



## **MANITOBA JUNIOR BASEBALL LEAGUE CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE I - NAME:**

1. The organization shall be known as the Manitoba Junior Baseball League (hereinafter referred to as the MJBL).

### **ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES:**

1. To promote the game of baseball in Manitoba for persons aged twenty-two (22) and under as of December 31st of the year of the playing season.
2. To create and administer an annual schedule of regular season games and play-offs to determine a MJBL champion.
3. To declare the MJBL representative for the National and Western Canada championships.

### **ARTICLE III - GOVERNANCE:**

1. The MJBL shall be governed by a Board of Governors, which shall consist of one governor representing each MJBL member, a President elected by the Board of Governors and an Executive, as defined in Article III, paragraph 7 herein, appointed by the President, and approved by the Board of Governors. The Executive is directly responsible to the President and may be dismissed by the president.
2. The President shall serve as the Chairman of the Board of Governors.
3. The President or the President's designate shall serve as the MJBL representative on the Board of Directors of BM as permitted by Article 5.21 of the BM Constitution.
4. The President has the authority to appoint all necessary committees and arbitrate any disputes of the League Committees.

5. The President shall act in the best interests of the MJBL, shall chair all MJBL Board of Governors meetings and shall only have the right to vote to break a tie.
6. The Executive positions as set forth herein, except the President, are non-voting positions, but any person filling any one or more of these positions may be appointed from the Board of Governors. The Executive shall consist of:
  - a) Vice-President
  - b) Secretary
  - c) Treasurer
  - d) Umpire-in-Chief
  - e) Communications Director
  - f) Such additional position or positions as the President shall deem to be in the best interests of the MJBL.
7. The duties of each position described in Article III, paragraph 6 herein shall be such duties as are common to the position described plus such further and other duties as the President may, in his absolute discretion, from time to time determine.
8. The President shall be responsible for resolution of all protests of MJBL games. Once a ruling is made the decision cannot be appealed. They shall also be the final appeal from any decision of any Executive member or Board of Governors member made in the course of the performance of their duties.

#### **ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP:**

1. All applications for League membership must be received by the MJBL prior to February 1st in the year of intended play in the MJBL for consideration and ratification by the Board of Governors at the annual meeting.
2. Membership application shall contain sufficient evidence of financial responsibility, adequate organizational strength, suitable playing fields and the ability to attract and keep competent players. All applications for membership shall be accompanied by the amount of the performance bond applicable for the next playing season. This bond shall be returned if membership is not accepted.
3. New members must receive the approval of two-thirds of the Board of Governors at the MJBL annual meeting for admission to the MJBL. Membership application not received prior to February 1st in the year of intended play in the MJBL must receive the unanimous consent of the Board of Governors for entry into the MJBL.

4. Any team not currently a member of the MJBL due to geographic location may apply for membership in the league. Such membership application shall include payment of the full league fee for the current upcoming season and any other current fees that have been imposed on all MJBL members and must indicate a willingness to play a minimum of 50% of the league schedule of games.
5. An existing MJBL member may only have their membership terminated by a unanimous vote of the remaining members of the Board of Governors at the MJBL annual meeting or at a meeting called for the specific purpose of terminating the membership of the MJBL member.

#### **ARTICLE V - MEETINGS:**

1. The annual meeting of the MJBL shall be called by the President and held between February 15th and March 15th in each year, provided however, that one month's notice shall be given to the MJBL members. Where possible, the AGM shall be an in-person meeting.
2. The President shall call other meetings of the Board of Governors and the Executive as deemed necessary and when requested to do so by a majority of the Board of Governors.
3. The order of business at the annual meeting shall be:
  - a) Roll call of accredited governors or their representatives
  - b) Reading of the minutes from the previous meeting
  - c) Business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting
  - d) President's report
  - e) Financial report
  - f) Umpire-in-Chief's report
  - g) Communications Director's report
  - h) Any committee report as requested by the President
  - i) Resolutions and Constitutional amendments
  - j) New business
  - k) Election and installation of President
  - l) Adjournment

The order of business at any other meeting of the MJBL shall be specified by the President.

4. A quorum at any MJBL meeting shall be the number of eligible voting Governors that equals at least two-thirds of the number of members in the MJBL.
5. Any reference in this Constitution to majority votes, two-thirds votes, and

unanimous votes shall refer to the number of eligible voting Governors present at each MJBL meeting except where specified in the Constitution.

6. Failure of a league member to send a representative to a league meeting as called by the President may result in a two-hundred dollar (\$200.00) fine.

#### **ARTICLE VI - FINANCIAL POLICY:**

1. The signing officers for the MJBL for any contracts, bank drafts, cheques or any other legal instrument or document shall be the President and any one of the Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer. All monies of the MJBL shall be held on deposit at any accredited financial institution approved by resolution of the Board of Governors.

