



2023 SOFTBALL MANITOBA Division Operating Rules Motion Form



MOTION #37

Division Operating Rules

Submitted by: Daphne Wiebe, NESA President

Division Affiliation: Minor Division

Date: October 25, 2023

REFERENCE: (Section, article, number, page, etc.)

Minor Division Operating Rules – Page M2 – 2. Classification – Boundaries & Appendix

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

1. Classification - Boundaries:

i) The boundaries for Softball Manitoba's Minor "AAA" Rural Regional Organizations shall be those recognized by Softball Manitoba (as per Sport Manitoba's 2016 Rural Map/Boundaries). Players representing their Rural Regional Organizations must reside within these boundaries.

The boundary for Softball Manitoba's 4 Minor "AAA" Urban Regional Organizations is the City of Winnipeg within the Perimeter Highway. These four (4) Winnipeg Organizations that can obtain their players from the five (5) Winnipeg Softball Associations which are Bonivital, North East, North West, St. James and Winnipeg Southwest Youth. Players representing Urban Organizations must reside within the boundary of the City of Winnipeg abiding by Softball Manitoba's definition of the City boundaries which is the Municipal Wards as defined by the City of Winnipeg.

- In U13 AAA category if a particular region does not have a team in the player's category/classification, in which event the player may at their option to play for a team in a different region in the player's age category/classification.

- In U13 AAA category, a player is released from a team in the region in which they resides, in which case the player may play for a team in another region at their option, and the team from which the player is released shall complete a consent form with a copy going to the league, the transferred regional team and Softball Manitoba.

ii) Boundary for the A teams shall be the "Province of Manitoba". For these Purposes, the Community/Community Centre boundaries shall be those recognized by the rural Community Centers as their particular boundaries. A player shall play on the Community/Community Center team entered in the Softball Manitoba recognized Minor League from the particular area in which he or she resides, unless:

- That particular Community/Community Center does not have a team in the player's category, in which event the player may at their option play for any other team in the League in the player's age category.

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- That League does not have a team in the player's category in which event the player at their option may play for any team in another League in the player's age category with proper approvals from both leagues.
- The player is released from the team in the League from the Community Center in the particular area in which they resides, in which case the player may play for any team in the League at their option from which the player is released shall complete a consent form with a copy going to the League, the transferred team and Softball Manitoba. The player is released from the Community Center team and the League in which case the player may play for any team in another League. Both the releasing team and the League shall complete a consent form with a copy going to the transferred team and the League and to Softball Manitoba for approval.

Coaches and Managers will be held responsible to ensure only eligible players are registered on team rosters. In the event of any discrepancies, a player's eligibility to play on a particular team, the Executive of the League will rule. Any coach who knowingly signs an ineligible player, the coach and the ineligible player may be subject to suspension.

iii) NEW Program in 2022 'AA' – Players registering 'A' are eligible to play 'AA' as well following their 'A' Club season – check RAMP 'AA' dropbox. 'AA' may include up to 3 teams per Age Category per Region. (as per the 8 regions defined within 'AAA').

AA Provincials to be scheduled in August and play will be restricted to specific nights and/or specific weekends so that A programs are not hampered. (Determined by Softball Manitoba Minor Committee). The program will initially be implemented for a two-year period.

INFO ON WEBSITE:

Minor "AAA" Female Classification - Boundaries of Softball Manitoba:

The boundaries for Softball Manitoba's Minor "AAA" Rural Regional Organizations shall be those recognized by Softball Manitoba (as per Sport Manitoba's 2016 MB Games Rural Map/Boundaries). Players representing their Rural Regional Organizations must reside within these boundaries.

Urban Boundaries / Catchment Areas:

For this the City of Winnipeg is divided into 4 quadrants with each quarter representing the 4 current 'AAA' softball organizations. The following organizations would exist in the areas below:

Manitoba Angels - west of the Red River, north of the Assiniboine River, as per the electoral boundaries of the City of Winnipeg. Adding athletes residing in the Westdale Community Club catchment.

Manitoba Thunder - East of the Red River, north of Provencher/Dugald Rd, as per the electoral boundaries of the City of Winnipeg. Adding athletes residing in the South Transcona Community Club catchment.

Smittys Terminators - west of the Red River, south of the Assiniboine River, as per the electoral boundaries of the City of Winnipeg.

Winnipeg Lightning - East of the Red River, south of Provencher/Dugald Rd, as per the electoral boundaries of the City of Winnipeg.

