host club. It will be empowered to change announced method of play if conditions warrant.
5. A quorum for board meetings shall consist of not less than 2 State Officers and **2 representatives from the local charters/clubs** providing a simple majority of the Executive Board is present. Should a problem arise requiring Board action and a meeting cannot be held, the President may communicate with all Board members in writing **and/or e-mail** stating the problem and poll the members on their choice of action. Upon completion of the poll, he/she will inform all the members of the result.

Section 6.

1. State Tournament

The State Tournament will be held annually, **as set by the Executive Board so as not to conflict with the World Tournament,** in August. It will be open to all VTHPA members **and closed to out of State NHPA members.**

The site of the tournament will be selected one (1) in advanced, on a rotational basis, at the annual meeting. Bids for the tournament will be submitted orally or in writing to the Executive Board prior to the annual meeting. Host club is required to have enough clay courts to conduct the tournament in two (2) days. Artificial lighting acceptable. Restrooms, water and concession be available during the entire tournament. In case of emergency, a telephone or some means of communications be available nearby.

VTHPA cannot be held responsible for any injury incurred during a tournament, by a player. **Local clubs to be responsible for liability coverage.**

**Entry fees for the State Tournament shall be set by Executive Board.**

**Prizes.** There will be three or more suitable awards in each class of at least six (6) players.

**Classes.** All classes will consist of 8 persons where possible. Class A (men and women) to be the top eight (8) averages established by current available information, **with the exception of the total class size and current percentages which can be down sized to no less than 4 players per class**. Players in lower classes will be classified according to previous tournament percentages. **An adult player must have played a minimum of one sanctioned tournament prior to the tournament.**

All National rules and regulations to prevail. Men and Women A divisions to be forty (40) points, other classes may vary. A card or notice to be sent to each player giving his or her acceptance and class and playing time.

No alcoholic beverages/drugs on courts.

The Executive Board will be responsible for comprising the entry applications, distribution, receiving entries, setting classes, prizes and tournament conduct.

It is requested that a buffer zone be installed for the safety of spectators.

Women & Junior Classes - Due to the limited active membership of woman and junior players, classes shall be established as follows.

If six (6) or less entries, all players will participate in one class.

If seven (7) or more entries are received, 2 or more classes shall be allowed with respect to player’s averages providing that no class will have less than 3 players.

A level, hard standing surface (pitching platform) will be provided for woman players.

1. Pre state tournament shall be held annually **prior to the state tournament** in adherence with those provisions set forth previously under state tournament with exceptions as follow.
2. Tournament shall be conducted by the host club
3. In addition to the tournament fee, a $1.00 charge, **per adult player,** will be included for the VTHPA general fund.

Section 7.

1. The Wendell Burnham Award, now given annually in memory of the late Wendall Burnham shall be awarded at the annual meetings.

Criteria for this award shall be set forth in a separate outline.

1. The VTHPA Hall of Fame Award(s) shall be presented to the inductees, if any, at the annual meeting.

Criteria for this award shall be set forth in a separate outline.

Section 8.

Allocations and Reimbursements.

1. VTHPA representative who attends the NHPA convention to be awarded $25.00
2. The VTHPA State Champions-Man & Woman will be reimbursed the entry fee for the World Championship if they attend.
3. The VTHPA state Champions-Boy & Girl & Cadet – the parents will be reimbursed the entry fee for the World Championship if they attend

REVISED\_\_\_\_\_\_2019\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONS TO BY-LAWS**

AUGUST 1998 - WAIVE VTHPA DUES FOR PITCHERS 65 AND OLDER WITH 5 CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP, AND TO GRANT FREE ENTRY TO THE VT. STATE TOURNAMENT TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO ARE 65 YEARS OLD OR OLDER AND HAVE 5 CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE VTHPA. (Furthermore, allow eligible members to decide whether to take the discount or not)

AUGUST 2000 - ADULT PLAYERS TO PAY SCOREKEEPERS $1.00 PER GAME

AUGUST 2008 - VTHPA TO PAY JUNIOR MEMBERS NHPA DUES

AUGUST 2011 – VOTED TO CHANGE THE STATE MEETING TIME FROM 12:00 PM TO 8:00 AM; STARTED 2012

AUGUST 2012 - SET ASIDE $1500.00 TO SUPPORT THE JUNIOR PLAYERS THAT ARE ATTENDING THE WORLD TOURNAMENT; TO BE DISTRIBUTED AT $500.00 PER YEAR. TO REALLOCATE THE $1.00 TO GO INTO THE JUNIOR FUND (AS THE NEHPA WILL NO LONGER BE PRINTING AND MAILING THE NEW ENGLAND NEWSLETTER)

AUGUST 2013 - SEND $100.00 ANNUALY TO THE NHPF

AUGUST 2017 - INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TOURNAMENTS TO TWO (2) IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR STATES, (STARTING AFTER THE STATE TOURNAMENT OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR)

AUGUST 2018 - NO DOGS (PETS) ALLOWED AT STATE TOURNAMENTS. MINUTES OF THE STATE MEETING TO BE POSTED BY MAIL/E-MAIL/WEBSITE. TOURNAMENT SITE FROM NOW AND ALL FUTURE STATE TOURNAMENTS TO BE HELD AT THE SODBUSTERS HSC. 50/50 RAFFLE TO ROTATE EACH YEAR TO OTHER THREE (3) LOCATIONS. NO ENTRY WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PAYMENT FOR THE STATE TOURNAMENT

Criteria for Wendell Burnham Award:

Awarded to a person that is a player or non-player with a minimal of five (5) years; who shows dedication, sportsmanship, enthusiasm, willing to help and love of the game.

Criteria for Hall of Fame:

Pitcher – awarded to a person that has played in Class A with a minimal of five (5) years of VTHPA membership, sportsmanship, and dedication to the sport.

Organizer – awarded to a person who has administered, promoted and/or organized horseshoe pitching activities for a minimal of five (5) years.

Organizer/Pitcher – same as above.