#### **ARTICLE VII - BY-LAWS:**

1. The Board of Governors may pass By-laws at any MJBL meeting. Such By-laws shall regulate any facet of the operation of the MJBL according to this constitution, shall not be contrary to this constitution and shall relate to the objectives of the MJBL as stated in Article II herein. Changes to any By-law shall generally occur at the annual meeting of the MJBL and shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Governors to be approved. Changes to any By-law at any other meeting of the MJBL shall require a unanimous vote of the Board of Governors to be approved.

#### **ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS:**

1. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Governors at an MJBL annual meeting provided the members received notice of the proposed amendments a minimum of one month in advance of the annual meeting.

**ENACTED-THIS 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2023, BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF  
THE MANITOBA JUNIOR BASEBALL LEAGUE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

## **MANITOBA JUNIOR BASEBALL LEAGUE BY-LAWS**

### **ARTICLE I - RULES:**

1. The rules of the MJBL shall be the rules of Baseball Canada (BC) and Baseball Manitoba (BM) as may be amended by the Board of Governors.
2. Baseball Canada designated hitter rule may be used in all MJBL games.
3. Baseball Canada pitch-count rules are to be in effect for all MJBL regular season, playoff, exhibition, and tournament games.
4. Regulation games shall be seven innings except with the permission of the President.

### **ARTICLE II- PLAYER AGE LIMITS AND REGISTRATION:**

1. Dates of birth of all players shall be certified by birth certificates or other documentation acceptable to the President.
2. Players must be twenty-two (22) years of age or under by December 31 of the playing season.
3. Players who have not reached their nineteenth (19<sup>th</sup>) birthday by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the playing season must have their registrations approved by the President.
4. All teams must submit to the league executive a complete list of eligible players prior to their participation in league play. This includes new players after the season commences.
5. No player may play for two teams in the MJBL in the same season without a release from the original team and permission of the President.
6. The final date for registration of players is June 10<sup>th</sup> of the current playing season. Any player added to a roster after June 10<sup>th</sup> must first be approved in writing by the President. To accommodate the pitch-count tracking, interim rosters must be submitted to BM by May 15<sup>th</sup> of the current season.
7. Each team may carry a maximum of twenty-one (21) players. Only players on this roster plus affiliated players may compete in the MJBL play-offs.

8. All necessary registration material for all players must be forwarded to the league Secretary or, in their absence, the President, by June 10<sup>th</sup> of the current season so they may be signed and forwarded to BM.

### **ARTICLE III- RELEASES AND PLAYER ADVANCEMENT**

1. If a player plays for an MJBL team one season and wishes to play for another team the following season, they must first obtain a written release from the original team. In the event the original team will not grant a release, the player may apply to the Board of Governors for a release. All such applications must be made prior to May 1st of the year of intended play.
2. MJBL members may designate as an affiliate, one 18U team playing within their area or regional association or otherwise associated with an MJBL team. These players may only play in the MJBL for their affiliated team. Upon graduating from 18U, these players, in their first year of eligibility as a junior age player, must play for their affiliated MJBL team or receive a release from that team to become a free agent.
3. Subject to Article III 2, any player who has not previously played for an MJBL team shall be considered a free agent.
4. Subject to Article III 2, any player who has sat out a full year regardless of geographic location shall be considered a free agent excluding injury situations.
5. To be eligible for MJBL play-offs, rostered players must play in a minimum of five (5) league games during that playing season. The President may allow an exception to this rule if, in the President's opinion, the player has not fulfilled the minimum game requirement due to injury or illness. It is the responsibility of the member team to receive the President's permission as stated above prior to a player playing in a play-off game. 18U affiliated players are exempt from this requirement.
6. MJBL teams may use players not on any other MJBL roster, but who are registered with other BM teams for a maximum of five games per player during the MJBL regular season. In such cases, the written permission of the other BM team must be received. Under no circumstances shall a player pitch in the MJBL without the permission of the other BM team. No player fifteen (15) years of age or under by December 31st of the playing season shall be permitted to pitch in the MJBL

#### **ARTICLE IV - PLAYING FIELDS:**

1. All MJBL playing fields must be approved by the Board of Governors prior to the playing season.
2. All playing fields shall be properly lined prior to each game. The responsibility of the playing field is with the home team.
3. The home team shall complete their on-field practice a minimum of twenty (20) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the game. The visiting team shall have exclusive use of the playing field from twenty minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the game until five (5) minutes to the scheduled start time of the game.

#### **ARTICLE V - SCHEDULING PLAY-OFFS, TOURNAMENTS AND ALL- STAR GAMES:**

1. The President shall be responsible for proposing a championship schedule to be approved by the Board of Governors and, prior to the start of the playing season, the Board of Governors shall approve the proposed play-off format and the President shall see that it is scheduled.

