



Brampton Men's Horseshoe Club Constitution and By-laws

Fellowship – Sportsmanship – Friendly Competition

PREAMBLE

The Club was formed in 1978 to provide a place, to develop and promote the game of horseshoes and to provide an alternative affordable sport for the citizens of Brampton. Although we play under the Official rules of Horseshoe Canada, we reserve the right to amend some of the rules to suit the playing conditions and the members of our club. Some of these changes are reflected in our by-laws and some are only reinforced. Due to changes over the years this new document will replace the previous Constitutions and By-laws.

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE ONE (NAME)

This Club shall be known as the Brampton Men's Horseshoe Club and hereinafter referred to as the "Club "

- 1) To develop, teach, and promote the game of horseshoes in the City of Brampton.
- 2) To teach sportsmanship and emphasize fair play for all members of the Club.
- 3) To promote Fellowship and Friendly Competition.
- 4) To assist each member in developing his game through individual and team competition.

ARTICLE THREE (MEMBERSHIP)

- 1) Membership of the Club shall consist of such horseshoe players, as shall abide by, and comply with the club and decisions of the club officials who have been duly elected or appointed. Membership will be open to the public; Minimum age requirement being 19 years of age.
- 2) Membership fees shall be set at the Annual General Meeting. The registration will close at the discretion of the executive.
- 3) As per the affiliation policy, membership for non-residents or those who are not ratepayers of the City of Brampton, shall not exceed 20 % of the Club's total membership.
- 4) Membership will be restricted to allow all players 4 games per night. A spare list will be compiled for additional members.

ARTICLE FOUR (AFFILIATION)

- 1) The Club shall be affiliated with the City of Brampton Parks and Recreation Department and operate under the terms and conditions of the affiliation policy.
- 2) Affiliation to Horseshoe Ontario will be at the discretion of the individual member and will pay his own affiliation fees. This could be amended at our annual meeting, by a vote of 2/3 of the eligible members present.

ARTICLE FIVE (MANAGEMENT)

The management and administration of the affairs of this club shall be vested in the Executive Committee as elected or appointed, with complete authority to make decisions they deem necessary. And to act within the scope of the Constitution and by-laws and within the regulations and policies of the City of Brampton, pertaining to the operation of facilities. More specifically the Executive Committee shall:

- 1) Appoint standing committees or officials to perform special duties or projects as required.

- 2) Hold Executive meetings or special meetings as required, usually immediately following the night of play.
- 3) The Executive Committee shall have the power to decide on any matters not covered in the Constitution or By-laws of the club.
- 4) Hold office until the initial meeting. See “Article Seven” - Number 7 and 8.
- 5) The books and accounts of the club shall be made available for audit once yearly. A financial statement shall be prepared by the Treasurer and presented to the Executive. Two copies of the statement shall also be presented to the Parks and Recreation Department as per the policy of affiliation.

ARTICLE SIX (EXECUTIVE / COMMITTEE)

- 1) The Executive of this Club shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament Director, and four or five Executive Committee members. Should any vacancy occur during a term of office, the Executive/Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy by appointment.
- 2) The Executive has the right, with the approval of the membership, to appoint a special position within the executive.
- 3) Executive members shall be residents and /or ratepayers of the City of Brampton with the exception that a Club may elect one committee member excluding the President, who is not a resident or ratepayer.

ARTICLE SEVEN (DUTIES)

- 1) PRESIDENT – shall preside at all meetings of the Club’s Executive Committee; call meetings as deemed necessary or when requested to do so by half of the Executive Committee members; and shall function as a signing officer together with the Treasurer on all contracts or other legal matters,
- 2) VICE-PRESIDENT – shall perform such duties as assigned by the President and substitute for him when required.
- 3) SECRETARY – shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to the direct operations of the Club, including all correspondence and the recording of minutes at meetings. A copy of the minutes for each meeting must be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Department as per the affiliation policy.
- 4) TREASURER – shall collect and properly record all finances involving the Club. He shall pay for all accounts upon Executive Committee approval by cheque and submit an audited financial statement to the Executive Committee and the Parks and Recreation Department before the Annual Meeting or at other times as requested.
- 5) TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR – shall be responsible for drawing up the Club’s itinerary. Including organizing and running all tournaments.
- 6) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS – shall assist the Executive as requested and have equal voting rights as the other members of the Executive.
- 7) The Executive / Committee shall be elected for a two-year term, at the Annual General Meeting / Awards Banquet.
- 8) The initial meeting of the incoming Executive will be held within 30 days of the election.

