

***The Porter Central Horseshoe League Rules
Men's Division - 2011***

League

1. *The League will exist as a joint organization of a men's and a women's division of the Porter Central Horseshoe League with separate boards and rules but joint social events.*

Board

1. *The Board is the governing body of the League.*
2. *The Board will consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, all team captains, and up to three other appointed members of the league. Three members of the Board will remain on the Board from one season to the next season. Any designated player can be acting captain in the absence of the Captain.*
3. *Beginning with the 2009 season, any member wishing to run for office must notify the secretary of the position/s they are seeking by the end of the regular pitching season. A list of candidates will be distributed during the round robin, and a balloted election will be held at the Banquet. The results will be announced at the banquet, and the officers will take office starting with the March meeting.*
4. *The Board must receive a financial report at the end of the playing season. The Board will plan a budget for the following year. The Board must approve all financial expenditures.*
5. *A majority of three or more is a legal majority vote by the Board members.*
6. *The Board will allot money from the treasury for a season picnic, awards, and other incidentals.*
7. *A League officer cannot be a team captain.*

Awards

1. *There will be one overall season champion for the entire season; this team will receive a trophy for their sponsor. .*
2. *Beginning with the 2004 season, the League will be scheduled with two divisions based on the previous year's final division standing. Sponsors trophies and player awards will be given to the first place teams of each division.*
3. *Beginning with the 1999 Season In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken by a 12 game re-match and must be played the following playing night (i.e. Tues., Thurs.) on a neutral court.*
4. *Beginning with the 2002 Season players must pitch at least six nights to be eligible for any league awards, unless a special team exception is filed with the Board.*

5. *Beginning with the 2004 season the League will have a season final round robin division tournament. Awards will be given for winners based on the value of the Round Robin playing fees. The World Series of the two division season champions will be decided by the number of game POINTS won based on the 17 pt. game system.*
6. *Beginning with the 2009 season, awards will be either clothing or cash equivalent decided by each winning team.*

Courts

1. *The team is responsible for the sponsor's courts and shall have them in playable condition before the game.*
2. *Reconditioning and covering the pits are the home team responsibility after each night of play.*
3. *Players must purchase their beverages (mixed drinks, beer, pop, etc.) at the courts they are playing at, with the exception of the sponsor's approval. FIRST OFFENSE - Two weeks suspension. SECOND OFFENSE - suspension for the remainder of the playing season.*
4. *All games must be played on sponsored courts*
5. *Beginning with the 1997 playing season horseshoe stakes should be painted white with dark backboards.*
6. *Beginning at midway of 2007 playing season, horseshoe stakes will be a MINIMUM of 13 inches, measured from the approaches. If a court does not meet this minimum before the first game is played, the opposing team has the option to play the match on another court.*

Fees, Score sheets and Scoreboards

1. *Beginning with the 2001 Season the playing fee will be \$4.00 per playing pitcher for the leagues treasury. It is the team captain's responsibility to insure the money is collected.(Fees are collected even for forfeits)*
2. *Beginning with the 2010 playing season, each team is responsible for paying the full \$32 each night, regardless of how many players pitch. If a team does not collect all fees, the team will forfeit all matches.*
3. *Each sponsor will donate \$75.00 as a sponsor's fee each season.*
4. *Sponsors fees are due one week after the start of the season, after one week a \$25 late fee will be assessed. Sponsors will be sent invoices for the fee prior to the season start.*
5. *It will be the visiting team captain's responsibility to deliver the money and score sheet to the League drop site within twenty-four hours. The visiting team is responsible for picking up the new percentages and standings and bringing them for Tuesday's games.*
6. *Beginning with the 2000 Season it will be permissible, at the Home teams' discretion to use scoreboards during a game.*

Field Rules

1. *The visiting team must schedule and field their players first and play must begin no later than 6:30 pm.*
2. *Choice of first team to pitch shall be determined by the "mudding of shoes". The player's partner that was awarded points on the first pitch will throw first from the opposite pitching box. If no points were awarded the last team to pitch will go next.*
3. *Eight men complete a pitching team. Two men complete a set. After a set has started play there will be no changes made to the set unless a player becomes sick or because of an emergency. In this case the game will start over with new players.*
4. *Each game will consist of 52 shoes thrown by each team (26 shoes by each man). A tie will be decided by a SUDDEN DEATH playoff in which all four players will complete their throws and the total points thrown will break the tie or continue with all four players again until the tie is broken.*
5. *A ringer is decided when a shoe encircles the stake far enough to allow the touching of both heel caulks of the shoe simultaneously with a straight edge.*
6. *A point is decided if it is the closest shoe to the stake and if it is within a distance of a horseshoe from the stake. This is determined by hooking another shoe around the stake at the caulks and touching the point shoe. Any shoe of greater distance from the stake has no point value.*
7. *Any contestant, while his opponent is in the pitching position, shall neither remark nor make any movement that might interfere with his opponent's play.*
8. *Foul shoes will be removed from the opposite pitcher's box at the request of the opponent.*
9. *When a shoe lands in fair territory and is broken into separate parts, it will be removed and the contestant be allowed to pitch another shoe in its place.*
10. *An official shoe shall not exceed 7-1/4 inches in width, 7-5/8 inches in length, and shall not weigh more than 2 pounds and 10 ounces.*
11. *Beginning with the 2010 season any player reaching 70 years of age or older before the **end of the year** can pitch from a distance of thirty feet or greater. The player must declare his choice at the beginning of the season and retain that choice for the remainder of the season. Players must provide proof of age to the Board. All new 30 ft pitchers will be treated as a new player with regards to their average.*
12. *Beginning with the 2003 season anyone under the age of 70 can pitch from less than 40 ft. only with legal proof of disability. A grandfather clause will apply to existing 30 ft. pitchers prior to the 2003 season. Beginning with the 2007 season all new 30 ft pitchers will be treated as a new player with regards to their average.*
13. *Beginning with the 2000 season, the south pits will be designated as the #1 pits*
14. *Beginning with the 2001 season the League will use the "17 Point" system in totaling the points won*

for the nights play. One point for each game won, one for each of the four best match scores, and one point for the best overall team score for the night.

