

## Winkler Minor Ball – 2020 Annual Report

### Winkler Minor Ball – President's Report 2020

The 2020 season was certainly different. With COVID-19 proving to have a massive impact on our lives, I am extremely happy that we were able to have some sort of a Baseball/Softball season in 2020.

Although the season had many aspects that were different, I feel that being able to have a season in the first place was very welcoming to those of us that took part in it.

Unfortunately, we did have to cancel the younger years programs in 2020 as we decided it would be too difficult to comply with the Return to Play Rule and Regulations. There were also a good number of cancelled registrations due to the virus and the change in schedule that resulted from pushing the season back a few months.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the executive for their hard work throughout this past year. Countless hours are spent out of the public eye to make sure that Softball and Baseball can be played on a normal year. In 2020, that was amplified in a big way. Every single volunteer needs to be recognized, but I would like to publicly thank Cheri Klassen for all her work with the registration, refund and website work that came along with the season.

This past season made me realize how important our program is, and I look forward to our hopeful return to normal in 2021.

Matt Friesen  
Winkler Minor Ball President

### Registrar Report

There was a total of 271 registrations this year. 65 of the registrations were from Rookie Ball, 120 of them were hardball and 86 were softball.

Unfortunately we were unable to run our Little Sluggers program because of COVID-19, this program had 77 registrations before we had to cancel it.

Here is a breakdown of each age group:

#### **Rookie**

8U girls – 18  
8U boys – 36  
9U boys – 11

#### **Softball**

U10 – 21  
U12 – 15  
U14 – 28  
U19 – 22

## **Hardball**

11U – 33

13U – 40

15U – 24

18U – 23

Cheri Klassen

Winkler Minor Baseball Registrar

## **Little Sluggers**

There was no 2020 season under the Covid recommendations.

## **Grand Slam Report**

Grand Slam went forward with a house league this year. It was a successful year with 64 registrants.

We had a girls league with 17 players, enjoying the season that consisted of 2 practice/games a week with great volunteered coaches. Thank you Teresa Wall, Holly Derksen, Lynda Pauls and Rochelle Friesen.

Grand Slam 7 and 8 we had 36 participants in the group divided into 5 teams. 4 teams would practice/play each night with a rotating team practicing the full session. Skills were developed and encouraged on through game setting. Thank you to coaches Kerwin Froese, Matt Penner, Pete Fehr, Dan Fehr and Kris Friesen and all parents that helped out!!! It is great to see multiple coaches on the fields.

In Grand Slam 9 we had 11 registration. Coach Michael Grenier and Darren Friesen took the approach of focusing on getting them ready for Mosquito baseball. They practiced twice a week throughout the year and we created a weekly game the second half against some 7/8 teams.

A huge thank you goes out to all of those who coached, helped coach, or cheered on the players!!!

Matt Neufeld

Little Sluggers & Grand Slam Convenor

## **11U Baseball Report**

This year's 11U program was a success campaign. We had 33 participants, which allowed us to make 3 teams of 11 players. Lots of growth was seen in player development. We ran a 10-game regular season plus some exhibition games. Winkler hosted a 5-team exhibition tournament at the end of the year. The Winkler Ghost Crabs were named tournament champs defeating Morden in the championship game. We had several new baseball coaches step up and coach this year. A huge thank-you goes out to the coaches, managers, tournament coordinator, diamond maintenance crew, volunteers and parents. It takes a lot of effort from everyone to run kids' sports. Thanks for a great season!

Dwayne Wall

11U Convenor

### **13U Baseball Report**

We had 4 even teams of 10 players each. Coached by Jamie Thiessen, Bill Fehr, Chris Dymond and Bobby Matuszewski. There was not a "AA" option for the majors this year. Due to the season being held during the summer, there was a great amount of AP'ing. We did not have playoffs or track the standings.

Although I believe the Winkler teams all had great success!

The kids had fun! Parents were thrilled that minor ball offered a season even though it may have been somewhat unconventional.

Aimee

13U Convenor

### **15U Baseball Report**

We had two teams this year with one team having 11 players and another having 13 players. The teams were split into age groups having one team complete with majors and another made up of minors. The teams were coached by Cameron Kirkby and Jeremy Harder. I would like to say a special thanks to the coaches and parents to giving up a portion of their summers to give the kids a baseball season at an abnormal time of the year. We did not have playoffs or track standings and instead focused on a year of development. From what I've been told the year was a success and again I want to thank all the parties involved that volunteered time to create a safe environment for the kids to enjoy.