ARTICLE EIGHT (MEETINGS)

- 1) A quorum for any Executive meeting shall be constituted with the presence of the President or Vice-President, plus 4 members from the Executive/Committee.
- 2) Each member of the Executive/Committee shall have one vote except the President who shall only vote in the event of a tie.
- 3) The order of business shall be:

- (a) Minutes of the previous meeting
- (b) Correspondence
- (c) unfinished business
- (d) Treasurer's Report
- (e) President Report Constitution: Meetings continued
- (f) Other Reports
- (g) New Business (d) Next meeting.

ARTICLE NINE (ANNUAL MEETING)

- 1) The First Annual /Registration Meeting of the Club shall be held no later than April 15th of the current playing season.
- 2) The Second Annual Meeting shall be held no later than November 15th at the Awards Banquet.
- 3) Notices of motion: correspondence, constitution amendments or other matters for consideration at the Second Annual Meeting must be in writing to the Club President or Secretary no later than 2 weeks preceding the meeting.
- 4) No article of this constitution shall be altered or rescinded or new one made except at the Second Annual Meeting and then only by a two-thirds majority of the eligible members present.
- 5) Eligible voting members are those who have paid their membership dues to the Club Treasurer.
- 6) The President or outgoing President shall be responsible for calling the final meeting following the Election no later than November 30th. At that time, the newly elected members may be invited.
- 7) President shall be responsible for calling the first meeting of the new Executive/Committee no later than February of the following year.

ARTICLE TEN (ELECTIONS)

- 1) Elections will be held every two years at the 2nd Annual Meeting/Awards Banquet.
- 2) Nominations will be held at the Club courts no later than the 18th week of competition.
- 3) Nominations will be closed on the 20th week of competition and a final list of nominees that will stand will be posted on the playoff night and at the annual meeting/awards banquet.
- 4) Ballots will be handed out, and votes cast as per instructions, or the ballot will be deemed invalid and destroyed.

ARTICLE ELEVEN (BENEVOLENT FUND)

A Benevolent fund will be established for the benefit of the members and their spouse. Special cases must have the approval of the Executive/Committee.

- (a) Gift for members only who are sick or bedridden for a length of time.
- (b) In case of death, a charitable Donation or Flowers, to members or their spouse,
- (c) Charitable Donations.

ARTICLE TWELVE (MONETARY)

- 1) All cheques and or withdrawals, regardless of amount, shall require two signatures, that of the President and Treasurer. In case of one of them absent, the Vice-President.
- 2) All prize money for tournaments and playoffs shall require the approval of the Executive/Committee.
- 3) Charitable donations shall require the approval of the Executive/ Committee.
- 4) Benevolent Fund shall be set at Two Hundred dollars (\$ 200.00) at the beginning of the current year.

5) The President and Treasurer shall submit, for approval, of the Executive/Committee a budget for the coming season. This will take place at the first meeting of the season.

BY – LAWS

BYLAW 1 Official Rules

- a) Our Club plays under the official rules of Horseshoe Canada Association. b) Except where amended by our constitution and By - Laws.

BY - LAW 2 Definitions:

- a) Court shall be 6 feet wide and consist of 2 court pits. Court pit consists of a scoring area with a stake in the middle, backboard, 2 pitch ways or walkways and a foul line covering the front of the court pit.
- b) Foul line 37 feet from the front to the opposite stake and 27 feet for seniors.
- c) The stake is the target which the shoe is pitched. Centered between the pitching platforms, 40 feet apart. Each stake shall be one-inch diameter and no shorter than 14 inches and no higher than 15 inches above pit level and they shall both have an approximate 3-inch lean towards each other.

BY-LAW 3 Place and Time

- b) Location: All games will be played at The Home of the Brampton Men's Horseshoe Club, 80 Mary St.
- c) Time: Tuesday 07:00pm starting the First week in May for Twenty (20) weeks.
- d) Rainouts: Will be played Wednesday following the rainout. The day may be changed at the start of the year at the discretion of the Executive /Committee.
- e) d) Playoffs: First Tuesday 07:00pm following the regular season.
- f) e) Tournaments: All tournaments will be played at our Club, except for the Brampton Fall Fair.
- g) f) All of the above are subject to change if the City of Brampton moves us to another location.
- h) g) Days may be changed with proper notice, by the Parks and Recreation for a special event.
- i) h) In the event of rain or any other circumstance, the decision to stop or postpone play will be taken by the Executive members that are present and will be announced at 7:15 p.m. Any members that leave before the official announcement will be subject to the rules stated in By-Law 10.
- j) i) Five team games must be completed by all divisions to constitute a night. If not, the completed games will be carried over to the rainout day for the completion of the scheduled eight games.

BY-LAW 4 Pitching Distance Eligibility

- a) Members reaching the age of 65 in the current season may move up to the 30-foot pitching distance.
- b) Members with a physical disability that prevents them from pitching 40 feet may make a request to the Executive at any time for consideration.
- c) Members who are eligible and wish to move up to 30 feet, must declare at the beginning of the current season and any season, forthcoming of their intentions.

