

Minutes from October 25, 2025 INHPA State Meeting

Officers attending were: Sam Payne, Jim Hinton, Sharon Chiddister, Dwight Silvers, Jeff Simpson, Troy Percy, and Bill Hurley.

Meeting Overview

- The meeting was the State Horseshoe Association gathering held on October 25, 2025.
- The 2024 minutes were read and approved; the financial report was tabled for further review by the audit committee.

Key Decisions & Discussions

- **Audit Committee:** A new audit committee consisting of Dwight Silvers & Troy Percy was appointed by Sam Payne to review the 2025 state tournament budget and INHPA balance sheet.
- **State Tournament:**
 - The State Tournament Committee sets up the State Tournament in accordance with the INHPA Bylaws. The State Tournament Committee consists of the Regional Director, the INHPA President, Secretary/Treasurer, & State Tournament Site Directors (both Kokomo & Frankfort).
 - Prize money distribution may be adjusted based on participant numbers.
 - Participation decline was attributed to State Tournament location and the number of clubs participating.
 - A \$2 per pitcher increase was implemented for State tournament funds.
 - Concerns raised about pitching conditions and court spacing.
- **Executive Council:**
 - Sam Payne stated the council had previously voted to hold the 2025 state meeting on the second weekend in October, but somehow the date was changed without clear communication, prompting calls for better adherence to council decisions.

Reports & Recognitions

- **Regional Officers & Treasurer:** Reports were given, with some pending financial details that Troy Percy and Sharon Chiddister would review.
- **Hall of Fame:** Jim Hinton was inducted into the Hall of Fame. -Chuck Wothke stated that Jeff & Debbie Huth have been running Tournaments for years. Sam Payne told Chuck Wothke to go ahead and write up their nominations and enter them into the INHPA Hall of Fame as well. The vote for their Induction into the Hall of Fame passed unanimously.

NHPA Membership Patches: Members were recognized for milestone years (10, 20, 30, 40 years).

- **10 Year:** Dwight Silvers, Debbie Huth, Brian Conner, Jerry Archer, Roger Brown, Jr, Charlene Brown
- **20 Year:** Sharon Chiddister
- **30 Year:** Ron Womack
- **40 Year:** Dale E. Stephenson

Tournament & Rules Updates

- **World Tournament:** Indiana had a team in the first World doubles tournament.
- **Rule Changes:**
 - Junior competitors can pitch at 30 feet if under 18.
 - Contestants must complete all assigned games for tournament credit.
- **Bylaws Changes (All Additions are shown in Red):**
 - **Article III: Membership, Section 4:** Added “These fees have been waived by the NHPA”
 - **Article V: OFFICERS, Section 5c, Removal from Office:** Added “President, 1st Vice President, Central District Vice President, Northwest District Vice President, Northeast District Vice President, South District Vice President. Any officer being removed will be excluded from the voting process and from the committee meeting.”

- **Article VI: STANDING COMMITTEES, Section 1: Added the following words that are shown in red:** “The Standing Committees of the INHPA shall be: Bylaws, Audit **Committee**, Hall of Fame, and **Medical Exemption Committee**”
- **Article VIII, SECTION 8 is changed to:** “**Entry forms and Fees for the State Tournament must be paid 2 weeks prior to the date of the tournament.**”
- **Article VIII, Section 9 was previously Section 8:** Men, Women, Elders champions and the Regional Director will each be given ~~\$150.00~~ **\$175.00** towards their expenses at the next World Tournament provided they pitch as an INHPA member.
- **Article VIII, Section 10 is added:** “**In Championship Classes there will be an empty court between pitchers if there is 8 ft or less between pitching boxes.**”
- **Article IX: ALL OTHER INHPA TOURNAMENTS, Section 4 is revised with changes/additions shown in red:** “Tournament fees will be ~~\$16~~ **\$18** for outdoor and ~~\$20~~ **\$22** for indoor tournaments. Indoor tournaments will pay \$1 per pitcher to the tournament director and \$5 to the indoor facility to cover expenses. Outdoor tournaments will pay \$1 to the tournament site and \$1 to the tournament director. **An additional \$2 will be collected per pitcher for facility maintenance and paid to the INHPA Secretary.** The remaining \$14 will be distributed as shown in the following table: **(Note: The Table that is in Section 4 is not shown here as there were no changes to it.)** The scorekeeping fee is \$1 per game to be collected and paid to the scorekeepers. Tournament classes should be even numbered 8, 6, 4 as much as possible. **Upon moving divisions, player must throw 100 shoes on a sanctioned court to establish the new handicap. This must be witnessed by 2 INHPA members who need to sign the scoresheet.**
- **Article IX, Section 5c: Changes/additions shown in red:** “**ELDERS:** at least ~~70~~ **65** years old anytime during the calendar year. The Elder’s Division may include any age man with a verified physical handicap.”
- **Added Article IX, Section 5f ELDER Woman-**at least 60 years old anytime during the calendar year can move up to 27 – 20 feet
- **Article IX, Section 5(g) was previously Section 5(f):** JUNIOR BOYS AND GIRLS-any who will be 18 years old or less for the entire calendar year in which the tournament is played.
- **Article IX, Section 13:** Modified the wording where shown in red: “Entry fees must be paid in advance for all bid tournaments **including the State Tournament.**”

- **Article IX, Section 14:** Modified the wording where shown in red: “All pitchers must wear shoes and shirts with their last name, **city and state** on the back of their shirts. **All contestants competing in any NHPA/INHPA Tournament shall have, as a minimum, their last name and State or County abbreviation professionally lettered on the back of their shirts. Lettering must be 1 – 2 inches in height and needs to be professionally applied.** Said shirts cannot be sleeveless.
- **Article XII SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS, Section 3:** Added the wording shown in red: “Statistics (Results Summary from HSMaster) will be returned to the INHPA Statistician and Regional Director immediately following the tournament. **Tournament results must be uploaded to eShoes, not more than 7 days after the tournament date.**”

Bylaws changes were approved by majority vote.

Bylaws vs. Rules Debate

Main Points of Discussion:

- **Distinction Between Bylaws and Rules:**
 - Several members expressed concern that some items (especially financial policies and operational details) should be in the “rules” rather than the “bylaws.”
 - Bylaws are considered more permanent and harder to change (require membership vote, only at state meetings), while rules can be modified by the executive committee for flexibility.
 - Examples discussed included tournament fees and operational procedures, which might need to change more frequently than bylaws allow.
- **Arguments Presented:**
 - Some felt that putting too many details in the bylaws makes the organization less adaptable.
 - Others argued that bylaws should contain only the most essential, foundational policies, while rules should cover day-to-day operations and details that may change year to year.
 - There was confusion about whether INHPA had a separate set of rules apart from the bylaws; some members had never seen a distinct rulebook.

- **Resolution:**

- After extensive debate, a motion was made and passed to establish a **combined Bylaws & Rules Committee**. The voting for this motion was unanimous.
- This committee will review all governance documents, clarify what belongs in bylaws versus rules, and propose changes to ensure the organization is both stable and flexible.
- The committee will report back at the next state meeting, and any changes to bylaws will still require membership approval.

Financial & Host Club Issues

- Debate over the \$500 host club fee for the state tournament, with suggestions to use collected funds instead of charging clubs directly.

Elections

- Officers were elected for various positions, including President (Sam Payne), South Vice President (Jeff Simpson), Northeast Vice President (Dwight Silvers) and Statistician (Dwight Silvers).

Closing

- The meeting concluded with calls for increased membership and recognition of contributions.
- The next steps include committee work on rules and bylaws, and ongoing financial and tournament planning.