DEEP RIVER HORSESHOE LEAGUE

MISSION STATEMENT

League members and league substitutes gather every Thursday from April through August at the Deep River Green for the purpose of playing organized horseshoes. We continue to be part of the Deep River Community.

RULES AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I: **NAME**

a. Deep River Horseshoe League (DRHL)
    1. The First Congregational Church of Deep River has granted the use of the property adjacent to the church known as the "unofficial town green" to be used by the league membership.
    2. The league was founded in 1955.
    3. The league is not a sanctioned league but may follow the National Horseshoe Pitching Association (NHPA) guidelines and rules. The Executive Board will resolve all disparities or concerns.

ARTICLE II: **MEMBERSHIP**

a. Membership is open to anyone interested in participating in the sport and furthering its development.
b. The league consists of three (3) divisions.
c. (Men's Division) (no age restrictions) shall pitch from on or behind the full-distance platforms and shall observe the thirty-seven (37') foul line.
d. (Elder Men's division) Men over 70 years old may pitch from any place on either the extended or full distance platforms and shall observe the twenty-seven-foot (27') foul line.
e. Men must notify any member of the Executive Board in advance of the season start date to begin pitching from Elder Men's shorter distance at start of the season. Men reaching 70 years of age during the season play may pitch at the Elders platforms at start of season. In the case of an injury or health issues, an exception will be made, and the league member may move any time during the season.
f. (Women's Division) Women contestants may pitch from any place on either the extended or full distance platforms and shall observe the twenty-seven foot (27') foul line.
g. The league consists of up to eighteen teams of three players each.
h. Each team will have an "A", "B", and "C" player.
i. Determination of which category is based on the individual's average.

j. The League Statistician/Public Information Officer will use the previous year's averages for returning members in developing a balance among teams.
k. Dues:
    1. Dues will be reviewed yearly and established by the Executive Board
    2. Dues will be voted on by the league membership in attendance at the league's annual spring meeting.
    3. All dues are to be payable and collected by the League Treasurer and will be collected by League Members by the third week of play. The Treasurer will inform the Executive Board of members who are delinquent in their payment.
    4. Substitute/Replacement players are exempt from payment of dues.
l. Qualification of New Players/Existing Players:
    1. New players must establish an average/handicap by pitching four complete games in a real game situation with a current member of the league participating.
    2. New Qualifiers are placed on the Substitution List.
    3. Re-Qualification is required when changing distance in the pitching area.
h. Leave of Absence
    1. Any member in good standing that requires a Leave of Absence for up to one full season of play without losing a position of seniority within the league.
    2. The request will be made to the Executive Board for review.
    3. Emergency Leave during season play will not count as part of full season.
    4. Payment of dues is required during a Leave of Absence to maintain membership in good standing. Failure to maintain good standing would place the member on the sub list.
    5. The Executive Board and members requiring Leave of Absence will coordinate payment of dues.
    6. Members returning from Leave of Absence must requalify before the start of season play.

ARTICLE III: **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

a. The Executive Board will consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Substitute Coordinator and League Statistician/Public Information Officer.
b. A League Statistician/Public Information Officer is appointed by the consensus of the Executive Board annually at the fall meeting and is a non-voting member of the board.
c. Members of the Executive Board will serve for a period of two (2) years.
d. Elections for Executive Board members will be held every year. Odd years for President, Secretary, and Treasurer; even years for Vice President and Substitute Coordinator. The Board will ask for nominations/volunteers.
e. Elections are being held at our fall meeting as set by the Executive Board. Members are encouraged to submit nominations in advance of the elections.
f. Executive Board positions are held from fall meeting to fall meeting.
g. The Executive Board will meet annually prior to the spring meeting.
    1. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the upcoming schedule, team player assignments, status of finances and upcoming expenses, proposed dues for the year, issues to be discussed or requiring a vote at the annual spring meeting.
h. The elected Officers shall constitute the League Executive Board and may act on behalf of the league in all league concerns.

i. The Executive Board members will be the Grievance Committee.
j. If an Executive Board member relinquishes his or her duties during the year and can no longer hold the position of league officer, the Executive Board will select a replacement for the balance of the term.