BY- LAW 5 Rules of Play

- a) Any member absent for three (3) consecutive nights, without notification to the Team Captain or Executive/Committee Member will be placed on the Club's spare list.
- b) No contestant, while opponent if in the pitching position, shall make or utter any sounds with-in the hearing of opponent, nor make any movement that does or might interfere with the opponent's playing.
- c) Opponents will stay behind the backboard until the player has finished pitching his shoes.
- d) Players at the other end will stay behind and to the side of the backboards, and will make no movements towards the pits, until all shoes are thrown.

- e) No contestant shall touch his own or opponent's shoe or shoes, until contestants have agreed upon the winner of point or points, or decision rendered by a neutral person.
- f) No contestant shall walk to the opposite stake, or inform of the position of shoes, prior to the completion of an inning.
- g) All contestants shall pitch both shoes from inside the pitcher's box.
- h) All games will begin and end with a handshake.
- i) Any players repeatedly violating rules or guilty of any unsportsmanlike conduct, will be reviewed by the Executive/Committee for disciplinary action.
- j) Drinking alcoholic beverages and smoking on the courts is prohibited.
- k) Members practicing on a court not assigned to their team will give way immediately to the members of the teams assigned that night. And will dress up the pits as they found them.

First Pitch Walking Doubles

- A. At the beginning of a game the contestants shall decide who shall have the first pitch by the toss of a shoe or coin. The winner shall have the choice of first pitch or follow.
- B. At the beginning of successive games, the loser of the preceding game shall have the first pitch. b) The winning player of an end shall throw both shoes before the opponent throws.
- C. c) No points the last person to throw will throw both shoes before the opponent throws. **7 Measurements**
- D. a) All measurements to determine which shoe is the closest to the stake may be made by ringing / hooking the shoe around the stake and touching the shoe.

BY - LAW 8 Scoring

- a) Points are decided by Ringers (3 points) or by hooking a legal shoe around the stake and touching the closer shoe (1 point).
- b) If a shoe is leaning against the stake, it will be considered closer than the shoe lying down touching the stake.
- c) In case contestants cannot agree on points, the Captain at the closest court shall have full power and authority.

BY - LAW 9 Regulation Game Points

"A" division 30 points " B " division 25 points " C " division 25 points " D " 21 points. "E" Division 21 points. The executive committee has the right to change the point system, if deemed necessary.

BY - LAW 10 Scoring Absenteeism

- a) a) Teams will score ZERO for each game where there are no members in attendance and no spare players available. Spare players from any division may be used.
- b) b) Teams with one or more players in attendance will score their current points-per-game average for each game that the opposing team is absent.
- c) c) If both teams have only one player attendance, they will play one on one.
- d) d) If a team has only one player in attendance, and is playing a team with three or more players, that single player will take the lowest average player from the opposing team as a partner for the night.
- e) e) If the opposing team has only two players in attendance, a single player will request from the Executive, a player from another team with a full roster. The Executive will then ask for the low average player from that team. The player will have the option of refusal. f) In the event of injury or other extenuating circumstances, the team captain may submit an appeal to the Executives. To ensure fairness and consistency, the final decision will be made publicly available to all club members.

BY - LAW 11 Announcing Scores

- f) a) Team winning the points shall call out to the scorekeeper the points scored.
- g) b) Call out score (example) Ringer – Ringer – 1 point etc.

h) c) The contestant pitching will call out no points scored.

BY-LAW 12 Selection of Teams

a) Depending on the membership and if the membership is 96 players, the following applies: **If the membership expands where another division is required it will play on Thursday and be known as the “E” Division.**

1) Club will have 24 teams of a maximum of 4 players per team.

2) Teams will be broken into Four (4) division

3) Each division will play 8 games per night. **The executive has the right to change the number of games played each night by division if necessary.**

4) A committee comprised of members from the Executive/Committee will set up teams.

5) Divisions will be determined by percentage, of the individual player’s average.

6) Teams will be balanced after 3 – 4 weeks.

7) Each player shall play a minimum of 50% of the games played that night.

8) The executive will select a Captain at the start of the year, which may be changed by a vote of team members.

9) Team names may be changed at the start of each season. Team numbers will remain the same.

Division names

1. “A” division will be known as the John Loder “A” division.
2. “B” division will be known as the Harry Collins “B” division.
3. “C” division will be known as the Ken Condie “C” division.
4. “D” division will be known as the Chris Gorman “D” division.
- 5. “E” division will be known as the John Quackenbush “E” division.**

BY - LAW 13 Scorekeeping

a) All ringers/shoes/points will be recorded on the scoreboard and results recorded at the end of each game, on the official score sheet.

b) The Captain or his designate, at the end of the night will total game points, players ringers/shoes and record the results in the appropriate box at the top of the official score sheet.

c) Failure to comply may result in a 25-point penalty.

d) All statistics will be recorded on the statistician’s computer and a printout will be made available. e) Captains/players will make sure the score book is protected from the elements and returned to the designated location, along with the scoreboard, at the end of each night.