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The Change for 2020:

The Urban Boundaries outlined above come into effect for the 2021 season. (Commencing Sept-2020)

All athletes playing in the 2020 season at all age groups would be grandfathered to their current organization regardless of their urban address. Once an athlete leaves the program they are grandfathered to - They must return to the organization in their catchment.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT (Motion. State whether revision, addition, deletion)

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i) The boundaries for Softball Manitoba's Minor "AAA" Rural Regional Organizations shall be those recognized by Softball Manitoba (as per Sport Manitoba's 2016 Rural Map/Boundaries). Players representing their Rural Regional Organizations must reside within these boundaries.

The boundary for Softball Manitoba's 4 Minor "AAA" Urban Regional Organizations is the City of Winnipeg within the Perimeter Highway. These four (4) Winnipeg Organizations that can obtain their players from the five (5) Winnipeg Softball Associations which are Bonivital, North East, North West, St. James and Winnipeg Southwest Youth. Players representing Urban Organizations must reside within the boundary of the City of Winnipeg abiding by Softball Manitoba's definition of the City boundaries which is the Municipal Wards as defined by the City of Winnipeg.

- In U13 AAA category if a particular region does not have a team in the player's category/classification, in which event the player may at their option to play for a team in a different region in the player's age category/classification.
- In U13 AAA category, a player is released from a team in the region in which they resides, in which case the player may play for a team in another region at their option, and the team from which the player is released shall complete a consent form with a copy going to the league, the transferred regional team and Softball Manitoba.

ii) Boundary for the A teams shall be the "Province of Manitoba". For these Purposes, the Community/Community Centre boundaries shall be those recognized by the rural Community Centers as their particular boundaries. A player shall play on the Community/Community Center team entered in the Softball Manitoba recognized Minor League from the particular area in which he or she resides, unless:

- That particular Community/Community Center does not have a team in the player's category, in which event the player may at their option play for any other team in the League in the player's age category.
- That League does not have a team in the player's category in which event the player at their option may play for any team in another League in the player's age category with proper approvals from both leagues.

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• The player is released from the team in the League from the Community Center in the particular area in which they resides, in which case the player may play for any team in the League at their option from which the player is released shall complete a consent form with a copy going to the League, the transferred team and Softball Manitoba. The player is released from the Community Center team and the League in which case the player may play for any team in another League. Both the releasing team and the League shall complete a consent form with a copy going to the transferred team and the League and to Softball Manitoba for approval.

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iii) NEW Program in 2022 'AA' – Players registering 'A' are eligible to play 'AA' as well following their 'A' Club season – check RAMP 'AA' dropbox. 'AA' may include up to 3 teams per Age Category per Region. (as per the 8 regions defined within 'AAA').

AA Provincials to be scheduled in August and play will be restricted to specific nights and/or specific weekends so that A programs are not hampered. (Determined by Softball Manitoba Minor Committee). The program will initially be implemented for a two-year period.

INFO ON WEBSITE:

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Manitoba Thunder - East of the Red River, north of Provencher/Dugald Rd, as per the electoral boundaries of the City of Winnipeg. Adding athletes residing in the South Transcona Community Club catchment **and the Rural Municipality of East St Paul.**

Smittys Terminators - west of the Red River, south of the Assiniboine River, as per the electoral boundaries of the City of Winnipeg.

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Winnipeg Lightning - East of the Red River, south of Provencher/Dugald Rd, as per the electoral boundaries of the City of Winnipeg

The Change for 2024:

The Urban Boundaries outlined above come into effect January 31, 2024.

All athletes listed on a AAA roster at all age groups prior to January 31, 2024, would be grandfathered to their current organization regardless of their urban/rural address. Once an athlete leaves the program they are grandfathered to - They must return to the organization in their catchment.

RATIONALE

There is significant inconsistency in the boundaries between "A", "AA" and "AAA" teams in the northeast area of Winnipeg and surrounding areas. "A" teams within the NESAs catchment include athletes from East St Paul. These athletes account for 26% of NESAs athletes in the U11 to U19 Divisions. "AA" and "AAA" teams coming out of the NESAs area are significantly constrained by the current boundaries, which do not include East St Paul. This is magnified because all "AA" athletes are required to also play on a "A" team. For East St Paul athletes, these two levels of teams are not based out of the same area, one in NESAs, the other in Phillies area. As a result, NESAs has not yet been able to field a "AA" team. Manitoba Thunder has struggled to form competitive teams, only being able to field a U15 and U17 team in the 2023 season. The future of competitive Softball in our area is heavily dependant on this boundary change.

We've worked hard to build a program in our area and have seen success at the "A" level. We would also like a chance to be successful at the "AA" and "AAA" level and we feel this boundary change would allow us that opportunity without hampering other areas. Last year, only a few East St Paul athletes played at the "AA" or "AAA" level. But more want to!

FINAL IMPLICATIONS: ☐ Carried ☐ Amended ☐ Withdrawn ☐ Defeated

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