

## **Weyburn Minor Softball Policies**

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**Article I: Mission Statement** follows WMBA mission statement:

"To cultivate a passion for ball by providing opportunities for participation, training and competition. We are committed to promoting teamwork, respect and sportsmanship that develops young athletes."

**Article II: Membership:** Players, parents, or legal guardians shall be granted membership in WMBA by completing the required player's registration form on our online website.

**Article III: Registration Fees & Clinic Fees**

1. Softball Division Directors will annually establish registration fees in January to ensure all age group operating costs are covered.
2. Registrations will only be accepted via the WMBA website online registration annually. If registration payment is not received prior to April 15th, the registrant will not be able to participate in the softball season.
3. After April 1st, registrations can be denied and will be pending the availability of a team to play on, that does not affect the number of teams in each age category.
4. Any registration accepted after the registration deadline will be subject to a \$50 late registration fee.
5. All players are required to be registered with a minor softball association to participate in any WMBA or Softball Saskatchewan approved activities.
6. The effective date of all refunds shall be the date WMBA is informed in writing that the player has withdrawn from the WMBA program. Refunds will be calculated as follows:
  - Refund, minus a \$75 administration fee, will be issued if a player leaves prior to April 16<sup>th</sup>. Any cancellations after April 16 will be non-refundable.
  - Full refund issued if a player does not have a team in their age category.
  - Refunds for medical reasons will be reviewed at the board level.
  - Players registered for Wild program who were not successful and to return to home association will receive a refund minus 3% processing fee.
7. Clinic refunds will only be provided if the clinic date has been changed from what was originally advertised. If clinic payment is not received prior to clinic start date, the registrant will not be able to participate.

#### **Article IV: Softball Divisions / Ages**

- U7: 6 years of age as of Dec. 31st of the previous year
- U9: 7 & 8 years of age as of Dec. 31st of the previous year
- U11: 9 & 10 years of age as of Dec. 31st of the previous year
- U13: 11 & 12 years of age as of Dec. 31st of the previous year
- U15: 13 & 14 years of age as of Dec. 31st of the previous year
- U17: 15 & 16 years of age as of Dec. 31st of the previous year
- U19: 17 & 18 years of age as of Dec. 31st of the previous year

#### **Article V: Player Eligibility**

1. Players are required to play in the age category for which they are eligible. If certain circumstances arise, players/parents can bring it to the board's attention. The board will vote and will then require approval from the league in which the team plays in.
2. Players registered may be required to produce a birth certificate and or proof of address.

#### **Article VI: Affiliated Players**

1. Teams may utilize affiliated players (AP) from teams in the same division & category or teams in the division below.
2. The coach using an affiliate player must receive approval from the player's coach from which the player is being acquired and the player's parent. They must also inform the Division Head.
3. Affiliated players' priority is to the team on which they were initially placed.
4. Affiliation lists and fees must be submitted as per Softball Saskatchewan deadlines.
5. Affiliated players are eligible when your roster size is 10 or less.

6. Wild teams can have 3 affiliated players from the house and 3 affiliated players from the lower age division. These affiliated players are to rotate for equal play, with house players getting first priority.
7. The 3 house players are eligible to attend Wild practices upon coach's request.

#### **Article VII: Team Coaching Staff**

1. Wild coaching applications will be posted in January and coaches will be selected prior to player registration.
2. Applications for house coaching positions will be part of WMS registration. Individuals considered for coaching positions should have a good understanding of coaching techniques and player management.
3. All coaches are encouraged to have their Softball Saskatchewan Community Coach certification.
4. All coaches must have their Respect in Sport Certification Prior to Softball Saskatchewan's deadline.
5. All coaches must supply a Criminal Record check prior to the season start date.
6. Division Heads will provide Head Coaches with a player list and volunteer lists for assistant coaches, team managers, or other team management roles.
7. All coaching staff are responsible for understanding and implementing the rules and regulations of which league they play in. Please note Softball Saskatchewan has rules and regulations may differ.
8. Coaching staff are responsible for registering for provincials if their team is eligible.

#### **Article VIII: Team Equipment/Uniforms & Branding Policy**

1. All teams will be provided with age-appropriate equipment.
2. All teams will be provided with an equipment bag with two sets of catcher's equipment and one fielding mask for pitchers.
3. All teams will be provided with one bag of practice balls, two batting tees, six game balls (unused game balls to be returned), and one scorebook.
4. The Softball Saskatchewan handbook and other resources are all available online.