##### Suggested playoff formats

##### a. 8 team league

- i. round 1 best of 3 (1 v 8, 2 v 7, 3 v 6, 4 v 5)
- ii. round 2 best of 3 (highest seed v lowest seed, middleseed v middle seed)
- iii. final round best of 5

##### b. 7 team league

- i. 1 and 2 seeds receive first round byes
- ii. 6 v 7 in a single play-in game
- iii. round 1 best of 3 (3 v 6/7, 4 v 5)
- iv. round 2 best of 3 (1 v lowest seed, 2 v next lowest seed)
- v. final round best of 5

##### c. 6 team league

- i. 1 and 2 seeds receive first round byes
- ii. round 1 best of 3 (3 v 6, 4 v 5)
- iii. round 2 best of 3 (1 v lowest seed, 2 v next lowest seed)
- iv. final round best of 5

2. Prior to May 1st of the playing season, the Board of Governors shall determine



the structure and participation of MJBL teams for any BM and BC competition. The President shall then administer the MJBL participation in said competition.

3. The MJBL representative to the BC Nationals will be selected and coached/managed by the staff from the previous year's league champion.
4. The current season's pennant winner will represent the MJBL at the Western Canadian Championships.
5. Only players on an MJBL roster are permitted to play in the BC 22U Nationals and the Western Canadian Championships, unless permission has been granted by the MJBL governors to include non-MJBL rostered players.

#### **ARTICLE VI - COACHES, MANAGERS AND UMPIRES:**

1. Only coaches and managers registered with BM and approved by the MJBL may participate in any MJBL game.
2. All managers, umpires and coaches must be in uniform to appear on the playing field including the dugouts during any MJBL game.
3. All member teams are required to have coaches with the minimum certification requirements as described in the current BM handbook in order for the member team to play in the MJBL.
4. Only umpires approved by the Umpire in Chief, or, in their absence, by the Board of Governors, may officiate an MJBL game.
5. All umpires assigned to MJBL games shall be Level 3 umpires who have received their certification under the training program authorized and established from time to time by the Vice-President, Umpires, of BM.
6. All umpires in the MJBL play-offs shall be assigned by the MJBL Umpire-in-Chief or an assignor appointed by him and approved by the Board of Governors. Three (3) umpires shall be used during all MJBL play-off games.
7. Umpires assigned during the play-offs shall be Level 3 umpires and of the highest quality available in the sole opinion of the Umpire-in-Chief.
8. Umpire fees, and/or mileage fees will be negotiated each year prior to the start of the season.

## **ARTICLE VII - FORFEITURES AND PROTESTS:**

1. A team failing to present at least nine eligible players within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time of any game shall forfeit the game.
2. Any team forfeiting a tournament or play-off game shall be disqualified from the tournament or play-off as the case may be.
3. Any team forfeiting any MJBL game shall be required to post a five-hundred-dollar (\$500.00) performance bond prior to participating in any future games. This bond shall be in addition to any other performance bond or penalty assessed against such team by the Board of Governors.
4. The playing of ineligible or unregistered players in any MJBL game shall result in forfeiture of all games in which the players participated.
5. On any protest involving violation or misinterpretation of playing rules, a team representative must submit the protest in writing to the President within twenty- four hours of the completion of the game being protested and, at the same time, pay to the MJBL a fee in the amount of two hundred dollars (\$200.00). The President has the authority to rule on the protest and the sole discretion to refund to the protesting team all or any part of the fee paid, provided however, that the protesting team may appeal the President's decision to the Board of Governors respecting the amount of the fee refunded or whether it should be refunded at the next ensuing MJBL Board of Governors meeting. On any game protested the home plate umpire must record the protest on the game sheet.
6. Any team which withdraws from the playing field while the game is in progress forfeits all rights to protest the game.
7. No judgment call by an umpire may be protested.
8. The President may consult with whosoever the President chooses in the determination of a protest, including, without restriction, any member of the BM Management Committee, but the President's decision is final.

## **ARTICLE VIII - POSTPONED GAMES**

1. Postponed games during the regular season must be rescheduled by the teams involved in consultation with the Umpire-in-Chief, within a period of seven days. The President may reschedule the postponed game if it is not scheduled within seven days. The home team of the postponed game shall be responsible to initiate the rescheduling of the postponed game.

2. Postponed games during the play-offs shall be rescheduled by the President.
3. In all circumstances, the decision of the President regarding the dates, time and location of the rescheduled games shall be final.
4. Postponements not due to weather or playing field conditions shall be permitted for valid reason, but subject to the approval of the President. The home team in such case shall be responsible for informing the Umpire-in-Chief and the visiting team. Such approval to postpone a game as stated above must be done a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours prior to the starting time of the scheduled game.

