d. The Chairman now scans or photocopies the doctor's completed form and sends it to the committee members for their final review. Note: Somewhere along this process, it is suggested that someone on the Committee contact one of this applicant's club officers, or some reliable individual who knows this pitcher. Based on their observations and discussions with this person, do they think that he/she may need a Medical Exemption to be able to continue pitching? It should also be noted that during any such discussion, the information on this application form should be kept "confidential".

e. Independent voting follows. Please note that a Medical Exemption should only be granted if the medical condition is considered to be a "permanent" and/or degenerative condition. A 2/3rds or higher majority vote is required for the approval of each medical exemption request. The Committee Chairman will later inform the Committee members of the voting results and will maintain these records for each applicant. Even if the Medical Exemption request is denied, these records should be kept on file.

f. The final step is to inform the Charter/State President of this decision. The Charter/State President will now send out a letter (this could be developed into a standard, form) informing the applicant of the acceptance or denial of this Medical Exemption request If approved, this pitcher should also be informed that they will now have to re-establish their ringer and/or point average at this shorter distance, based on the current Playing Rules for league and tournament play, and that they should have this letter available to show any Tournament Director who may request "proof" that the exemption has been granted. If the Medical Exemption was approved, the Charter President or Secretary is also responsible for informing NATSTATS of this change in pitching distance.

7 - Additional Information: A question often asked is "For how long is this Medical Exemption valid?" The easiest answer is, "until the person turns 70 years of age", but it's not always that simple. It states on the forms that the exemption status *may* be reviewed at any time, but this would normally only occur after corrective surgery and rehabilitation; a knee or hip replacement, for example. So this exemption, once granted, does *not* have to be reviewed annually. There is currently no provision for "short term" medical exemptions.

Please Note: These guidelines/recommendations are based on the experiences of one of our Charters who have now used these Medical Exemption forms for nearly three years. Over this period of time, the forms have been revised a bit and the process described above has been "fine tuned", based on more than 20 applications that have been made and processed during this time period. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Dan Sanders, NHPA 1st VP. at 614-596-5666 or by e-mail at dsandeflingfgjyahoo.com.