

Basic Rules Hand Out

Introduction

- Horse shoe pitching can be both recreational and competitive, also co-recreational activity.
- National Horseshoe Pitchers Association was formed in 1921.
- Players alternate in throwing shoes, with the player that scored one or more points on the previous pitch throwing first.
- In singles play the players move from stake to stake after each throw, but in doubles one partner is stationed at each stake and makes all throws from there.
- Winner is first player or team to score 21 points. 50 points is the official tournament competition.
- A ringer is when a shoe encircles the stake.

Playing Area and Equipment

- The official horse shoe court is 50 by 10 feet with one inch metal stakes 40 ft apart (30 ft for women and juniors).
- Stakes centered in a 6 by 6 foot pitchers box.
- Metal or indoor rubber horse shoes may be used with wooden stakes.
- An official shoe should not exceed 7.25 inches in width and 7.675 inches in length. Should weigh no more than 2 lb 10 oz. The opening can be no more than 3.5 in from point to point.

Basic Rules

- Game is divided into innings, each player pitches two shoes per inning. Game last 25 innings.
- A shoe that has left the pitchers hand is ruled a pitched shoe.
- The pitchers opponent must stand behind the person pitching, may not walk to the opposite stake until the inning is completed.
- Any fouls committed receives no point value. Fouls include;
 - Illegal delivery of the shoe.
 - Failure of the opponent to stay behind the pitcher.
 - Touching thrown shoes before a measurement has been made.
 - Only the shoes that land in the pitchers box will be counted for points.
 - Stepping on or over the foul line.
 - Ties are broken by pitching an extra inning(s).

Scoring

- The shoe nearest to the stake scores one point providing it is within 6 in of the stake.
- Two shoes closer than an opponents shoe scores two points.

- One ringer scores three points, two ringers is six points(double ringer).
- A player having two ringers to one by his opponent scores three points (one cancels the other out).
- All shoes equally distant from the stake count as ties, and no points are scored.
- A leaning shoe (leaner) has the same value as that of a shoe lying on the ground and in contact with the stake.

Safety

- Stand well away from the pitching court when not involved.
- Be aware of people around you when swinging the horseshoe. Pitch only in the designated area.
- If setting up courts for a class, make sure there is adequate distance between courts to compensate for erratic throws of beginners.