

# Winnipeg AAA Baseball Association

## 2024 Information Guide

### **Registration:**

In 2024 clubs/regions will be using RAMP Interactive, Baseball Manitoba's online registration system. For those regions, rosters will be created online directly with Baseball Manitoba and teams need to submit to WABA Conveners a completed **2024 WABA Roster for Division Conveners** described below.

Roster size must be 11-18 players. Per section 1.01.04 (Yellow Section) of the Baseball Manitoba Handbook:

“There is no limit to the number of coaches that may be on a roster. However, the number of coaches allowed on a roster for a qualifier or provincial championship is four (4). If a team has more than four coaches on their roster prior to a qualifier or provincial championship, they must declare the four that will attend as official coaches. A fifth coach is allowed if one of the coaches is registered as an apprentice coach.”

### **2024 WABA Roster for Division Conveners:**

Coaches must complete and then send this Excel file (template provided) to their age-division convener and WABA secretary before the start of the season. The form should include the name and jersey number of each player. Conveners must be informed immediately if any player changes their uniform number. This is to help ensure that pitch-count records are accurate.

### **Team Dress:**

Team uniforms of the players, managers and coaches shall be matching and numbered. Any team jacket or wind shirt worn by coaches must be the same, include the team's logo and be consistent with the team's uniform.

### **Apprentice Coaches:**

The apprentice coach program will apply for all divisions in 2024. Consult the Baseball Manitoba website or WABA Secretary Mike Anderson for details.

### **Protective Equipment:**

1. A sports elbow brace worn by a pitcher must be covered by a sleeve and not distracting in any way.
2. The double earflap helmet is now required for all batters at all times.
3. Any player or coach, when crouching, must wear a mask, helmet and throat protector when warming up a pitcher. If they are standing, only a mask is required.

**Rules:** WABA league play, WABA play-offs & Baseball Manitoba Provincial Championships

### **Prior to Baseball Manitoba Provincial Championships, Western Canadian, and Baseball Canada National Championships**

Ensure you review the Baseball Canada Rule Book (Canadian Content)

### **Shoes – 13U**

1. Shoes with metal cleats or “spikes” are prohibited in the 13U Division. Rubber moulded cleats on running shoes are permitted.

### **Length of Games**

1. Regulation game is 7 innings.
2. Complete game is 5 innings, or 4.5 innings if home team is ahead.
3. Ten (10) run mercy rule applies after 5 innings or 4.5 innings if home team is ahead.
4. Tied games will play extra innings using the rules for extra inning play in Baseball Manitoba handbook and be continued until darkness.

5. Tied games that are called due to darkness or weather will be played to conclusion immediately prior to the next scheduled regular-season game between the two teams. WABA encourages the teams to consider an earlier start time to facilitate finishing the tied and following games.
6. If the two teams have no more regularly scheduled games during the season, the Age-Division Convener will declare the game a tie and record it as such in the standings.
7. If a game is called after the visiting team has taken the lead in the top half of an inning, Baseball Canada rules governing suspended games will be followed.

### **Bat Restrictions – 13U, 15U and 18U**

1. In 13U metal (USSA -10) bats are allowed. Maximum barrel diameter is 2 ¾ inches.
2. Wood, wood composite, and metal (BBCOR (-3)) bats are allowed for both the 15U and 18U Divisions. Female players may continue to use metal (USSA -5) non-BBCOR bats.
3. Bat restrictions for all players apply to their team's division and not to the player's age.

### **Re-Entry Rule**

1. The re-entry rule is in effect for all age divisions in WABA League play and WABA play-offs.

### **Designated and Extra Hitter Rules**

1. The designated hitter rule applies only for 18U.
  - **\*\*\*NEW for 2024 Regular Season: At the 18U age category teams will have the option to declare on lineup card at the plate meeting with the umpires whether they will use the DH, EH or none of the options for that game.**
  - **Any declaration on the lineup card at the plate meeting is final and cannot be changed for the duration of the game.**
2. The extra-hitter rule is optional for teams in 13U, 15U and 18U. An extra-hitter (EH) may be placed anywhere on the lineup card. The EH may be interchanged with any other position during the game and can be changed multiple times. The Re-entry Rule would apply for the EH and the team would continue to bat ten players.