Trevor Wiebe

15U Convenor

### **18U Baseball Report**

We had 23 players enrolled in the Midget Division this year. This is 1 less than last year. We split the 2 teams by one team of grade 11's and one team of grade 12's. And then we split up the grade 10's. The two teams were the Cubs and the Mets. The Cubs had 6 Grade 11's and 6 Grade 10's. The Mets had 7 grade 12's and 4 grade 10's. The league had 9 teams this year with Portage joining South Central. There were no playoffs this year. The season had 10 games for each team. The season finally started on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. There was a lot of trouble finding coaches this year. The season was in doubt and therefore commitment was hard to find. Pete Peters stepped up to coach the Cubs and Clint Klassen stepped up and coached the Mets. I want to Thank Clint for stepping up as he was already coaching a girls' team as well. Overall it was a successful year and the boys had fun. I am glad there was a season.

Pete Peters

18U Convenor

### **U10 Softball Report**

This season was definitely different than ever before with everything being changed due to COVID-19. We had less U10 softball players than in years past. We had 21 girls and made 2 teams. Our season consisted of 6 league games and no tournaments or playoffs. It was a development season for all teams with having fun and learning new skills being the only objective. We made a provincial team of 11 girls and they performed extremely well at provincials coming home with Silver medals but unfortunately lost in the final to an extremely talented Brandon team. We would like to thank all players, parents, coaches and the Exec for making a great season with lots of fun out of what could have easily been a year without softball for our girls.

Chris Wilson  
U10 Convenor

### **U12 Softball Report**

This year we had 15 girls registered in U12. They made 2 teams of 1 of 8 and 1 of 7 and pulled U10 girls up to fill the teams as needed. Both teams had fun and worked on skills. Team 1 was coached by Evan Toews and Tanya Dyck team 2 was coached by Jim and Jenn Smith. Jim and Jenn Smith also coached provincial team. The girls made played well and lost in the Sunday morning play downs. Thanks to the coaches and parents for a great season and hope to see everyone next season

Steve Friesen  
U12 convenor

### **U14 Softball Report**

U14 was our largest softball group with a total of 30 girls registered and made 3 teams. We had a great turnout for the pitching clinic until it was canceled due to COVID shutdown. All 3 teams played an abbreviated 6 game schedule in Tiger Hills East division and unfortunately, we were unable to have playoffs.

A tryout was held to combine a team to attend the provincial tournament which was hosted in Winkler. The team was coached by Evann Toews, Nicole Klassen and Cindy Hamilton and lost a tough game in the quarter finals.

I would like to thank all the coaches: Clint Klassen, Brendan Neufeld, Steve Elias, Nathan Unrau, Nicole Klassen, Melanie Peters, Evan Toews and Cindy Hamilton. This season was one of uncertainty and I really appreciate you stepping up especially under the circumstances.

Jason Peters  
U14 Convenor

## **U16/U19 Softball Report**

With delayed and slightly shortened season, we were unsure if we would be able to field a team but were pleasantly surprised when we realized that we had enough to make two teams in this age group. That may be the first time that WMB has been able to do this at this age group, as we find more and more girls continue to play past U14 which is great to see!

There were no Tiger Hills league finals this year due to COVID-19 and the league season was a developmental season as a result but Softball MB provincial championships proceeded. Our U16 team that entered did very well in provincial competition, losing only one game in round robin and one game in the semi-finals. This placed them in the bronze medal game where they came out on top, bringing home the Provincial bronze medal. Congratulations ladies!

This group of U16 girls was one of the first big groups to come through the spring pitching clinics that we started 7 or 8 years ago and we have seen the benefits of that, with 4 strong pitchers on our provincial team, which is quite rare and a huge benefit for coaches.

It was a pleasure to watch these girls develop from U10 all the way through the minor program, to playing some very solid ball! Special thanks to our coaches this year, Jen Penner, Kevin Thiessen, Phil Dyck & Tiffany Redekopp as well as Illiana Penner & Janelle Ewert. Your time and dedication to helping the girls improve and grow in the game of softball is greatly appreciated!

Congratulations on a great season of hard work and great results girls!

Chris Rempel  
U16/U19 Convener