#### **ARTICLE IX-GAME REPORTS AND STATISTICS:**

1. Each MJBL championship and play-off game shall be consecutively numbered.
2. An approved form of a game sheet bearing this number and date of game played shall be completed by the home team and forwarded to such person appointed by the President as the League Statistician within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the game or by such other deadline as approved by the Board of Governors.
3. Game scores must be added to the MJBL website by the home team by 11:59pm the day of the game.
4. Within fifteen minutes of the completion of any championship or play-off game, the home team must contact the Communications Director and inform him/her of the completed score of the game and any other information that may be required by the Board of Governors. Failure to fulfill this requirement shall result in penalties being applied to the violating team as approved by the Board of Governors.
5. Where any player/coach/manager or spectator is ejected from a game, the umpire's report shall be reviewed by the President in conjunction with the Umpire-in-Chief as soon as reasonably possible after such incident and any disciplinary decision against such person ejected from a game, including a suspension, may be made by the President. Upon such disciplinary decision being made, the President shall inform the member team or teams involved who shall immediately enforce the decision and penalty imposed. The President's decision regarding any disciplinary action under these circumstances shall be final and not subject to any appeal whatsoever.

6. Unless directed by any umpire officiating the game to leave the ball park entirely, including any parking lot associated with such ball park, upon ejection, any coach, manager, player or spectator shall immediately remove themselves from the vicinity of the other coaches, managers, players and spectators of either team and of the officials to a place where they are in no position to interfere with the course of the baseball game and shall not do anything to interfere with the play of either team.
7. No smoking or chewing tobacco or vaping by uniformed players, coaches, managers, or officials shall be permitted in the dugouts or on the playing field between one hour before game time and the end of the game and, in addition, during the same period of time, no person shall smoke, chew tobacco, vape or drink any alcoholic beverages in the dugouts of such playing field.

#### **ARTICLE X - EQUIPMENT:**

1. Helmets with two ear protection must be worn by all players while batting and base running.
2. A throat guard is required on all catchers' masks.
3. A catcher must wear a protective helmet with facemask when catching in a game or when in the crouch position during any time when warming up a pitcher.
4. The official baseball of the MJBL shall be the official baseball of Baseball Manitoba
5. Each team shall provide four (4) new baseballs to start each game and any additional baseballs on the request of the umpire. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action including a fine at the discretion of the President.

#### **ARTICLE XI - SPEED UP REGULATIONS:**

1. Rule 8.04 of the Baseball Canada rulebook shall be enforced. This rule specifies that the pitcher shall have only twenty seconds to deliver each pitch.
2. The hitter shall be required to remain in the batter's box unless the hitter makes a request for "time" and the umpire believes the request is

reasonable and therefore grants the time out. Notwithstanding the requirement to remain in the batter's box as stated herein, the batter may remove one foot from the batting box for the purpose of receiving a signal from a coach on the playing field.

3. The pitcher shall be allowed, at the pitcher's sole option, up to eight (8) warm-up pitches between innings and the plate umpire shall ensure that the pitches are thrown without delay. Teams shall have a catcher ready to receive the warm-up pitches without any delay. Without limiting the generality of Article X - Equipment, paragraph 3 herein, the catcher must wear a protective mask and helmet while catching the said pitches.

**ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENT:**

1. These By-laws may be amended as per Article VII of the MJBL Constitution.

**ENACTED THIS 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2023, BY THE BOARD  
OF GOVERNORS OF THE MANITOBA JUNIOR BASEBALL  
LEAGUE**

*Mike Garlinski*

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President

*Don Neusitzer*

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Secretary

## **Manitoba Junior Baseball League 18U Affiliates**

In accordance with Article III-2 of the MJBL By-laws, each member team may designate an 18U team affiliate. These 18U players may play in the MJBL only for their affiliated team. Upon graduating from 18U, in their first year of Junior eligibility, they must play for their affiliated MJBL team or receive a release from that team to become a free agent.

The current 18U team affiliates are:

Altona Bisons	Altona Bisons 18U AA <sup>1</sup>
Carillon Sultans	Carillon Sultans 18U AAA
Elmwood Giants	Elmwood Giants 18U AA
Interlake Blue Jays	Interlake Orioles 18U AAA
Pembina Valley Orioles	Winkler 18U AA <sup>1</sup>
St James A's	St. James A's 18U AAA
St Boniface Legionnaires	Bonivital 18U AAA
Winnipeg South Wolves	Winnipeg South 18U AAA

**Notes:**

1. Altona and Pembina Valley will share South Central 18U AAA as an affiliate.