### **Courtesy Runner for Catchers**

1. During the WABA regular season and playoffs, teams in all age divisions may use a substitute runner for catchers when 2 outs have been recorded. The runner must be someone not currently in the game offensively or defensively (must be a substitution). For a team with only 9 players (or 10 if using the EH/DH) the player who made the latest out will be used
2. If a team is not using a courtesy runner and the catcher is on base for the last out of the inning, or is the last out of the inning, the defensive team must use a backup player or coach to warm up the pitcher while the catcher dresses in protective gear. Umpires will be enforcing the 90 second transition rule between innings.

### **Use of Temporary Players**

1. During the WABA regular season and play-offs teams may use a temporary player (TP) from their own Area Association only. These players must be on a lower (younger) age "AAA" team or on a "AA" or "A" team from the same age group. In order to use a TP the team must first get permission from the coach of the player's regular team. Failure to do so will result in that player being ineligible for future use as a TP. Temporary players from the same age group (e.g., 15U AA players at 15U AAA) are allowed to pitch, but not from a lower age group (e.g., 13U AAA players may not pitch at 15U AAA). AAA coaches who intend to pitch a TP must get permission from that player's home coach.
2. Temporary players may play an unlimited number of games.
3. In order to be eligible for the Baseball Manitoba provincial championship, however, the player must be on the team's roster.
4. Temporary players must be identified on the lineup card as follows:
  - I. TP-M for 18U AA or A players
  - II. TP-B for 15U AA or A players
  - III. TP-P for 13U AA or A players.

This is to ensure that the umpires and opposing coaches know which players are temporary and which are allowed to pitch.

5. Temporary players must be registered through their home team with Baseball Manitoba.

### **Baseball Manitoba 2024 Coaching Requirements (Baseball Manitoba Handbook Section Pink Section – Appendix III)**

Beginning in the 2024 season new coach screening requirements have been implemented by Baseball Manitoba. WABA strongly recommends all AAA coaches review the new Screening Requirements and the current NCCP coach certification requirements via the Baseball Manitoba website.

<https://www.baseballmanitoba.ca/content/Coaching-Requirements>

### **League Operations:**

#### **Game Sheets and Results**

1. Game sheets must be agreed to by a coach or team representative from each team; signing is required. Umpires are NOT required to sign game sheets.
2. Game sheets must document the official score, innings played, pitching records, any temporary players, the date and site of the game, and any player or coach ejections.
3. The **home** team must e-mail the game sheet to the Age-Division Convener within 24 hours of completion of the game. Pitching records must include the full name and uniform number of each pitcher. The head coach must appoint a Team Official (assistant coach, manager, scorekeeper etc.) to be responsible for the submission of game results.
4. The Team Official will enter the score, within 24 hours, on the Baseball Manitoba AAA website using the following procedures:

- Go to: <https://www.aaabaseballmanitoba.ca/>
- Scroll to the bottom of the home page and click "Admin Login"
- Enter username and password
- On the left hand menu, click "League Games"
- Find the appropriate game and click the GREEN square Game Sheet icon (looks like a pencil). Please note that only home teams can enter scores, as the Game Sheet icon only appears for each team's home games.
- Enter Home Score; Enter Visitor Score
- Check off "Game is Finished"
- Click "Submit"
- Scroll back to the top of the page and click BLUE "Roster" button
- Select all players by clicking the top check box above for both the HOME and AWAY rosters.
- Click "Submit"
- Scroll back to the top of the page and click BLUE "Pitch Count" button
- Add the Jersey Number and Number of Pitches for each pitcher in the game.
- Click "Submit"
- Scores and pitch counts should now show up on the front-end of the website.

5. Conveners will monitor the Games Results page to ensure accuracy. If, as a visiting team, you notice errors, please contact your Age-Division Convener.

#### **6. Baseball Manitoba Pitch Count App**

- Baseball Manitoba Pitch Count App will continue to be used for 2024. Pitch Count books will NOT be available this year, as we fully transition to the App.
- The Baseball Manitoba Pitch Count app is a new, free tool for coaches. Use this mobile app to easily keep track of every pitch thrown in a game and view statistics from other Manitoba teams. To download the app search "Baseball Manitoba

pitch count app” in the App Store for iPhone users and Google Play App Store for Android users.