Forfeits and Designated Pitcher Rule*

1. *Beginning with the 2011 playing season if either or both teams cannot field a complete set of players (short two players) there will be no forfeit - all games will be played with the necessary designated pitcher(s). If either or both teams cannot field a partial set (short three players) 3 games will be forfeited by either or both team, etc (Only two designated pitchers per team). Playing fees are not collected for forfeits. (Only two designated pitchers per team and would be used if the team has 7, 6, 5, 4 or 3 players). **Playing fees are collected for forfeits.***
2. *Beginning with the 2011 playing season, a designated pitcher will be defined as a player pitching 2 matches with two different partners on the same pit. Rule 4 still applies. **Designated pitchers can be used when a team has less than a full team (8 players). You are allowed 2 designated pitchers per night. One player against another team and walking back and forth is not allowed.***
3. *Beginning with the 2011 playing season if only one team has a forfeit (five players or less) that team will lose the team point. However, if both teams have a forfeit than the team point will be decided as usual.*
4. *Beginning with the 1998 Season any player with a percentage of over 30% cannot participate in designated pitcher.*

**for the 2010 season, this rule has not changed except for the fee collection. It has only been better clarified. The term “walking” has been replaced with “designated pitcher”.*

Percentages and Handicap

1. *The League will play with a 102 percent handicap of the difference between the two opposing team percentages. (Dividing ringers by .8 based on percent of 78 shoes thrown).*
2. *Beginning with the 1999 Season all new players will establish a percentage after their first three games have been played. Percentages will change with the regular weekly percentages on the following week.*
3. *Established players beginning season percentages are carried over from the previous season final percentages. Beginning with the 2011 season, established players percentages will not change until they have completed six nights of pitching.*

Scorekeeping, Postponements, and Protests

1. *The scorekeeper is the field judge and the scorekeeper decision is final during play. A scorekeeper must be a team player or an approved person. During playoffs a team member must keep score.*
2. *Inclement weather or the result of inclement weather will be the only reason for postponement of a scheduled game.*

3. *Beginning in the mid 2011 season. Regardless of the weather before the start of a night, both teams must have a full team prepared to play. If a team has less than 6 players available on the scheduled night their forfeits will carry over to the make up night. If by 7:00 pm the weather has not cleared, the captains will decide on a makeup night.*
4. *The two captains involved can postpone a game because of inclement weather. Scoresheets with all players listed must be made out prior to postponement. If the postponed game was not finished a new game will begin. Games that have been completed will not be replayed. The same players will be used if possible but substitute players may be used if the original players are not available.*
5. *Notification of postponement must be given to the League Secretary by both captains involved. The postponed game must be made up within seven days, after seven days the Board will schedule a time and place for the make-up game.*
6. *All protests or disputes must be done so during the game in which it occurs. This must be filed in writing with the Board within twenty four hours after the alleged grievance occurred.*

Secretary

1. *Beginning with the 2000 season the Secretary will receive thirty-five cents per player for each night of play, including playoffs.*

Schedule

1. *The Secretary will submit playing schedules. This schedule will, as near as possible, allow all courts an equitable number of games.*
2. *Beginning with the 2001 season all games played will count towards the division championship, as well as, the overall season champion. (See Awards, Rule 1).*
3. *Beginning with the 2011 season teams will play their own division 2/3 of the year and the other division 1/3 of the year.*

Sportsmanship

1. *Any player repeatedly violating rules or guilty of un-sportsmanlike conduct may be barred from further competition in the contest.*

Teams and Membership

1. *Team members will elect all team captains.*

2. *There will be a twenty-man roster limit.*
3. *All members must be twenty-one years of age and male.*
4. *Beginning with the 2011 season, trading of players is allowed with the consent of three impartial Board members. No roster changes can be made one week after the picnic.*
5. *Beginning with the 2000 season transferred players must be on the team's weekly roster prior to playing.*
6. *Beginning with the 2000 season changes to FULL rosters must be submitted prior to a new player playing on that teams roster.*
7. *Beginning with the 2000 season all players are required to purchase a membership card. As of the 2006 season, membership cards must be purchased the first night the member pitches.*
8. *Beginning with the 2008 season, membership cards will cost \$3.00. All money collected from the membership cards will be used to purchase awards for membership card drawings at the banquet.*
9. *Beginning with the 2010 season, new teams that would like to enter the league must be approved by a majority vote of the Board.*

Treasurer

1. *Beginning with the 2000 season the Treasurer will receive twenty-five cents per player for each night of play, including playoffs.*

Rules and Rule Changes

1. *All rules not covered in these rules will be played by the National Horseshoe Pitching Association Rules.*
2. *Beginning with the 2002 season new rules or changing of rules will be done by Board members only after all teams present at the meeting have voted on those rule changes.*

Revised and approved April 10, 2011

jai2/secretary