



## Winkler Minor Ball 2021 Reports

### Presidents Report 2021

For the second straight season, the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic had a major impact on the Winkler Minor Ball program. With public health restrictions in Manitoba delaying the start of the season, Softball and Baseball programs in the province were once again forced to reschedule our seasons to July and August. This resulted in a number of our players choosing to step away for the season and some of our programs being cancelled. But all things considered, I feel that we were able to make the best of it.

All in all, our program is healthy and we have no doubt that registration numbers and interest in ball will return to pre-pandemic levels for the 2022 season. Winkler Minor Ball experienced a number of successes on the field this past summer, with many of our Softball teams showing very well at Provincials. Our baseball programs were also strong, and would also have shown well at provincials had they been allowed to happen.

I would also like to congratulate Winkler Minor Ball Alumni Tristan Peters, who was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in this summer's Major League Baseball Entry Draft. He is a true inspiration to all of our players and is proof of what can be achieved with hard work, determination and skills developed right here in Winkler.

The new Winkler Minor Ball Shed was also completed in 2021 and will be a tremendous asset to our facilities. It contains a large storage area, canteen and two public washrooms which will benefit our program and our participants for years to come. A big thank you to Ed Penner of Ed Penner Construction, the City of Winkler, as well as all the trades people and sponsors that made this project possible.

This past year, thanks to the support of an anonymous benefactor, a Winkler Minor Ball endowment fund was established through the Winkler Community Foundation. In the future, Winkler Minor Ball will look for ways to build this fund and use the money to continue the good work of the program and make sure that WMBA is around for years to come.

Once again, I would like to extend a huge thank you to the entire Winkler Minor Ball Executive for their hard work this past year. There was a lot of last minute, spur of the moment decisions that had to be made as we navigated our way through health restrictions and various other challenges, and I feel we passed the test with flying colors.

To all the players, parents, coaches, team managers and everyone else who gave their time to make our program successful, THANK YOU!

Matt Friesen  
Winkler Minor Ball President

## Registrar Report

There was a total of 250 registrations this year. 61 of the registrations were from Timbits Level 2, 124 were hardball and 65 were softball.

Here is a breakdown of each age group:

### Timbits

8U girls – 17  
8U boys – 44

### Softball

U10 – 14  
U12 – 10  
U14 – 26  
U16 -- 7  
U19 – 8

### Hardball

11U – 40  
13U – 27  
15U – 31  
18U – 26

Cheri Klassen  
Winkler Minor Ball Registrar

## Timbit Level 2 Convenor Report

### Timbits 2 Girls

We had 17 young ladies sign up for our 7-week season. The Reds and Yankees practiced and played hard every Monday and Wednesday. Our amazing coaches - Kris Janzen, Nolan Froese, Cal Friesen, Zac Hildebrand & Brad Goertzen - were able to grow the game and have fun every night. Great work this season and we look forward to seeing you at the diamond in 2022.

### Timbits 2 Boys

There were 44 young men that totaled 6 teams for a 7-week season. We were able to spend 50% on skill development and 50% on gameplay. There were a lot of smiles and improvements on the field this season with a big THANK YOU to our amazing coaches: James Hildebrand, Nathan Suderman, Matt Penner, Trevor Wiebe, Kyle Wiens, Joel Enns, Chris Loewen, Tony Krahn and Don Cruikschank. It was a joy to be at the baseball fields together and look forward to a great 2022 season.

## U9 Grand Slam (2012)

There was no U9 Grand Slam season this year due to the start of the season moving back and lack of available coaches. The players had the option to play Timbit 2, 11U or opt out of the season.

Matt Neufeld  
Timbit Convenor

## U10 Softball Convenor Report

U10 Softball started the 2021 season with 3 teams (29 players) but unfortunately was reduced to 1 team (11 players) after a number of revised schedules and new restrictions were put in place. A two team "league" was formed with Morden where a number of games played were between the two teams. Tremendous growth was shown throughout the season in both skill development and overall softball knowledge. All girls are excited about next season and can't wait to get on the diamonds again. Thank you to all coaches and volunteers who made the season possible!

Chris Wilson & Mike Dyck  
Winkler Minor Ball U10 Convenors

## U12 Softball Convenor Report

This year in U12 we had 10 girls stayed to play after Covid pushed our season into July. The team was coached by Jenn & Jim Smith, we thank them for everything they taught the girls about the game, how to trust what they learned in practice and for giving every girl a chance to play! It was fun to watch the girls develop, have their 1<sup>st</sup> hit in a game and to see them stretched into playing new positions! Instead of taking the girls to provincials this year Jenn and Jim arranged a fun weekend of ball out west. The team tied 1 game and won the other 3! Thank you to all the parents and kids of the U12 group, see you next season!

