



SOFTBALL MANITOBA

Division Operating Rules Motion Form



NOTICE OF MOTION #5

Division Operating Rules

Submitted by: Stephen Ceslak – President, Macdonald Minor Ball

Division Affiliation: Minor Division

Date: Oct 18, 2024

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

Minor Division Operating Rules - Page M2 - 1. Registration, A. 2 Classification – Boundaries i)

WHEREAS (Article as currently written.)

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, divided into four (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 and the Rural Municipality of East St. Paul.

Smitty's 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.

The Urban Boundaries outlines above come in 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.

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. - M 3 - Updated: March 1, 2024 • 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.



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

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Smitty's Terminators - west of the Red River, south of the Assiniboine River, as per the electoral boundaries of the City of Winnipeg. **Adding athletes residing in the RM of Macdonald.**

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RATIONALE

To resolve the inconsistency in boundaries for Macdonald Minor Ball at the AA & AAA level by aligning with the existing A boundary within Winnipeg South West. This would help create more interest in our athletes playing at the higher level to help grow the sport.

The RM of Macdonald has a reputation of having excellent athletic players who come from communities heavily invested in the sport of ball. It is very concerning that our softball registration numbers have been decreasing from 166 in 2021 to 145 in 2023 and 144 in 2024. Meanwhile, our baseball registrations, where we are part of Winnipeg South at all levels, continue to skyrocket from 141 in 2021 to 155 in 2023 and 179 in 2024.



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Also concerning is the number of our AAA softball players which have continued to drop significantly from 17 players 5 years ago (prior to the boundary lock down, all playing for city organizations) to just 6 in 2024 playing for Central Energy.

The main reason for this, based on our poll to the association, was due to the major logistical challenge. Being placed within the vast Central region for AA & AAA pushes our athletes, who have the desire and skill level to play high level sports, to other competitive sporting opportunities instead of softball.

Our June poll to our 144 current "A" level registrants yielded 55 responses: 36 athletes clearly stated they were only interested in playing at a higher level if we were part of Winnipeg South West; 11 stated they would play at a higher level regardless if we were part of Winnipeg South West or Central; 1 wanted to be part of a city region just preferred not to be Winnipeg South West; and 7 responses had no interest in playing at a higher level.

We also polled our existing 6 AAA players separately so anonymity could be achieved: 4 were in favour of a potential move; 1 was not in favour; and 1 did not respond.

Our poll strongly suggests that 36 additional players would want to tryout/play at a higher level (AA or AAA) that aren't doing it today. The primary reason being the drastic reduction in travel commitment for practices and games if allowed to be based out of Winnipeg South West.

This change would also help level the registration gap between regions by moving 144 athletes to the much smaller region of Winnipeg South West, with only 300 registrations, compared to the Central Region, who already have 1,150 registrations.

Our Macdonald Minor Ball program is heavily dependant on this change to help us grow, which in turn helps grow and strengthen the game overall.

FINAL IMPLICATIONS: ___ Carried ___ Amended ___ Withdrawn ___ Defeated