

Winkler Minor Baseball

Convenor Reports

Timbits – Jayson Hamm

Level 1 (Age 4-5) had 13 registrants. We had 2 teams and they played in the open green space at WES which we called diamond 6.

Level 2 (Age 6-7) had 73 registrants. We had 4 teams of girls and 6 teams of boys. The girls played on diamonds 3 and 4 and the boys played on diamonds 1, 2 and 5.

We played every Tuesday from 6-7 pm. Most coaches ran a practice for the first ½ hour – 40 minutes and then played a game with the team they were sharing the diamond with that evening. There was so much learning and growing in this group this year, it was fun to see. Thank you to the coaches who stepped up to make the season successful! We couldn't do it without you and appreciate the time and effort you put into the season.

U9 – Jayson Hamm

This year we had 37 girls register for U9 softball, they were split into 5 teams. Thank you to the coaches who volunteered, your contributions made this an awesome year! Without you this program would not happen. It was a fun 7 weeks of learning, growth and improvements, looking forward to seeing these girls continue to learn and grow in the WMB program.

U11 – Martha Driedger

We were able to make 3 teams this year. Lots of new parents to softball which was great to see. Head Coaches for the season were Tim Friesen , Leighton Penner, and Dan Giesbrecht.

At league playdowns Leighton Penner's team took home silver and Dan Giesbrecht's team took home bronze. Overall a great season.

U13 – Martha Driedger

We had 18 girls sign up and had 2 teams. Head coaches where Russ Wolfe and Brian Driedger. At league playdowns Brian Driedger's team took home bronze. We made one team for the provincial tournament. They lost in the quarterfinals to Virden.

U15 – Matt Driedger

We had a great season. We had 19 girls registered, with one girl playing her first year of softball. We had two teams one with 10 players and one with 9 players. The Warriors went undefeated in Regular season and the Wildcats placing 4th. In playdowns the Warriors again went undefeated and took home gold. As for the Wildcats they lost to the Warriors in the semifinals, which lead them to bring home the bronze medal.

We made a Provincial team of 11 players Coached by Maddy Rempel and Reagan Doell. With only losing one game in the round robin and out scoring their opponents 71-12, they ended the tournament bringing home gold. Making it the second year in a row winning Gold.

Thank you to all the coaches and parents for making it another fun filled season.

U17/19 – Jody Wiebe

We had 21 girls registered for the U17/19 age group. We divided them by age with a few exceptions to make a U17 team of 12 and a U19 team of 9. The U19's won playdowns and the U17's lost in the semis. Jason Peters and Pete Peters led the U17's to win the gold in Provincials in Steinbach. The U19 added 2 players to the roster from Altona to head to Provincials where they won gold coached by Nate & Jody Wiebe.

9U – Jordana Fehr

The 2024 season went very well once we were up and running. We had 50 kids which we split into 6 teams. The coaches in the 2023 season had requested slightly larger teams due to not having enough players some evenings to field a team as well as lack of helpers. We had trouble securing coaches initially but once we had commitments, the coaches did great. Practice plans were available for those that hadn't coached in the past. No feedback was provided by coaches upon request post season so I will assume all went well. There was again a request to host a 9U tournament but finding someone that had time to spearhead this idea was unsuccessful. My suggestion would be to have someone specifically assigned to tournaments if this is something WMB wants to pursue. Big thank you to all the coaches that volunteered their time to help our young players develop, along with the parents that helped out our coaches. Overall it was another successful year of ball for this age division.

11U – Tamara Friesen

We had 51 registrants for 11U. We had a grade 3 tryout and added 4 more players. This way we could make 5 teams of 11.

Coaching needs were met fairly easily and from feedback I've received, players, parents and coaches had an enjoyable year. 4 out of the 5 teams made it to provincials.

11U also had an AA team this year for the first time. There were 12 players and Cameron Kirkby coached. The players loved it all – practices and games alike. This team won our South Central Playdowns which took them to provincials in East Selkirk.

13U – Joel Billing

The 13U Hardball teams in 2024 successfully maneuvered through the initial season of Baseball Manitoba's Tier system. Although there were some mixed results, success was evident in general. Three baseball teams with 34 players each competed fiercely throughout the entire season.

Kudos to Kellin Friesen, Aaron Goertzen, and John Klassen (managed by Dan Fehr) for leading the 2024 Tier 1 13U team. Their season experienced challenging competition the entire way. Their relentless efforts were rewarded as they reached the championship games for both the league playoffs and provincials.

Also, a big thank you to Michael Grenier, Kathleen Dyck, John Heinrichs, Pete Fehr, & Jake Dyck (under the management of Maggie Fehr) for volunteering time to coach their 2024 Tier 2 13U teams.

Gratitude is extended to all the coaches, managers, and parents who dedicated their time to support the children in their learning and success, shaping the future of Winkler Minor Hardball.

15U – Kellin Friesen

The 2024 15U Hardball season was a success all around. We had three teams this year. Our Tier 2 league season ended with two Winkler teams playing for the championship, and both teams headed to provincials. Our Tier 1 team won the league and also went to provincials.

Thank you to our coaches, managers, and parents who invested their time in making it possible for these kids to continue learning and growing! A special thank you to Dwayne Wall, Jason Shepherd, Mitch Rempel, Vlad Bleznuk, Dawson Thiessen, Brendan Neufeld and Connor Thiessen for all their effort throughout the season in helping shape the future of Winkler Minor Hardball.

- 15U tier 1 team. Won the league and got second in provincials.
- 15U tier 2 teams. They finished one and two in the league tournament.
- One team going to the tier 2 provincials - lost leading up to the semi-finals.
- One team going to the tier 3 provincials - lost in the semi-finals.

18U – Bill Fehr

The 18U program had two teams (Winkler Dirty Birds & Winkler JR Whips. We made the teams by keeping the Grade 12's and the Grade 11's together and then placing the Grade 10's onto both teams to make them as even as possible. The Dirty Birds were coached by Jamie Thiessen and Dave Schellenberg and managed by Aimee Thiessen. Their league record was 5 Wins and 5 Losses with a run differential of +4. The JR Whips were coached by Brody Giesbrecht, Cole Harder, and Jason Penner and were managed by James Wiebe. Their league record was 2 Wins and 8 Losses with a run differential of -45. I would like to thank the coaches and managers for their time and dedication to the Winkler Minor Ball program.

2024 WMB Registrar Report

There was a total of 408 registrations this year. 120 of the registrations were from Timbits. 197 were hardball and 91 were softball.

Here is a breakdown of each age group:

Timbits

U9 Girls – 37

U7 mixed – 83

Softball

U11 – 33

U13 – 18

U15 – 19

U17 – 13

U19 – 8

Hardball

9U – 49

11U – 54

13U – 34

15U – 35

18U – 25