



2022 Winkler Minor Ball Association Reports

President's Report 2022

It was great to be back to normal for the 2022 Baseball and Softball Season after navigating through two seasons of Covid-19 related public health restrictions. It brought with it increased participation numbers and the return of our younger programs. With well over 400 kids registered this past year, we feel that the future of the Winkler Minor Ball Program is extremely bright.

Many of our teams experienced great success this season on the field, capturing league titles and provincial championships in both baseball and softball. The quality of play coming out of the Winkler area is being talked about all over the province. We also had the opportunity to host many league and provincial tournaments. These tournaments are not only a great way to showcase our program and the Winkler area, but they are also financially beneficial, which allows us to reinvest into our program.

This past season, a few former and current members of the Winkler Minor Ball Program represented our province at national events. Katie Heppner was a member of Team Manitoba at the Baseball Canada Women's Invitational Championship. Graham Thiessen and Haiden Friesen were members of Team Manitoba at the Baseball Canada 15U AAA Nationals, and Marshall Thiessen was a member of Team Manitoba that went to the Baseball Canada 13U AAA Nationals. A huge congratulations also goes out to Winkler Minor Ball Alumni Reid Dyck was also drafted by the Boston Bruins in the 2022 NHL Entry Draft.

A major highlight of this past year was our ability to hold skill development and training camp sessions at the Meridian Exhibition Center during the late Winter and Early Spring. Plans are already in place to continue that and expand upon them in 2023.

As always, the success of our program would not be possible without the amazing volunteer coaches and team managers. Your dedication to the sport, the program and to the kids does not go unrecognized. To everyone who volunteered at our tournaments, whether it was raking diamonds, flipping burgers or getting rid of puddles on the infield... THANK YOU! To all the parents and grandparents who sat and cheered, kept score, practiced at home, drove to practices and games... THANK YOU!

The Winkler Minor Ball Executive works tirelessly all year to make sure that our kids have an opportunity to play ball, have fun, develop and succeed. Without them, Winkler Minor Ball does not exist.

Matt Friesen
Winkler Minor Ball President

Registrar Report

There was a total of 428 registrations this year. 162 of the registrations were from Timbits, 184 were hardball and 82 were softball.

Here is a breakdown of each age group:

Timbits	Softball	Hardball
U9 girls – 39	U11 – 25	9U boys - 53
U7 mixed – 123	U13 – 19	11U – 37
	U15 – 24	13U – 35
	U17 -- 7	15U – 30
	U19 – 7	18U – 29

Cheri Klassen
Winkler Minor Ball Registrar

U9 Girls Convenor Report

We had 39 girls sign up for U9 softball this year that we split them into 4 teams. Thank you to the coaches that made this an awesome year once again without you this program would not happen. It was a fun 7 weeks of learning and having fun. Looking forward to seeing these girls continue to learn in WMB Program.

Kris Friesen
U9 Convenor

9U Boys Grand Slam Convenor Report

We had 53 boys sign up for our Grand Slam program this year that we split into 8 teams. Thank you to the coaches that made this an awesome year, without you this program would not happen. We had an awesome 7 weeks of learning and having fun. Looking forward to seeing these boys continue to learn in the WMB Program.

Kris Friesen
9U Convenor

U11 Softball Convenor Report

Once again the U11 group had a great season. Twenty-five girls played on two teams in an eight team league (Tiger Hills U11 East Division). Skill development and overall softball knowledge grew all season long. Team and player success was highlighted in our home tournament (Championship winners and Consolation winners) as well as through fantastic play in the regular season. Winkler Dynamite ended their season with an exciting 2-1 win in the League Playdown Finals to win the championship! Winkler Nitro lost 1-0 in very close semi-final game. A team of ten girls went to the Provincial Championships where they played extremely well. Their run of four straight wins ended in a spirited quarter-final extra-inning game loss. All girls are excited about next season and can't wait to get on the diamonds again. Thank you to all coaches, volunteers and parents who made the season possible!

Mike Dyck & Chris Wilson
U11 Convenors

U13 Softball Convenor Report

Overall a great season. We had 19 girls sign up 2 of which were first time sign-ups for Winkler Minor Ball.

We had 2 teams coached by Jen Smith & Jim Smith and Brian Driedger & Jeff Thiessen. Winkler Lightning took first place at Tiger Hills playdowns and Winkler Thunder took second.

We made a provincial team coached by Jen and Jim Smith and took home gold!

Martha Driedger
U13 Convenor

U15 Softball Convenor Report

This season we had a total of 24 girls registered and made 2 teams. One team was coached by Pete Peters, Cheri Klassen, and Tanya Dyck. Second team coached by Steve Elias and Maddy Rempel. Teams were fairly evenly matched as head to head they each won and lost a game.

Both teams faired well in Tiger Hills as one team finished first in the regular season and the other finished first in the final playdown tournament which we hosted in Winkler.

As in previous seasons, a tryout was held to create a team to attend the Provincial Tournament which we hosted in Winkler. This team was coached by Pete Peters, Cheri Klassen, and Jason Peters. The girls played very well in the extreme heat that weekend. They lost a tough semi-final game to the eventual champion Brandon but rallied to come back and win bronze.

