



# ***National Veterans Golden Age Games***

## ***Horseshoes***

### ***INSTRUCTIONS TO ATHLETES & RULES***

1. Competition numbers must be worn. (Front and Back)
2. You may not be assisted or coached in the competition area.
3. Standard pitching horseshoes and regulation pits will be provided.
4. Horseshoe categories are, ambulatory, visually impaired and wheelchair.
5. Competition will be a single elimination tournament;
6. Whenever possible, competitors from the same medical center will not be matched against each other in first round matches.
7. All matches will be played for six innings each player throwing two shoes per inning. If conditions warrant the event official can decrease the number of innings pitched in the match.
8. Beeper devices are available for use for the visually impaired competition.
9. Pitching Distance:
  - a. Ambulatory Men 55-69 – 40 ft.
  - b. Ambulatory Men 70 and up – 30 ft.
  - c. Ambulatory Women 55-64 – 30 ft.
  - d. Ambulatory Women 65 and up – 20 ft.
  - e. Ambulatory competitors using walking devices will be given the option of using the 30 or 40 ft. pitching line.  
Choice must be made prior to the beginning of the match.
  - f. Wheelchair and VI – Men – 20 ft.
  - g. Wheelchair and VI – Women – 15 ft.
10. First pitch is determined by the toss of a coin.
11. Players shall alternate first pitch, one player having first pitch in the odd number innings and the other player in the even number innings.
12. Highest point score will determine the winner.
13. The “count all’ method will be used, the competitor with the highest score advances to the next round.
14. Each player shall receive credit for all points according to the position of the shoes at the end of each inning.

- a. Ringers – 3 points
  - b. Shoes within 6 inches of the stake – 1 point
  - c. Shoes touching or leaning on a stake but not a ringer – 1 point.
15. Ties shall be broken by pitching an extra inning, for a maximum of two additional innings. At the conclusion of two additional innings and there is still a clear winner. Each competitor will be able to throw one horseshoe with the closest shoe to the stake being the winner.
16. Fouls and Penalties
  - a. No competitor, while their opponent is in pitching position, shall make any remark nor utter any sounds within the hearing of opponent, nor make any movement that does or might interfere with the opponent playing. Penalty: both shoes of the offender shall be declared foul in the inning about which complaint is made.
  - b. No competitor shall touch his/her own or opponent's shoe or shoes until the event official renders a decision. The event official shall declare foul shoes thrown by a competitor failing to comply with this rule, and award points to the opponent, according to the position of his or her shoes.
  - c. No competitor shall walk to the horseshoe pit, or be informed of the position of shoes prior to the completion of an inning.
  - d. A player, while not pitching, must remain in an area that does not interfere with his/her opponents pitching motion.
  - e. Any player repeatedly violating rules, or guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct, may be barred from further competition.
17. Medals will be awarded based on age division, gender and category (ambulatory, visually impaired, wheelchair).