5. All WMBA equipment must be accounted for at the end of the season and returned to the Division Heads. Coaches/Managers are held responsible for all equipment and jerseys.
6. Team jerseys will be provided for all team teams in all age divisions. The remainder of the uniform is the responsibility of the player. Teams are to follow uniform requirements as stated under the WMS Softball Information on the website.
7. The official colors of our organization are royal blue and red.
  - House Teams: All house teams must feature the Weyburn “W” logo on jerseys. They will wear black ball pants, royal blue socks and a royal blue belt.
  - Wild Teams - B Teams or Provincial Teams: All team must feature the Wild logo on their jerseys. They will wear red ball pants, royal blue socks and a royal blue belt.
8. Teams that secure sponsorships for attire are welcome to do so; however, all uniforms and apparel must adhere to the following guidelines:
  - Use only the official colors: red and royal blue.
  - Include the appropriate logo(s) as outlined above.
  - Design and placement of sponsor logos must not interfere with or replace the required team logos.

### **Safety Regulations:**

- All players must have a face cage on their batting helmets.
- All players must wear closed-toed footwear.
- All pitchers must wear a protective face mask.

### **Article IX: Team Qualification**

1. All B teams or provincial teams based out of Weyburn will operate under the "Weyburn Wild" team name.
2. All teams must follow Softball Saskatchewan rules as per their handbook.
3. All B or provincial teams may be eligible for the B or C category for provincials, pending Softball Saskatchewan rules and regulations. This decision on which category to enter will be made by the coaching staff as they deem appropriate.

## **Article X: Player Releases**

1. Players must obtain a release to participate with another Association, this includes tryouts. Players must go to Softball Saskatchewan website to obtain the Player Release form. The form must be filled out and submitted to Weyburn Minor Softball for approval.

## **Article XI: Tryouts**

1. Tryouts must be held for Wild programs. Exception will be if the softball board deems all players eligible due to roster size.
2. Tryout dates must be publicly posted.
3. The player must be able to commit to the time commitment and fees required.

## **Article XII: General Conduct**

### **A. Parents/Fans**

1. Parents must exhibit good conduct and prioritize player welfare. Abuse of coaches, players, or officials will not be tolerated.
2. Offenders may be required to leave the diamond and may face suspensions.
3. No one associated with a team may use alcohol or illegal drugs during team activities.
4. Player/parent concerns should be addressed by the team manager and/or coach.
5. Formal complaints will be investigated by the Softball Board and if necessary, the WMBA Executive Board.
6. If a player's concern is not addressed or rather submitted to the board, players can use the Player/Parent Concern form provided on Weyburn Minor Ball website.

### **B. Coaching Staff:**

1. Coaching concerns should be addressed by the coaching staff or escalated as necessary.
2. Allegations of harassment will be reviewed by Softball Board or WMBA Executive Board and may be forwarded to the appropriate authority.

3. The WMBA Executive Board administers rules and regulations, including suspensions.

### **Article XIII: Sponsorship**

1. No team is permitted to seek independent branding of team names without prior approval from the WMS Board.
2. Teams are allowed to secure sponsorship to contribute to their team's activities. However, any excess funds at the end of the year cannot be refunded to players and must instead given to Weyburn Minor Softball.
3. **See Article VIII: Team Equipment/Uniforms & Branding Policy**

### **Article XIV: Team Financials**

1. Any team collecting team fees or sponsorship must maintain detailed financial records.
2. Teams are required to submit these financial records at the end of the year to the Softball President's email.
3. Teams must use the Excel sheet provided by Weyburn Minor Softball and provide bank account statements as part of their financial submission.

### **Article XV: Financial Assistance**

1. Families applying for financial assistance through KidSport or JumpStart for registration fees must email their application number to [weyburnsoftball@gmail.com](mailto:weyburnsoftball@gmail.com). If funding is not approved or does not cover the full amount for registration, fees must be paid in full before the season start date. Failure to do so may result in the player being ineligible to participate.

## **Article XVI: Player Driver Policy**

1. Players with a valid driver's license are permitted to drive to practice. However, for away games or if they reside outside of town, it is strongly recommended that they arrange for a driver. This precaution is in place to ensure their safety, particularly in the event of an injury sustained during gameplay.
2. Weyburn Minor Softball is not liable for any injuries, accidents, or costs associated with a player driving to or from games, practices, or team events. All transportation arrangements are the responsibility of the player and/or their parent or guardian.

## **Article XVII: Equipment Policy**

All equipment owned by the Weyburn Minor Softball Association is strictly for the use of WMS teams only. Equipment will not be lent, leased, or otherwise made available to any teams, organizations, or individuals outside of WMS. This ensures equipment availability, quality control, and accountability for our registered teams.