I'd like to thank all the coaches for their hard work and dedication this season. I'd also like to thank all those that stepped up and volunteered their time to help with the booth and grounds keeping during the tournaments.

Jason Peters
U15 Convenor

U17 & U19 Softball Convenor Report

What a fantastic year of U19 ball!

After a severely condensed high school season, the Tiger Hills U19 season got underway with 8 teams competing for the top spot. Many rain delays resulted in 1 game not being played but the girls finished with a 6-0 regular season record, outscoring their opponents 114-13. They continued their dominance throughout the playoff series and capped off an unblemished season, earning the gold medal as Tiger Hills league champions.

Provincials were next on the agenda, and as defending Provincial champions, they continued their success from the regular season, working strongly together as a team and earning their way to the provincial finals once again. They eventually came up just short of defending their title but still came home as Provincial silver medallists.

Congratulations girls, on an amazing season!

As in years past, special thanks again to our coaches this year, Phil Dyck & Quinn Hamilton. 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
U19 Convener

11U Hardball Convenor Report

This season we had 37 boys sign up for 11U, we made 4 even teams coached by Mike Grenier, Henry Giesbrecht & Peter Fehr, John & Pete Klassen, and Trevor Wiebe & Darren Friesen.

We also hosted a successful 11U tournament with the Winkler Orioles taking home the silver medal.

A huge thank you to all the tournament organizers, booth and grounds volunteers and the amazing coaches and parents that made this season so successful!

Cheri Klassen
11U Hardball Convenor

13U Hardball Convenor Report

The 2022 13U Hardball season was a success all around. We had three teams with a total of 37 players. With a late start to the season due to weather and several postponed games, we were still able to get our full season in. Our league season ended with two Winkler teams playing for the championship, and both teams headed to provincials. Thank you to all of our coaches, managers and parents who invested their time to make it possible for these kids to continue to learn and grow! A special thank you to Kellin Friesen, Vlad Bleznuk, and Mark Peters, Dwayne Wall, Jason Shepherd, Mitch Rempel, Lyndon Thiessen,

Travis Thiessen, Brendan Neufeld and Dawson Thiessen for all their effort throughout the season in helping shape the future of Winkler Minor Hardball.

Jordana Fehr
13U Hardball Convenor

15U Hardball Convenor Report

To say the 2022 baseball season was a success would be quite the understatement if you were to ask me, this group of players had an exceptional season. The 15U program had two "A" teams (Winkler Nationals & Winkler Tigers) and one "AA" team (Winkler Royals). The "A" teams were picked about as even as you could possibly get, both teams ended the season with 7-3 records which had them tied for 1st place in their division along with Carman. The Tigers defeated Carman in the league semi-final and the Nationals defeated Morden 2 in the other semi-final setting up a Winkler showdown in the finals which was won by the Nationals. The Nationals went on to represent South Central in the 15U "A" provincials in Swan River, MB and brought home a provincial banner beating an undefeated La Broquerie team in the finals. The "AA" Royals only had one other "AA" team in their division and so their season was split with playing games against the Morden "AA" team and some of the "A" teams. This team was absolutely dominant all season long, compiling a regular season record of 10-0, sweeping Morden in a playoff series to advance to "AA" provincials in Hamiota, MB. They again went undefeated at provincials and brought home another provincial banner beating the host Hamiota team in the final. I'd also like to acknowledge the group of players that represented Winkler on the 15U South Central "AAA" team that unfortunately lost a heartbreaking game in the provincial final in Brandon, MB. This team was made up of 14 players and NINE of them were from our program, they are Bryson Penner, Koen Bleznuk, Maksim Fehr, Rhett Peters, Teemu Peters, Ryan Peters, Graham Thiessen, Jackson Friesen, and Haiden Friesen. Graham Thiessen and Haiden Friesen were also selected to represent Manitoba at the 2022 Baseball Canada National Championships 15U Ray Carter Cup held in Saskatoon, SK. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our coaches and managers for the amazing job they did in guiding these teams to such successful seasons, the Tigers were coached by Jamie Thiessen, and Vlad Bleznuk, and managed by Aimee Thiessen, the Nationals were coached by Bill Fehr, Joel Billing, and Dave Schellenberg and managed by Jordana Fehr, the Royals were led by Cam Kirkby and Bobby Matuszewski. THANK YOU to all of you and congratulations on a great year of baseball!!

Bill Fehr

Winkler Minor Ball 15U Convenor

18U Hardball Convenor Report

We had 29 players enrolled in the Midget Division this year. This is 2 more than last year. We made 2 teams. The Winkler Cubs had 17 Players 8 grade 12's and 9 grade 11's. The Winkler Mets had 12 players.

11 Grade 10's and 1 grade 12. We had one team player ask to play with the younger team as they had fewer players. Clint Klassen coached the Winkler Cubs and had Sam Goertzen as the Assistant coach. Jer Harder along with Cole Harder and Brody Giesbrecht coached the Winkler Mets. The league had 7 teams this year. This is 1 more team in the league compared to last year. The season had a normal start at the beginning of May. The Alton Bisons Team won the South Central title and went to provincials. It was a successful year and the boys had fun. I am glad there was a season.

Pete Peters
18U Convenor