k. Duties of the Officers:
   1. President
      a) Shall preside at all League meetings.
      b) Be responsible administrator for all business of the League.
      c) Schedule a time and location for the annual spring meeting
      d) Coordinate with the Church in support of their use of the property for Church or Town events, i.e., Rummage Sale, Farmer's Market, Deep River Muster
      e) Coordinate dates for pit maintenance prior to the start of the season.
      f) Coordinate the qualification of new members/substitutes.
      g) Appoint committee members for league functions.
   2. Vice-President
      a) Shall accept the duties of the President in his absence.
      b) Provide support to the President to carry out League business.
   3. Secretary
      a) Shall record the minutes of all formal League meetings.
      b) Maintain a record of all meetings and correspondence.
      c) As Curator maintains all league official documents.
   4. Treasurer
      a) Shall collect, dispense, and act as custodian for all League funds.
      b) Shall collect dues from all League Members
      c) Shall provide a financial report at all League meetings.
      d) Is empowered to pay for annual expenses during the year to include:
         1) Insurance
         2) Porta-Pottie Rental
         3) Website
         4) Post Office box
         5) Horseshoe pit maintenance
         6) Church Donations
         7) Expenses associated with the Annual Picnic
         8) Expenses for Awards
         9) Public Service Donations
   5. Substitute Coordinator
      a) Shall maintain a list of all available substitutes for weekly play.
      b) Assign substitutes in the order of requests received.
      c) Match subs according to closest average.
      d) Assign replacement players during the season.
   6. Requests for replacement players to be made to any league officer only.
   7. The Substitute Coordinator and League Statistician will choose a replacement player from the substitute list based on these considerations (average, years substituting, games played this season, and willing to remain on a team for the rest of the season.)

Once the substitute player is placed on a team to complete the season, he becomes a Replacement Player returning to the top of substitute list at end of season and first to become a league member.

8. League Statistician/Public Information Officer
   a) Develop the league schedule of play.
   b) Develop the list of teams.
   c) Maintain and update the league results and statistics following each week of play.
   d) Weekly provide the Substitute Coordinator with a current list of available substitutes
   e) Maintain the league website: https://www.deepriverhorseshoes.com.
   f) Utilize various social media.
   g) Maintain league history by digital media.

ARTICLE IV: **DAY AND TIME OF PLAY**

a. The First day of season play will be the last Thursday in April
b. Play is scheduled for every Thursday until the completion of the schedule.
c. Mondays are reserved as makeup days due to weather.
d. The official start time for play will be 5:15 PM.
e. Past 5:15 pm to facilitate time and promote safe play, games will commence whenever enough players from each team are present regardless of the order.

ARTICLE V: **METHOD OF PLAY**

a. Method of scoring is Count-All Scoring. Contestants receive credit for all their shoes that are scored in each inning. Each contestant can score one, two, three, four, or six points in each inning. N.H.P.A. rules will be used, including determination of a "LEGAL" shoe.
b. Games start on the South Pit. On the North pit players will follow their partners South follow opponent. Warmup will consist of four shoes, two down and backs per (NHPA).
c. When not pitching, contestants shall stand behind the opponent pitching or behind backstop.

ARTICLE VI: **TEAMS**

a. Teams will consist of three players known as A-B-C. The "A" player shall be the team captain.
b. The number of teams shall be determined by the number of players in the League but shall not exceed eighteen teams.
c. One regular team member (excluding substitutes) shall constitute eligibility for team play. A forfeit of 6 games is taken when at least one regular team member is not present, or if the one regular team member that is present, decides not to play the match.
d. Each team is responsible for removing trash from the pit they are playing on every week.
e. For each team, the "A" player's shoes will used unless a team decides differently amongst themselves.
f. Players are to provide advance notice of future absences to the team captain and Substitute Coordinator.

g. The Team captains are responsible for reviewing the scoresheet at the end of play to insure it is complete and accurate.
h. League members who exhibit absences of 25% or more during the season may be referred to the Executive Board for review.
i. An Executive Board member will meet with any member that missed more than 25% of the season to be certain the member will not repeat the absences the following season. If the member cannot commit to less than 25% absences for the season the Executive Board will inform the member, he must be placed on the substitute list and lose his membership in the league.
j. "Walking" the shoes is not permitted. This means that only one set of shoes **at a time** may be used by a team during play of a game. However, a team may use shoe type "A" for the first game of play and that **team** may elect to use shoe type "B" in the second game of play, etc.