Cheri Klassen  
Winkler Minor Ball U12 Convenor

## U14 Softball Convenor Report

U14 was our largest softball group with only 26 girls registered after the delay. We still decided to make 3 teams to give them as much playing time as possible. This also allowed for us to pull up and play a handful of U12's to get them extra playing time.

All 3 teams played an abbreviated 5 game schedule in Tiger Hills and unfortunately, we were unable to have playoffs.

A team was put together to play in the provincials in Steinbach. The team was coached by Evan Toews, Quinn Hamilton and Cindy Hamilton. The girls won silver and went undefeated until losing a tight game in the finals against Bonivital.

I would like to thank all the coaches: Pete Peters, Tanya Dyck, Steve Elias, Quinn Hamilton, Nicole Klassen, Melanie Peters, Evan Toews and Cindy Hamilton. This season was one of uncertainty and I really appreciate you stepping up again under the circumstances.

Jason Peters  
U14 Convenor

### **U16/19 Softball Convenor Report**

The season started out with 2 teams but before we could get started with games, COVID shut us down. When we were allowed to return to play, we only had enough girls for one big team. It was a good season, we did pretty good throughout the season winning some and not winning some, but we had a ton of fun.

There were no play downs, just a season of games and then Provincials if we wanted. We put together a U19 team and went to provincials where we did pretty well. We won just enough to make it to Sunday and then didn't lose from there, taking home Provincial Gold! The girls learned a lot and finally found out what it felt like to win Provincials. Even with the different kind of year, it was definitely another great year of ball!!

Special thanks again to our coaches this year, Phil Dyck, Jen Penner & Tiffany Redekopp. 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  
Winkler Minor Ball U16/19 Convenor

### **13U Hardball Convenor Report**

This year's 11U program was a successful campaign. We had 40 participants, which allowed us to make 4 teams of 10 players. This included 4 Grand Slam pick-ups for the season. Lots of growth was seen in player development throughout the teams. We were able to run a 12-game regular season plus some exhibition games. The 4 Winkler teams all finished on the top 6 of the 14-team league. We had several new baseball coaches step up and coach this year. A huge thank-you goes out to the coaches, managers, volunteers and parents. It takes a lot of effort from everyone to run kids' sports. Thanks for a great season, looking forward to see you on the diamonds next year.

Dwayne Wall  
11U Convenor

### **13U Hardball Convenor Report**

We had two teams this year as a summer baseball season along with changing covid protocols did result in some drop outs. The teams were coached by Lyndon Thiessen/Peter Fehr and Bill Fehr. I would like to say a special thanks to the coaches and parents who gave up a portion of their summers to give kids a baseball season at an abnormal time of the year for the second year in a row. We did not have playoffs

or track standings and instead focused on a year of development. From what I've heard the year was a success and I am happy that we were able to move forward with a baseball season in 2021.

Trevor Wiebe  
13U Convenor

### **15U Hardball Convenor Report**

The 2021 Baseball season was a successful one for all three teams in the 15U (Bantam) age group. During the original evaluations and tryouts in the Spring, we had one AA team and two A teams all with 11 players each. That did not change after the public health restriction pause. We did lose a few players who decided to drop out for the season, but overall we had a very committed and talented group of players.

Many of our AA and A players were also part of the South Central AAA team, which shows how talented this age group is. All three teams took advantage of AP call ups this season both with lateral call ups as well as call ups from 13U AA and single A and no one ever looked out of place.

A big thank you to all the players, coaches, managers and parents for making 2021 another successful season. The future is extremely bright for this group of kids.

Matt Friesen  
Winkler Minor Ball 15U Convenor

### **18U Hardball Convenor Report**

We had 27 players enrolled in the Midget Division this year. This is 4 more than last year. We made 2 teams. The Winkler Cubs had 8 grade 12's and 5 grade 11's. The Winkler Mets had 14 players. 4 Grade 11's and 10 grade 10's. The league had 6 teams this year. This is 3 less teams in the league compared to last year. There were no playoffs this year. The season had 10 games for each team. The season finally started on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. There was a lot of trouble finding coaches this year. The season was in doubt and therefore commitment was hard to find. Pete Peters, Cornie Goertzen and Jer Harder stepped up to coach the Cubs and Brody Giesbrecht along with Dwayne Bergen stepped up and coached the Mets. I want to Thank Brody for stepping up as he is a non-parent coach. Overall, it was a successful year and the boys had fun. I am glad there was a season.

Pete Peters  
Winkler Minor Ball 18U Convenor