- **Teams may still use pitch count booklets to track pitches, but all teams are now required to submit their pitch counts through the app. Pitch count booklets are no longer being distributed but printable/downloadable pitch count forms are available at [www.baseballmanitoba.ca/forms](http://www.baseballmanitoba.ca/forms).**
- **Home teams will be responsible for entry of pitch counts with verification from the visiting team. All team rosters will be automatically uploaded to the app from the RAMP registration system.**
- The Baseball Manitoba website provides helpful tutorials for using the app, and more information will be provided to coaches.

### **Baseballs**

1. Official game ball is the Rawlings R100 or ROML for all divisions.
2. The Rawlings ROMC ball is acceptable for the 13UAAA division.

### **Game Cancellations**

1. If games are cancelled due to weather, lack of a diamond or field conditions, the Home Team must immediately notify the opposing coach and the Umpire Assignor (minimum 90 minutes before game time). Failure to do so may result in umpire fees being charged to your team. Then advise your age-division convenor.
2. Where 13U teams supply their own base umpires, also make sure to advise your local Umpire Assignor.
3. Any team wishing to cancel a game because they are entering a tournament (or related event) must do so 7 days prior to the scheduled game. If they fail to do so the following will apply:
  - a) The team will be fined \$200.
  - b) The opposing team will be given the right to reschedule the game at their convenience and at their park.
  - c) If the rescheduled game is not played it will result in default.
4. The Baseball Canada Severe Weather Policy will be enforced. Games will be stopped at the first sound of thunder and will not resume until 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder. Check the Baseball Canada brochure for more details.

### **Rescheduling Cancelled Games (Home Team)**

1. Confer with the other team, check with the Umpire Assignor for Umpire availability, and reschedule as soon as possible.
2. If game is not rescheduled within seven (7) days, it can be rescheduled by the Division Convenor.

### **Regular Season Standings**

1. Final League standing will be based on points; 2 points for a win, 1 for a tie. Teams must strive to complete all the games on their schedules. Depending on the balance of the game schedule between Zone 1 and Zone 2 teams, games between Zone 1 and Zone 2 may not count towards final standings. Please confirm with your age convener the policy for the regular season.

### **WABA Playoffs**

1. Playoffs are as printed on the schedule, but changes can be made by the Division Convenor.
2. Re-Entry Rules for all divisions, Extra-Hitter Rules for 13U and 15U only, and Designated-Hitter Rules for 18U only, are in effect for WABA playoffs.
3. All umpires are assigned and paid by WABA.
4. Home teams need to provide game sheets.
5. All WABA playoff games must be played to completion (full 7 innings or extra innings if required). Any game called due to darkness or weather will be considered suspended and completed at the next available date and location.

## **Baseball Manitoba Provincial Championships**

- 13UAAA Tier 1 / Tier 2 @ Seine River from August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- 15UAAA Tier 1 / Tier 2 @ Seine River from August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- 18UAAA Tier 1 / Tier 2 @ Charleswood Park (Winnipeg) from July 2<sup>6th</sup> – July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### **Player Transfers / Releases**

1. WABA will recognize all releases granted by an Area Association President.
2. When a player is refused a release by his Area Association President, WABA will consider, but not necessarily grant the request if the following apply:
  - a) The player attended his area tryout and was cut / not selected for the team.
  - b) Another area has indicated their willingness to place him on their team.
3. The President of WABA has power to grant the release.
4. This WABA transfer/release will apply for one season only but may be extended by mutual agreement of the donor and recipient Area Associations.
6. The transfer/release only applies to WABA play.
7. To be eligible for the Baseball Manitoba Provincial AAA Championship the transferred player must apply to Baseball Manitoba.
8. Transfers between Zone 1 and Zone 2 are also allowed, conditional on obtaining the required releases and filing a completed transfer form with Baseball Manitoba.

### **Coaches, Players and Umpires**

1. WABA supports and encourages a respectful environment for all players, coaches, and officials who participate in our games, and we insist that any disagreements that arise be resolved in a respectful and civil manner.
2. If a team has any concerns about the proficiency or conduct of any of our umpires, these should be raised privately, in writing, by the Head Coach of the team with the WABA Umpire in Chief who will then determine what additional training or mentoring is warranted for that official.
3. WABA will deal with discipline issues according to the attached WABA 2023 Discipline Policy.
4. When a coach or player is ejected, umpires will notify the official scorer to record their names on the game sheet along with the inning and number of outs when the ejection occurred. A report by the umpire with other details will then be sent to the Umpire-in-Chief and the Age-Division Convener.