ARTICLE VII: **SUBSTITUTES/REPLACEMENT PLAYERS**

a. An individual must have an acceptable prior average or play four games to obtain an average. The Executive Board makes the final decision in case of disputes.
b. An authorized substitute can play for any regular League player (A, B, or C), as authorized by the Substitute Coordinator, or in his absence, by a League Officer.
c. When a team loses a team member during the season, the team captain may speak to any league officer and request a replacement player to complete his team for the remainder of the season. Substitutes that have played consistently on the same team shall go to top of substitute list.
d. League members may substitute for any other league team during season play, if no substitutes are available.
e. Replacement players and league members will substitute in playoffs. League players must be as close to 10% of the average pitcher they are subbing for as possible. Substitute players may be used after no regular members are available, replacement players must also be as close to 10% of the players being replaced.

ARTICLE VIII: **SCORING**

a. A pitched shoe must land inside the perimeter of the "PIT", without striking the cement footing or wood edging, or it will not be counted, regardless of the final landing place of that same shoe.
b. The League will use a Handicap scoring method.
c. **Handicap Scoring**:
    1. Each week, the League Statistician/Public Information Officer will provide updated averages and handicaps for all League members and substitutes prior to League play.
       NOTE: The Executive Board has already determined the *upper average number*, which is above the top individual average in the League. The handicap will then be a percentage (%) of the difference between a player's average and the upper average number. Rounding to whole numbers is practiced.
    2. Absent Team Member
        a) **Substitute not available**: In each clipboard there is a sheet titled Handicap Format. This sheet contains columns listing AVG, HCP, and BLIND SCORE. To determine the **blind score** for the scoresheet, locate the missing players average or handicap and look under the BLIND SCORE column for his blind score. **For Example**:

Missing players average is 18 (handicap 32) his blind score for the night is 45. His team Total score for each game would be 45 (32+13=45).

b) **Substitute available**: When a substitute is available there will be no ghost. The substitute's average and handicap are used.

c) **Substitute without a handicap**: Determine the individual's average after the completion of the four games. Go to the Handicap Format sheet in the clipboard to determine the handicap. Enter the handicap on the scoresheet for each of the games and then add to his score to get the total score. **For Example,** the individual pitches a 38 for the four games, his average is 9.5 and you round it up to 10. Go to the Handicap Format sheet in the clipboard, under the AVG column find 10 and under the HCP column his handicap is 39. Add 39 to each of his games scores for the total score.

3. When a blind score is used, it is mandatory for a blind score players' shoes to be pitched back in the normal sequence of game play, to eliminate any advantage to the opposing team member (no walking of shoes).

ARTICLE IX: **RAIN-OUTS/INCLEMENT WEATHER**

a. A (rain-out/darkness/excessive heat) will be determined by any two members of the Executive Board.
b. When Executive Board stops play, all play will stop on all pits immediately.
c. If inclement weather causes play stoppage and less than three games have been completed by the **entire** League, the completed games will be carried over to the following Monday. Makeup play will start after the last complete game and continue to complete the scheduled games.
d. If inclement weather causes play stoppage and three or more games have been completed by the **entire** League, the League will count these games as official.
e. Rain-outs to be played on the following Monday. If Monday rains out those games will continue next Thursday. The regular scheduled games will be played on the following Monday to maintain scheduled game order.
f. A sub who played on a team and the night was called a rain-out, may continue to pitch on the makeup day providing the original team member is not present.

ARTICLE X: **PLAYOFFS**

a. Playoffs will begin on Monday following the completion of league play. Round One on Monday and Round Two on Thursday, and the Champion match on Saturday at 1:00 PM, rain date on Sunday.
b. The top eight teams will make the playoffs.
c. In the event of ties in the standings the team who makes the playoff or who gets the higher seed is resolved by results for the head-to-head matchup and if they both split during the regular season then it is resolved by **total** points (points + handicap).
d. The bracket and seedings for Round One are as follows:
    1. Top Half of bracket: #1 vs #8 and #4 vs #5
    2. Bottom Half of bracket: #3 vs #6 and #2 vs #7
e. Round Two of the Playoffs
    1. Winners in Top Half

2. Winners in Bottom Half

f. Championship Match pits the winners of Round Two against each other.
g. The higher seed has their choice of pits for play.
h. Rounds One and Two are the best of five games and the Championship is best of seven games.
i. In Round One and Two the Order of Play is same as regular season AC, BA, CB, CA and AB and for the Championship match it is AC, BA, CB, CA, AB, BC, AC.
j. In the event of a tie at the end of a game, the game will end as a tie. Half point games will not be counted in the playoffs. The next scheduled games will continue until a clear winner in that playoff round is determined.