BY - LAW 14 Tournament Play

a) A standard method of tournament play is round robin play, with contestants being seeded into divisions.

b) Each contestant will play players in their division.

c) Prize money will be divided equally between all divisions.

d) c) The amount will be determined each year by the Executive/Committee.

e) **Prize Money will be given out for Tournaments immediately after the end of play.**

Tournaments

- 1) The Ken Condie Open Singles tournament will be played on the first Saturday in June.
- 2) The Bert Large Memorial Singles tournament will be played on the 3rd Saturday in June.
- 3) The Elwood Pembleton Memorial Singles tournament will be played on the 3rd Saturday in July.
- 4) The Mike Ryde Memorial Club Members Only Single and Doubles tournament will be played on the 3rd Saturday in August.
- 5) The Brampton Fall Fair Open Doubles tournament will be played on the 2nd Saturday after Labour Day.

BY - LAW 15 Preparation and Maintenance of Courts

- a) Court Pits will be watered, if necessary, prior to the night's competition
- b) The court pits will have the sand turned over and raked, and the pitch-ways swept before play begins.
- c) With sandpits, after pitching a few shoes, there will be Hollow-out in the sand. Pits should be leveled when this happens.
- d) Stakes shall be painted prior to the game starting. Painting during the night's play, only if both teams agree.
- e) At the end of the night's play the courts shall be raked and swept.
- f) The maintenance of the courts is the responsibility of the teams (all members) using the courts that night.

BY - LAW 16 Awards and Prize Money

Prize Money

- a) There will be awards for the top two or three teams in each division. Number of awards to be determined annually by the executive /committee.
- b) The first-place winners will have their names added to the Elwood Pembleton Plaque.
- c) Playoff prize money will be handed out at the banquet. If funds allow.
- d) All prize money will be determined each year by the Executive/Committee.

Awards

- 1) **The Glen Barton Memorial award** will be awarded to the player who has an outstanding night over his final average for the year. His name will be added to the Glen Barton Memorial Plaque.
- 2) **The Elwood Pembleton Founders award** will be awarded to the Most Improved Player, over his previous year's average. His name will be added to the Elwood Pembleton Founders Plaque.
 - a. **Players moving from 40ft to 30ft are not eligible for the Most Improved Player award in the first year of play.**
- 3) **President's Award** – will be awarded to an individual player dully selected by the President and / or committee for exceptional contribution to the club.
- 4) **Iron Man Award** - Awarded to the players pitching the most shoes weekly and for the year.
- 5) **Player of the Week Award**
 - a. Player of the week is selected by their average for the night minus their year-to-date average from the previous week giving them a plus average. The player with the highest plus average receives the award. You can only win this award once per year.
- 6) **Jack Savery – Cecil Churchill Award for Courage – Perseverance – Dedication**
 - a. Presented to the player that continued to play and share their fellowship while fighting a tough battle with a serious medical condition. This is not an annual award.
- 7) **Team Awards:** a player must attend a minimum of 50% of the nights of the regular season. A night consists as stated in By-Law 16(e)
 - To be eligible for the individual awards (Barton & Pembleton) and any future individual award the winner must attend 75% of the nights of regular play. A night consists of a minimum of 4

games, anything less is not considered as attendance for awards. This requirement may be altered or reviewed by the Executive/Committee each year.

BY - LAW 17 Code of Conduct

- a) The Executive Committee reserves the right to suspend or revoke play and membership, for conduct detrimental to the club and its members.
- b) Any Physical abuse by any player(s) will result in immediate suspension of play up and until full investigation is completed by Executive Committee. If the findings of the Executive Committee deem that physical abuse did occur, then immediately termination of player(s) membership will result.
- c) Any deemed verbal abuse ruled by Executive Committee by any player(s) will result in immediate suspension of play pending investigation. (First infraction)
- d) Any subsequent verbal abuse would also involve an immediate discussion with the executive followed by a written warning and or termination of membership.

Ruling of the Executive Committee are considered final.

Revised from constitution 1985 Amended and approved 2024

Executive for 2024-2025

President Gary Branning

Vice-President Rick Adams

Secretary Robert Hakaj

Treasurer Dave Corcoran,

Treasurer Cliff Mark

Tournament Director Ian Talsma

Executive Committee

Hans Poick, Ian Pilling, Paul Romeo, Don Rothey, Gerald Straastma