ARTICLE XI: **CONDUCT OF LEAGUE MEMBERS**

a. Members should consider that since we are located on church grounds and on the main street of Deep River, they are to be mindful of their actions and words.
b. Members shall be respectful of others, conduct themselves with proper decorum and demonstrate good sportsmanship.
c. Members shall dress appropriately.
d. League members shall address issues of inappropriate behavior/misconduct to any member of the Executive Board.
e. The Executive Board will investigate allegations of unsportsmanlike conduct and if necessary, speak with the player in question. If there is another occurrence the member will be suspended for one season.

ARTICLE XII: **AWARDS**

a. Awards will be presented at the end of each season.
b. The Awards Committee or delegate will present the proposed awards expense to the Executive Board for their approval. The Awards Committee does NOT have the authority to commit League funds without majority consent from the Executive Board.
c. The Awards Committee is empowered to have total freedom of decision on the selection of awards.

ARTICLE XIII: **OUTING/PICNIC/OR PIZZA NIGHTS**

a. During the spring meeting the members in attendance will vote on whether to have a picnic/outing at the end of the season or have pizza several times during game play.
b. An annual picnic/outing will be held at the end of the season, which will be funded by the League. The picnic will be held the second weekend after Labor Day on Saturday or Sunday as determined by the Executive Board.
c. If pizza is voted in at spring meeting, there will be no Picnic/Outing at the end of season.
d. Member dues and donations from a 50/50 raffle will support the outing. Tickets are 8 for $5.00, 5 for $3.00, 3 for $2.00, and 1 for $1.00.

ARTICLE XIV: **DEATH OF A MEMBER**

a. A League donation can be made to a charity in the name of the deceased member, as determined by League officers.

ARTICLE XV**: MISCELLANEOUS**

a. Liability insurance will be provided by the LEAGUE prior to start of season play.

ARTICLE XVI: **LEAGUE SCHEDULE**

a. The annual spring meeting shall take place in March, time and location to be determined and announced by the Executive Board. The purpose of the meeting is to determine upcoming season dues, address any unresolved league issues, appoint committee leaders, and all major events (meetings, picnic, playoffs, awards, pit maintenance, tickets, etc.) During the spring meeting members in attendance will vote to accept or reject the Executive Board's proposed dues amount.
b. The annual fall meeting will be held the following week after the playoffs and picnic. Members in attendance will vote for nominees running for open positions.
c. Following the annual picnic on a date to be determined by the Executive Board the pins from the courts will be removed until the start of next season. If agreed to by the Church, the pins for courts 1, 2, & 3 may be left in but must be covered with a protective device.
d. At the spring and fall meetings all members are encouraged to make proposals for changes to the league. Every proposal will have an open discussion. The secretary will note on the minutes all proposals and members making the proposals. The Executive Board will meet to discuss all proposals and how it will affect the league and league members. If the Executive Board members determine the proposal is not detrimental to the league or its members it will be put out for membership vote. An Executive Board Member will meet with the member who made the proposal to see how he wants to present it. The league statistician will post the proposal on the league website for members to review. After two weeks the League Statistician will place a ballot in the clipboards on each pit. The team captains will ensure teammates vote.

ARTICLE XVII: **COMMITTEES**

Pit Maintenance

Picnic

Award

Bylaws

Tickets

Effective May 07, 2026

Deep River League Officers Signature page

X Tony Cutone 5/7/26

Tony Cutone — Date
League president — Print

X Tony Cutone 5/7/26

Tony Cutone — Date
League President — Signature

X JOSEPH MACHADO 05-07-2026

Joseph Machado — Date
League Vice President — Print

X Joseph Machado 05-07-2026

Joseph Machado — Date
League Vice President — Signature

List Of Revisions

1. Effective Date March 1, 2014
2. Effective Date March 24. 2016
3. Effective Date April 1,2022
4. Effective Date April 1, 2023
5. Effective Date April 1, 2024
6. Effective Date May 07, 2026